

Spiritual Amnesia

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...

Deuteronomy 4:9

Forgetfulness can plague all of us. Because man is prone to forget concerning spiritual matters, God's word contains warnings against forgetfulness and admonitions to remember important events and eternal truths. In the Old Testament, memorials were constructed to remind God's people of his mighty acts, while in the New Testament the Christian church observed the ordinances of baptism and communion to commemorate our Lord's mission of salvation. Remembering and observing the events and commands of the Bible is the spiritual fuel that energizes believers.

So, what are some of the factors that contribute to forgetfulness? Varied and abundant distractions, hectic schedules, lack of proper rest, or lack of focus can all play a part for a person forgetting spiritual truths. The root cause of each factor is that the adversary of our soul, the devil, aggressively seeks to cloud or remove retention of any spiritual influence. Certainly, disobedience was the major contributor for Adam and Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit, but forgetting the severity of God's warning could also have played a part. Once sin infiltrated the human race it became more difficult for man to retain God's admonitions. Consider two examples from scripture where remembering made a difference. The account of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15 illustrates the effectual impact of remembering that his father had servants who were living in better circumstances than he was experiencing. When he came to himself and reflected on the better conditions of his father's servants, he resolved to humble himself and return to the father. In Matthew 27 after Peter denied the Lord three times and the cock crew, he then remembered the warning that Jesus gave. Having his memory jarred, Peter renewed his resolve to follow Jesus.

God has provided some ways for us to offset the effects of spiritual amnesia. Multiple passages instruct us to meditate on and hide the Word of God in our hearts. A disciplined practice of daily Bible reading helps to remind us and enforce the truth of the Scriptures in our lives. Jesus said: Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it. One of the many ways we are blessed by keeping God's word is that it helps to reinforce the Word in our minds. Prayer and supplication with thanksgiving can give the peace of God, which passes all understanding, and will keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

J. Ekis