

...If we don't "call to mind" what God has said about himself and about us, we languish. Oh how I know this from painful experience! Don't wallow in the mire of godless messages in your own head. Messages like: "I can't..." "She won't..." "They never..." "It has never worked..."

The point is not that these messages are true or false. Your mind will always find a way to make them true, unless you call to mind something greater. God is the God of the impossible. Reasoning your way out of an impossible situation is not as effective as reminding yourself that God does impossible things.

Without reminding ourselves of the greatness and grace and power and wisdom of God, we sink into brutish pessimism. "I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you (Psalm 73:22).

The great turn from despair to hope in Psalm 77 comes with these words: "I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds" (Psalm 77:11-12)

This is the great battle of my life. I assume yours too. The battle to remind! Myself. Then others.

- John Piper

MY RESPONSE:

Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of Me." Besides communion, is there something you do to regularly keep the memory of God's faithfulness in front of you? If so, describe.

In your group, have each person share a recent way God has demonstrated His kindness and faithfulness to them.

REMEMBER

Jim Johnson—May 25-26

Genesis 8:1; Exodus 13:3-9; Deuteronomy 6:10-12

TIME WITH GOD: If you don't currently have a Bible reading plan, you can download "Our Time with God" at spcc.tv/resources

REFLECTIONS: Whether you're using SPCC's reading plan or a different one, think about your time hearing and responding to Jesus this week. In your conversations with Him, describe one thing you felt Him speaking to you about.

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTION: What is one thing that God impressed on your heart through this weekend's message?

"This I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end." (Lamentations 3:21-22)

One of the great enemies of hope is forgetting God's promises. Reminding is a great ministry. Peter and Paul both said that they wrote letters for this reason (2 Pet. 1:13; Rom. 15:15).

The main Helper in reminding us what we need to know is the Holy Spirit (John 14:26). But that doesn't mean you should be passive. You are responsible only for the ministry of reminding. And the first one in need of reminding by you is you.

The mind has this great power: It can talk to itself by way of reminder. The mind can "call to mind," as the text says: "But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope..."
- Cont.

MY PERSPECTIVE: Do you have a method for remembering things? Does it work? (You might want to ask your spouse)

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read the following verses: Deuteronomy 4:31; Psalm 103:11-14; Isaiah 49:14-16; Jeremiah 31:33-34. What are you glad that God remembers? What are you glad that God doesn't remember?

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-12. Describe a truth about God or His promises that you tend to forget. What untrue idea tends to replace that truth in your mind?
