

# Memory: A Very Valuable Asset

It's a very useful tool in strengthening us spiritually



# Things To Remember

- ▶ The words of Scripture
  - ▶ “Remember the words of the Lord Jesus...” (Acts 20:35).
  - ▶ “Remember the words...spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Jude 1:17).
  - ▶ “I will never forget your precepts, for by them You have given me life” (Psalms 119:93).



# Things To Remember

- ▶ The enthusiasm with which we first obeyed the gospel.
  - ▶ “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works...” (Revelation 2:5).
  - ▶ “Recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated...” (Hebrews 10:32).



# Things To Remember

- ▶ People in need, especially our brethren.
  - ▶ “Warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak...” (1 Thess. 5:14).
  - ▶ Even those from whom we had to withdraw: “Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother” (2 Thess. 3:15).



# The Blessing of Forgetting

“Forgettery” can also be a useful  
tool in strengthening us spiritually.



# Ecclesiastes 12:1–2

- ▶ “Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, ‘I have no pleasure in them’: while the sun and the light, the moon and the stars are not darkened, and the clouds do not return after the rain.”



# When Troubles Don't Depart

- ▶ Sometimes they stay because we won't let them depart.
- ▶ We recall them, and relive them, over and over again.
- ▶ It is a wise, happy, and spiritual man who knows when and how to forget.



# Joseph was such a man

- ▶ “And to Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came...Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: ‘For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father’s house’” (Genesis 41:50–51).





# Things To Forget

- ▶ Slightings, insults, injustices, hurts inflicted on us by others.
  - ▶ Joseph certainly didn't dwell on these things.
  - ▶ And neither did Paul: "May it not be charged against them" (2 Timothy 4:16).
  - ▶ Bitterness has no place, even if they DON'T repent.



# Things To Forget

- ▶ The sins of others against us, when we say, “I forgive you.”
  - ▶ Forgetting is part of forgiving.
  - ▶ “If you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matt. 6:15).
  - ▶ “Up to seventy times seven” (Matt. 18:22).
  - ▶ Don’t bury the hatchet and leave a marker to find it.



# Things To Forget

- ▶ Our own sins, when God assures us He has forgiven us.
  - ▶ “Forgetting those things which are behind...reaching forward to those things which are ahead” (Phil. 3:13).
  - ▶ Can’t build a glorious future by wallowing in a sordid past.
  - ▶ “Their sins...I will remember no more” (Heb. 10:17).

