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**Part 2**

**Mentoring by  
Reminding:  
What Are We to  
Remember?**

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**Series: Possessing the Land:  
The Process of Mentoring**

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## Part 2

# Mentoring by Reminding: What Are We to Remember

I must be honest. For fear of forgetting something, I have begun to write everything down. This has brought about a great change in my lifestyle. Where I once spent much of my time trying to remember what I was supposed to be doing, now I have all of that time free to spend looking for the piece of paper that is supposed to tell me what I am supposed to be doing.

Don't laugh. It is a part of the deterioration of the brain cells that accompanies later life. Some call them "senior moments". I'm at the stage where my senior moments run together and become "senior days". For years, I've struggled with a fading memory, but now it's getting better. I can no longer remember that I was supposed to be remembering something. That helps with the guilt, but not with the problem.

There is, however, a spiritual aspect to the issue of remembering. It's one thing to forget I was supposed to stop at the grocery store on the way home and get bread. It is quite another to forget the wonderful ways of my God, and the incredible things He has done to show Himself strong on my behalf. Forgetting those things is a spiritual travesty. It is an offense against a loving, holy God.

These offenses are not totally tied to age, either. The spiritual warfare that tugs at the heart of the Christian, seeking to erase from the hard disk of the mind things God has done, knows no age limits. It is an old problem that touches young and old alike.

In our last study, we watched Moses at the conclusion of his war with the Amalekites, and we heard God give him his first assignment: He was to become a post-war journalist. He was to write down everything that had transpired in the Amalekite-Israeli conflict. Everything. He was to write down how Amalek's troops murdered helpless victims, attacking the feeble, the lame, the weary, the handicapped. He was to write down how they had no fear of God; how Moses had to intercede with Aaron and Hur at his side, while Joshua felt God's power ebb and flow on the

battlefield in proportion to the raised rod of God.

“Write it down,” said God. So Moses did. “Now, rehearse it in Joshua’s ear”, said God. So Moses did. God wanted what happened burned into the consciousness of the next generation. The conflict with the Amalekites would go on and on, said God, but one day they would vanish from the face of the earth.

“Even then”, God added, “I want my children to remember: I want them never to forget Amalek, his people, and what Jehovah did that fateful day.” And not forgetting the words and ways of God is a theme in Scripture that is all too prevalent, but all too soon forgotten.

That is, however, the subject we are looking at as we continue our journey through the ministry of mentoring, using Moses and Joshua as our pattern. In our last lesson, we looked at why we are to remember. Some of the things we discovered were:

- 1- Remembering helps us see God’s bigger plan (Deuteronomy 25:17-19).
- 2- Reminding us is part of the Holy Spirit’s job. (John 14:26)
- 3- Reminding the next generation is our task (Deuteronomy 32:7).
- 4- We need to leave a legacy of remembrances after we die (II Peter 1:12-15).

In this study, we will search the Scriptures to answer the second question:

“If that is *why* we are to remember, *what* are we to remember?” What kinds of things did God tell us to so burn into the fabric of our hearts that the image of them would never disappear? We will endeavor to find a few of them. Let’s search God’s word for that word “remember” and its synonyms and see what He thinks is important enough *never to forget*:

- 1- We are never to forget who God is.

The most important thing we as believers have to burn into our consciousness is an image of the nature of God. I have several books that simply take Scripture and draw out of it the attributes of God. Perhaps you do, too. It seems that about every other year I will pull one of those books out and begin to look at it and be amazed at the magnitude of His grace, the awesomeness of His mercy, the tenderness of His love, the perfectness of His

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faithfulness, the necessity of His righteousness, the wonder of His infinite patience. Suddenly, things that I have been fretting over or fearing begin to dissipate as the umbrella of His character comes between me and the storms of life.

God is. Never forget it. And what God is and who God is cannot be compared with anyone or anything else. If you try to define God's love by human love and then multiply it even ten trillion times, you fall short. You cannot measure God's nature by man's; you must measure man's nature by first defining God's. And while it is true that God's nature is beyond comprehension to the natural mind, He has given us His Spirit whose job it is to "*bring all things to our remembrance,*" and one of the key things He wants to remind us of is *who He is*.

