

Remembering God Moments

June 11, 2006

1 Samuel 17:32-37 (NLT)

"Don't worry about a thing," David told Saul. "I'll go fight this Philistine!"

[33] "Don't be ridiculous!" Saul replied. "There is no way you can go against this Philistine. You are only a boy, and he has been in the army since he was a boy!"

[34] But David persisted. "I have been taking care of my father's sheep," he said. "When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, [35] I go after it with a club and take the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. [36] I have done this to both lions and bears, and I'll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! [37] The Lord who saved me from the claws of the lion and the bear will save me from this Philistine!"

Saul finally consented. "All right, go ahead," he said. "And may the Lord be with you!"

I want to talk to you today about how important it is to remember what someone has called “God Moments” in our lives. We all have them but to often we forget them.

God tells us over and over in the Bible that we must not forget what He has done for us. Let me give you a few examples:

After God brought the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt He spoke through His servant Moses to them and said....

Exodus 13:3 (NKJV)

...."Remember this day in which you went out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the Lord brought you out of this place.

Exodus 13:3 (NIV)

...."Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the Lord brought you out of it with a mighty hand

Commemorate means....”to make a planned effort to remember, to rehearse it, and to take practical steps to make sure you don’t forget it.”

The Israelites did what God told them to do. They celebrated the Passover every year. Jews still celebrate the Passover. Why? Because God told them it was important for them to remember the day that He delivered them from Egypt.

Deut. 4:9 (NLT)

"But watch out! Be very careful **never to forget** what you have seen the Lord do for you. Do not let these things escape from your mind as long as you live! And be sure to pass them on to your children and grandchildren.

Deut. 5:15 (NLT)

Remember that you were once slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out with amazing power and mighty deeds.

Deut. 8:2 (NLT)

Remember how the Lord your God led you through the wilderness for forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would really obey his commands.

Deut. 8:17-18 (NLT)

He did it so you would never think that it was your own strength and energy that made you wealthy. [18] **Always remember** that it is the Lord your God who gives you power to become rich, and he does it to fulfill the covenant he made with your ancestors.

Psalms 77:11-12 (NLT)

I recall all you have done, O Lord;
I **remember** your wonderful deeds of long ago.
[12] They are constantly in my thoughts.
I cannot stop thinking about them.

Psalms 103:2 (NLT)

Praise the Lord, I tell myself,
and **never forget** the good things he does for me.

Neh. 4:14 (NLT)

Then as I looked over the situation, I called together the leaders and the people and said to them, "Don't be afraid of the enemy! **Remember** the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your friends, your families, and your homes!"

2 Peter 1:12 (NLT)

I plan to keep on reminding you of these things—even though you already know them and are standing firm in the truth.

Remember....Remember....Remember....Remember!

We are told over and over in the Scripture to remember what God has done for us.

Why? Because remembering yesterday's "**God's Moments**" gives us faith for the tests we face today.

Make no mistake about it, we will all face trials and difficult situations. There is no way to avoid them.

Psalm 34:19 (NLT)

The righteous face many troubles,
but the Lord rescues them from each and every one.

Isn't that a wonderful verse? The first part is not so wonderful. It tells us that we are going to face many troubles. It's the second part of the verse that is wonderful. It says that what ever the troubles are that we have to face, the Lord is going to rescue us from each and every one of them.

Now, what I am trying to get you to do today is remember all those times that the Lord has rescued you when you were in trouble before, and have faith that He will do it again.

You may be having one of those Job experiences when everything that could possibly go wrong is going wrong.

First, the Sabeans raided Job's farms and stole his oxen and donkeys and killed his servants.

Next, lightning struck his sheep and the shepherds who were watching them and destroyed all of them.

Next, his children were killed in a violent storm.

And finally, Job's body was covered with boils.

How do you deal with a situation like that? How do you help someone who is going through a situation like that?

Don't do what Job's friends did. Don't tell the person going through that kind of trial that they must have done something to deserve it. Don't tell them that they ought to just curse God and die like Job's wife told him.

And don't tell them that they just need to have more faith. They want more faith. They want to know that God has not abandoned them. But they need more than simplistic exhortations and clichés. They need some solid rock reminders that God has not and will not abandon them.

That's when remembering the "**God Moments**" in their lives will sustain them and give them the faith that they need to face whatever overwhelming circumstance they are having to deal with.

When David took the food to his brothers who were in Israel's army in a battle with the Philistines he was met with contempt.

His brother sarcastically said to him, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart..."

And David said, "What have I done now?"

And when David told that he would fight Goliath, Saul said, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; you are a youth, he's a man of war."

We've all heard Saul's voice at one time or another telling us what we can't do. Telling us that we are too young or too old or not educated enough, or whatever.

When that happens we have a choice. We can let those negative words stop us from fighting the giant and allow the giant to defeat us or we can remember the "**God Moments**" that we have experienced in the past and believe that God is still God and that He will do it again.

David could have chosen to rehearse his failures but he chose to do something else. He chose to remember some of the “**God Moments**” he had experienced.

He remembered the morning when he was taking care of his father’s sheep and they suddenly started running in all directions. He looked up and saw that a lion had somehow gotten in and had a lamb in it’s mouth.

David picked up a stone and put it into his sling and threw it at the 350 pound cat and when the rock hit the lion it stunned him and he let the lamb go. But the angry lion then turn his fury against David. It was a terrifying moment. But in that instance God’s divine energy surged through David’s arms and he grabbed the lion and hit it with his staff and killed it.

