



Momma Told Me You'd Forget

If you start thinking to yourselves, "I did all this. And all by myself. I'm rich. It's all mine!"-well, think again. Remember that God, your God, gave you the strength to produce all this wealth- Deuteronomy 8:17-18

Aw, Dad!

There was a gentleman who was known for his notoriously short memory. While preparing to leave his house for work one morning his loving wife gently reminded him, "This is our big day, Honey! We're moving today, so you'll need to meet us at the new house instead of returning here. Don't forget!"

You, of course, have already guessed it. After working a fairly busy day, our friend found himself wandering through the vacant house for quite some time before it suddenly dawned on him - "They've moved! Now if only I could remember to where!"

Slightly embarrassed and incredibly nervous, the man ran outside. Not certain what his next step should be, he frantically began looking up and down the street in front of the empty house. It wasn't too long, however, until he noticed a little boy riding his bike in front of the house and he called out to him. "Little boy _ little boy? Do you know where the family that lived in this house have moved to?"

"Aw, Dad! Momma told me that you'd forget!"

Memory is a Precious Thing We're currently making preparations for a great week of celebration. Beginning in this weekends services and going right on through a very special day for family, food, friends, fun and games on July 4th at Chiawana Park on road 54 in Pasco - we're looking forward to celebrating our Independence with you. (I want to personally invite you to invite your family and friends to come out and celebrate together with us. Let's take this opportunity to demonstrate that Christians aren't afraid of enjoying the high life that God has empowered us to live!)

We can't afford to forget the incredible price that has been paid for our freedom. As Americans, it's amazing how easy it is at times to not remember the incredible sacrifice that others have made in order for us to enjoy our liberties. We take so much of our freedom for granted. Likewise, as Christians, we shouldn't forget to remember just how blessed we are and exactly where each of those blessing have come from. Our memory is a precious thing!

Moses emphatically urged Israel to never forget her dependence upon God. When we begin to slip away from the awareness of the great need that we possess for Him, we tend to walk right out of the freedom that we thought independence offered us and begin to fall right back into slavery and bondage again. It isn't long until we begin to think that we have done an exceptional job with our own

lives. In our minds we begin to consider our next steps and our in our thoughts we begin to plan our next move. However, without direction, insight and discernment from God -our decisions take us farther and farther away from the plan of God and we are deceived into celebrating an independence that is only a façade.

We Cannot Afford to Forget to Remember When are the times that we seem to forget our dependence upon God? Not in the wilderness!

That's where it's the easiest to remember God. When times are tough and things aren't looking so well - these are the times we go running towards God.

In 1863 Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving Day as a national holiday. However, it wasn't until 1942 that it became a legal holiday - the 4th Thursday in November.

It's not a coincidence that both of these moves were made when the nation was in the darkest days of 2 very horrible wars. Trouble seems to push mankind into the arms of a loving God.

When you're waiting in the ICU and the nurses are preparing you to hear the worst ... you remember your God. When you hear that your children are hooked on drugs or that your spouse has been found cheating ... you remember your God. Once you learn that the IRS is waiting in the room next door to discuss your returns ... you remember your God. Isn't it odd? When you're flat on your back the only way to look is up! It isn't during the hardest or the harshest of times that we forget to remember God. It's during the best of times. The greatest times. The most exciting times. It during the easiest of times that we neglect to remember Him.

THINGS ARE LOOKING GOOD!

Most would find it difficult to comprehend the frequency in occurrence of this phenomenon. People who have faced great challenges and struggles find their way into relationship with God. Yet, as soon as things begin to make a turn towards the better, those same people often turn back away from God. We cover it up with excuses and create great explanations for our departures, but in reality, when things are going very well many possess a tendency to forget their dependence upon God.

After we have eaten and we are filled—this is when we are faced with our greatest challenge of remembering. Even Moses warned the people about it! When life is smooth we can quickly forget how great the need for God continues to be in our lives. What we may perceive as the blessing of God can actually become a type of the curse if at any time it causes us to move away from God rather than closer to Him. It is during these good times that we need to be consciously aware of our connection to and with God.

We need to stay committed and involved in giving Him the highest of our praises. It is God who is worthy of our admiration and adoration. During our seasons of ease we ought not to fall away from God, but draw even closer to Him. We should make certain to place the focus upon our God during the hours of plenty and celebrate His goodness with a new and fresh vigor. Otherwise, it might not be too long until our problems and difficulties push us back into a position where we're crying out to Him once again.

Just a thought—but if the only time God hears your voice is when you're in trouble—might all of your troubles be a sign that God simply desires to hear your voice more often? Let's not wait until we're in the middle of one of life's darkest hours before we reach out for God. There's no need to put Him out of our lives until midnight. We should wake up the morning with a shout of His praise

and with a victory song. We're free to praise to Him! Let's break the silence and allow Him to hear our voice - even when things are going well!

Let's celebrate together this weekend-

Pastors Thom and Shelby