

How Can We Forget?

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Deuteronomy 4:9 Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;

Deuteronomy 4:23 Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee.

Deuteronomy 6:12 Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

Deuteronomy 8:11-14 Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

Deuteronomy 8:19 And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.

Psalms 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

Jeremiah 2:32 Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? yet my people have forgotten me days without number.

James 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

- I. It is a marvel that the mind is so prone to forget the most important things and remember the most vain things.
 - A. The mind that was designed by Almighty God to work and operate in his own image and likeness.
 1. God only forgets when He chooses to.
 2. God forgets the bad and remembers the good.
 3. But when it comes to God and righteousness, men seem to forget the good so easily.
 - B. Surely there is an influence at work that causes the mind to malfunction like this.
 - C. That influence is Satan, and evil in general.
 - D. It is unexplainable how the mind can just turn off its memories of experiences, vows, promises, blessings, love, kindness, benevolence, and sacrifice.
 - E. It is a necessary step for entering into sin; we must forget about all the warnings, all the examples we have seen, all the people who will be hurt, all the bridges that will be burnt.
 1. Any of the most horrible sins, such as adultery, fornication, murder, stealing, and lying, they all require that we forget and put out of our mind

the people who will be hurt, and focus only on ourselves and what we want.

- F. So it is an area where the devil will work on us hard to achieve his goal of blinding our minds.

2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

- G. The memories of all that is good and important and right and holy do not cease to exist in our minds, they are simply put aside while our minds are occupied with other thoughts and other desires.
 - 1. It is like when we have our attention drawn to look one way and we miss what is happening behind us.
 - H. We sometimes say about someone that they have lost their mind because they make a complete turnaround from what they have professed and appeared to be and becomes something entirely different.
 - 1. This can happen in degrees and the things and people in their lives who are sacrificed can be from none to all.
 - I. A healthy mind accumulates the blessings of life and holds on to them as something dear and precious.
 - J. A mind under the influence of the Holy Spirit of God will take inventory of its blessings often and turn to them for joy and encouragement daily.
 - K. An unstable mind that is wavering will forget its blessings while focusing on the inconsistencies and hypocrisy of others, and their own cares of life.
 - 1. There will always be someone to blame and someone to cull from your life.
 - L. This is the state of mind where the devil can work on you to make you forget the very things you need to remember.
- II. There are many examples of this blindness in the Bible.
- A. When Judas came with the multitude to take Jesus what had happened to his mind?
 - 1. Did he not remember all the miracles, all the blind, sick, and lame that Jesus had healed?
 - 2. Did he not remember the feeding of the multitudes?
 - 3. When he kissed Jesus to betray Him had he completely forgotten the storm on the sea when He spoke and calmed the wind and the sea?
 - 4. How could he not remember the tomb of Lazarus, or the casting out of the devils?
 - 5. He had seen the kindness and mercy and compassion of Jesus and yet he could forget it all in a moment of passion.
 - 6. Judas was not a stable-minded person and he was a devil, but what about Peter?
 - 7. Peter was also prone to having his mind focused on one thing at a time.
 - 8. He was impulsive and zealous, but not able to keep the whole picture in view in his mind until after the Holy Spirit came.
 - 9. He could deny that he knew the Lord, and he did it three times in one night, and even cursed and swore to convince them that he was not associated with Jesus.
 - 10. Yet he went out and wept bitterly – when he remembered.

Matthew 26:75 And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

- III. I have know many people who I have served and worshipped with who forgot God.
 - A. I have been there when they wept at the Word of God, and when they thanked and praised God for all the good things He had done for them.
 - B. And I have watched them lose their minds and become something completely different than what they were then, or what they appeared to be then.
 - C. They not only forget God on purpose, they try to forget God's people and all the friendship and fellowship they had with them, also.
 - D. It is a hurtful thing to be forgotten by someone who once loved you and was your friend.
 - E. It pains us to realize that someone we love has put us out of their mind and forgotten us on purpose.

Job 19:14 My kinsfolk have failed, and my familiar friends have forgotten me.

- F. But the thing is that they cannot forget forever, and that is the hope that we have for their soul.
- G. The Prodigal "came to himself" when he remembered his father's house, and his father's servants – the things he had ran away from and tried to forget.
- H. Memories are not lost, but only suppressed by other thoughts, and as soon as those other thoughts are suppressed, memories return.
- I. One of the things that the process of time does is reawaken the memories of the past.
- J. Many times this is when people go out and weep bitterly, like Peter, thinking all is lost.
- K. Strive to not be a forgetful hearer of the Word of God.
- L. Strive to remember and hold dear that blessings of life that God gives you in other people and his loving care for you and yours.
- M. Resist the powers that would have you forget by occupying your mind with vanity and drama.

2 Peter 1:8-11 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.