That not only happened once but it happened several times; not only with a lion but also with a bear.

David could have chosen to remember the way his brothers mocked him. He could have rehearsed the humiliation of being there on the front line of the battle, not to fight, but to be a delivery boy.

He could have looked at the size of the giant and thought about how small he was in comparison. He could have done all of those things but he didn’t.

His heart was beating with “**God Moments**”.

He said, “The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”

The whole Israeli army couldn’t produce one man brave enough to face Goliath but one shepherd boy who remembered a couple of “**God Moments**” defeated the giant.

Remembering “God Moments” will help you face your giants too.

You might say, “But I haven’t killed a lion or a bear. I haven’t won any great battles. I haven’t seen any miracles in my life. I haven’t had any “God Moments”.

That’s not true.

Life itself is a battle. The Bible says that every Christian is in a battle with an enemy.

1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)

Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the Devil, your great enemy. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour.

But the Bible also says...

Psalm 91:13 (NLT)

You will trample down lions and poisonous snakes;
you will crush fierce lions and serpents under your feet!

The very fact that you are still alive today listening to this sermon is evidence that you are a lion slayer. You have not been devoured. You are more than a conqueror.

The problem is that our memory seems to work better remembering the failures than it does remembering the victories.

Why is it that we forget the victories so quickly and remember the defeats so long?

The prime example in the Bible is the story of the Israelites leaving Egypt.

Pharaoh finally agreed to let them leave and they got as far as the shore of the Red Sea. Then Pharaoh changed his mind and sent the Egyptian army to stop them. There they were with the Red Sea in front of them and Pharaoh's army behind them. The situation seemed hopeless. But then came the "God Moment".

God told Moses to lift up his rod and to stretch out his hand over the Red Sea. When Moses did it God caused the waters of the Red Sea to part and the entire nation of Israel walked through the sea on dry land.

When the Egyptians tried to follow them, Moses stretched out his hand again and the Egyptian army was engulfed in the waters of the Red Sea.

The Israelites danced and sang as they witnessed the power of God.

They stood on the bank of that great sea and sang,

Exodus 15:1-3 (NLT)

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord:

"I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;
he has thrown both horse and rider into the sea.

[2] The Lord is my strength and my song;
he has become my victory.

He is my God, and I will praise him;
he is my father's God, and I will exalt him!

[3] The Lord is a warrior;
yes, the Lord is his name!

The thing that is so amazing is that only three days later they apparently had forgotten what God had done.

Exodus 15:22-24 (NLT)

Then Moses led the people of Israel away from the Red Sea, and they moved out into the Shur Desert. They traveled in this desert for three days without water. [23] When they came to Marah, they finally found water. But the people couldn't drink it because it was bitter. (That is why the place was called Marah, which means "bitter.")

[24] Then the people turned against Moses. "What are we going to drink?" they demanded.

Isn't it amazing? God had just performed one of the greatest miracles in the history of the world for them and three days later they apparently had forgotten about it and were complaining against Moses.

That's the way we are. God can do something great for us but when we face another trial, we forget what He did for us before.

Present pain clouds our memory of former victories.

That's why God told them to do something to help them remember forty years later when He miraculously helped them cross the flooded Jordan River.

This time He told Joshua to appoint twelve men, one from each tribe, to pick up a stone from the middle of the river and build a memorial out of them so that when their children asked, “What do these stones mean?” They would tell them the story of how God miraculously helped them cross the river.

And God said, “These stones shall be a memorial to the children of Israel forever.”

I suggest to you today that each of you need to build some monuments out of the “**God Moments**” in your lives so that you will not forget them when you face other challenges in the future. And make no mistake about it, there will be other challenges.

There are great “**God Moments**” that change your life forever and then there are those little things that occur on a regular basis that God also wants us to remember.

Jeremiah wrote....

Lament. 3:20-23 (NLT)

I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. [21] Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this:

[22] The unending love of the Lord never ends! By his mercies we have been kept from complete destruction. [23] Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each day.

David wrote....

Psalm 103:2-4 (NKJV)

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

And forget not all His benefits:

[3] Who forgives all your iniquities,

Who heals all your diseases,

[4] Who redeems your life from destruction,

Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,

Not only do we need to remember the obvious, magnificent “God Moments” in our lives but we also need to remember all the incredible, intricate ways in which God works in our lives on a daily basis.

There's a bumper sticker that says....

I've seen it all
I've heard it all
I've done it all
I just can't remember it all.

As we get older we have trouble remembering it all. But when it comes to "God Moments" we need to remember them all so that when we face those difficult situations of life we will fear no evil because we have learned that through it all God has been faithful and He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

We know that He will never leave us or forsake us.
We know that He who has begun a good work in us will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.
We know that He healed us before and He will do it again.

The song says.....

You may be down and feel like God has somehow forgotten
That you are faced with circumstances you can't get through.
Right now it seems that there's no way out and you're going under
But God's proven time and time again He'll take care of you.

And He'll do it again. He'll do it again.
Just take a look at where you are now and where you have been.
Hasn't He always come through for you. He's the same now as then.
You may not know how, you may not know when, but He'll do it again.

No matter what you are going through today, remember that God has always made a way where there seemed to be no way and He'll do it again.

Give Invitation!