

# Do Not Forget

How many of you have heard the phrase “I forgot more than you’ll ever know”? This was the name of a song, one that was recorded by at least 19 different artists including Bob Dylan and Johnny Cash.

It’s usually used as an insult, “Boy, I’ve forgotten more than you’ll ever know!”

But when you think about all that you’ve learned in life...how much of it do you remember? I’m pretty sure I forgot more than what I currently know!

It’s why we need reminders. It’s why we have days like today, 9-11, that we remember all of the people who lost their lives in such a tragic act by a few cowardly people. All the innocent people in those towers and on the streets and all the heroes who died trying to save others.

How many of us said “We will never forget!”? And yet we only really remember on this day each year. What if we didn’t have this reminder?

I bet if your loved one died that day, you’d think about it a lot more often. You probably really would never forget.

We forget lots of things that probably really are important to us.

## **Deuteronomy 8:11 (NKJV)**

“Beware that you **do not forget the Lord your God** by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today,

I know...that seems like a ridiculous reminder to many of you. Like, how can I forget Jesus?

How can I forget the One who died on a cross in my place, for my sin?

How can I forget the One who rose from the dead so that in Him I can live forever?

How can I forget the One who is always with me and for me?

How can I forget the One who has promised to come back for me?

How can I forget Jesus?

It’s easier than you think. And it happens more than you realize. The Word wouldn’t remind us if it wasn’t a real issue.

You know when Jake challenged us last week to remember God in the good times, not just the bad, I had already made the outline for this sermon. It was already a draft in my Google Docs. That’s unity in the Spirit right there, church!

And it IS a real issue people have. **Do Not Forget The Lord Your God!**

And you can't use old age as an excuse. I know I seem to forget more and more as I get older...but I don't forget my wife! I know I'm still married. I know that I love her and because I love her I talk to her, spend time with her, pursue her, and I do all of this no matter what circumstances are going on in my life!

See it's the relationship, one that I treasure, that keeps me active and engaged with her.

So why do we forget Jesus? I think it's tied to the reason we forget lots of other things...

According to Dartmouth, 3 of the main reasons we forget are:

**You didn't learn**  
**Disuse**  
**Interference**

When we look back at this warning Moses gives the people of Israel as they look toward entering the Promised Land, we see these 3 things laid out.

**Deuteronomy 8:1-5 (NKJV)**

"Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers. 2 And you shall remember that **the Lord your God led you** all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to **humble you and test you**, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. 3 So He humbled you, **allowed you to hunger**, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, **that He might make you know** that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord. 4 Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. 5 You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the Lord your God chastens you.

Have you ever watched a movie where someone keeps making the same mistake over and over and you just want to yell at them? "Come on! How can you not see this happening...AGAIN!"

They keep making the same mistakes because they didn't learn. They experienced something, didn't learn from it, so when it happened again they repeated the same thing!

This is Israel...It's like watching a predictable movie that can be so frustrating...why can't they just learn?

They spent those 40 years wandering the wilderness...and God was testing them. But it's not just that God sent them out there alone to suffer for what they had done. We need to get that...it wasn't punishment, it was training. It was a time to learn.

In the wilderness, God was always with them. And they always had what they needed. No it was not the Promised Land. The wilderness was not flowing with milk and honey. But they had food that appeared daily and supernatural clothes that lasted 40 years. How many of you are still wearing clothes from 40 years ago? -that might be really awkward unless you are 60+

If you've spent a day on your feet, say you went to the zoo. At the end of the day, you sit down and man your feet are swollen. They walked around for 40 years...and their feet didn't even swell!

And God didn't discipline them by making them wander the wilderness...He disciplined them IN the wilderness because they were not learning...

You do not learn what God is teaching you...you forget God. You forget what He's provided, you forget that He's with you, you forget that whatever good you have left in your dying body is what He has sustained. You forget that with all you've been through, you should be worn out but here you are, living another day with the Holy Spirit guiding you...

**Do Not Forget The Lord Your God!**

**Ephesians 4:20-24 (NKJV)**

But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Put away that grumbler, that complainer, that old man or woman that forgets what God has done...put on the new man with the renewed mind the one that's born again, made new in Christ Jesus...the one that remembers the Lord and lives and walks daily in the Spirit! Learn from the Spirit!

**Deuteronomy 8:6-10 (NKJV)**

"Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him. 7 For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills; 8 a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; 9 a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper. 10 When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which He has given you.

There comes a point in a believer's life when he gets what he's prayed for. When God's blessing arrives. When a hope or desire is fulfilled.

This Promised Land sounds great...and man when they get there I bet they are gonna praise...maybe do a little dance...shout a bit...hit their knees...be so thankful...

Until they get too busy picking pomegranates.  
Until they're working too many hours digging up copper.  
Until they have all they could want to eat and you build...

When you're so busy with the blessing that you forget the One who blessed you. Oh, don't you act like you've never done it...if you haven't then you're probably still stuck in the wilderness complaining!

When we get what we want, we begin to stop praying and stop thanking. This is disuse. The very things that got us to where we are with God. The things that made the relationship so good, so strong...prayer and gratitude...when they fade, that's disuse. And disuse will cause you to forget...

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**1 Corinthians 7:20-21 (NKJV)**

Let each one remain in the same calling in which he was called. 21 Were you called while a slave? Do not be concerned about it; but if you can be made free, rather use it.

You've been freed by the power of the blood of Jesus for a reason...and only one reason. To be united WITH the Lord Your God. Every blessing He gives us is just icing on the cake. Use it...for HIM and for His purpose for your life! But that purpose doesn't just include Him, He's at the center of it!

**Deuteronomy 8:11-20 (NKJV)**

"Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, 12 lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; 13 and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; 14 when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; 15 who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock; 16 who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end— 17 then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.' 18 "And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. 19 Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the Lord your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall

surely perish. 20 As the nations which the Lord destroys before you, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the Lord your God.

Interference is anything that comes in opposition to another hindering its action.

Like when you try to listen to the radio and you have another station cutting in. It's in opposition to the other "listen to ME!". Sometimes at my dad's when we're playing cards he'll turn on the radio and he will tune it, then fix it, then fix it again, and eventually turns it off.

We do this with God sometimes too. He's speaking, blessing, working, leading, and we have interference...it keeps getting in the way. And it's work to try and tune back into the Holy Spirit. You do it again and again, but the interference is annoying and you decide it's not worth it...you turn it off.

You can't let the interferences of life cause you to turn off God's voice. Whatever you have that is good...God gave you the power to get it. And that's the biggest interference...pride.

Don't forget who gave you an able body or a sharp mind or abilities and opened the door to the job, possessions, things you have obtained.

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**1 Thessalonians 5:16-22 (CSB)**

Rejoice always, 17 pray constantly, 18 give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Don't stifle the Spirit. 20 Don't despise prophecies, 21 but test all things. Hold on to what is good. 22 Stay away from every kind of evil.

Every good thing that we have and we will be are results of God's immeasurable goodness. Let us be humble and thankful before Him.

We are what we are and we have what we have not because we are clever but because God is so wise; not because we are mighty but because God is powerful; and not because we are consistent but because God is faithful.

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