Memorize passages that define and describe the attributes of God. Turn them into mementos or memorials. Paint pictures and etch the Word into the painting. Make a wall hanging, and weave into the fabric, the fabric of the nature of God. The Scripture demands it:

Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness. (Psalm 97:12)

How glorious when our personal worship flows out of the wonder of who He is, rather than out of our clawing to have our personal needs met. Well the Psalmist wrote:

Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness. (Psalm 30:4)

What does that mean? "*The remembrance of His holiness.*" It means when your heart is reminded of the incredible integrity of our Lord, you ought to stop *at that moment* and begin to make melody in your heart that you belong to a holy God. The very reason for remembering in Scripture is tied to the nature of God. Memorize Isaiah 46:9. It will remind you to remember:

Remember the former things of old: for I *am* God, and *there is none else*; I *am* God, and *there is none like me*, (Isaiah 46:9)

Turn back the pages of Scriptural history, says God, and one truth will repeat itself over and over: "*There is one God. There is none other and there are no substitutes.*" God is. He is perfect holiness, perfect mercy, perfect righteousness, perfect grace, perfect faithfulness, perfect knowledge, perfect power. He alone

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is sovereign. He alone is supreme. All else and everything else added together becomes less than nothing when compared to Him. Isaiah 40 reminds us:

Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counselor hath taught him?

With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding?

Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing.

And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering.

All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.

To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?  
(Isaiah 40:12-18)

Can you read that passage or meditate on it and still shake your fist at God, or spend your time *telling Him what to do with His kingdom, particularly that part of His kingdom that touches you?* The very hairs of our head are numbered; He cares *that much*. He is that personal in His watchcare over us. But that love is coupled by omniscience and omnipotence. There is nothing He does not know and nothing He cannot do. Add to that His amazing personal love for us and we dare not sin the sin of worry. That is why He could tell us to “*be anxious for nothing*”. It is because there is nothing beyond His love and nothing beyond His power. He is. We need to be reminded of that, our children need to be reminded of that, and the next generation needs to be reminded of that.

Fill your home and your heart with remembrances of the nature of God. We'll suggest one more time that you make a character book and let your whole family add Scriptures and illustrations and personal testimonies to the chapters of His grace or His mercy or His patience. To do that, they will have to measure the things that happen each day, not with the ruler

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of their feelings or their needs, but rather by the plumb line of Scripture, looking for how each incident was not an accident, but rather was a reflection of some aspect of His sovereign grace and mercy.

And remember: *every absolute in Scripture is a reflection of some part of God's nature.* We are not to lie because God is perfect truth. We are not to commit adultery because God is perfect holiness. Every absolute is a picture of some aspect of who He is, because all truth flows from His character. Let your family write poems or choruses about the nature of God, or let them search out the archives of Biblical treasures and find them, and use some time each week to share them. Constantly remind them and thus remind yourself that what just happened was a reflection of some part of God's nature. Talk about it. Then stop and worship Him *for that aspect of His character.* Look up the names of God in Scripture. *Each name represents some reflection of His character.* Find what it is and worship Him.

2- We are never to forget the miraculous things He's done.

Every miracle in Scripture springs forth from some aspect of God's nature, as well. Each time He parted a sea or brought water from a rock or defeated an enemy, He was reflecting some part of who He is. That is why He repeated over and over in Scripture accounts of the same miracles. Each time, He was reminding them that *because of who He is, this is what He did.* The very amount of repetition is proof of how important remembering is to God and how easy it is for us to forget. But God is perfect patience. So He told them over and over and over the same stories about the same incidents, incidents in which God proved Himself to be God.

We must not build our faith on the miracles; we must build our faith on God. I believe that is why so often the kinds of miracles God sends into our lives are the private, personal kind that reveal His power to us by His timing and His provision, but they are so personal they do not call attention to themselves, they simply call our attention to Him; and while the very intimacy with which He reveals Himself overwhelms us, those around us may not sense a sea parting or a sun standing still. To us, however, nothing that ever happened to the Israelites was more miraculous.

That is why we must write them down. Others may not sense the awe of it now, but later as you share what God did and as it is

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folded into the bigger picture of your life, it becomes increasingly beautiful, both to them and to you.

First of all, keep remembering your conversion. Not the incident, the results. Yours may not have been a Damascus Road encounter. It accomplished the same thing, however. It lifted you out of darkness into light. It gave you God's Living Spirit to live in you and God's eternal dwelling to live for. That is why God's bringing the Jews out of Egypt was so mind-boggling. It was a picture of our salvation. Egypt represented Satan's domain. They were in bondage there. Attempts at deliverance by their own efforts proved fruitless. But God, in His infinite mercy, set them free. Look at a few of His reminders to them:

And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and *that* the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day.

(Deuteronomy 5:15)

Thou shalt not be afraid of them: *but* shalt well remember what the LORD thy God did unto Pharaoh, and unto all Egypt;

(Deuteronomy 7:18)

And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt, and the LORD thy God redeemed thee: therefore I command thee this thing to day.

(Deuteronomy 15:15)

Remember when God set you free. Write down your testimony *somewhere* so that some day the miracle that delivered you from what you were or from what you might have been apart from God is available to others to read. But more than that, *what about the other miracles that God has wrought in answer to prayer?* What about the birth of that child who was such a miracle, or the conversion of that relative who was so antagonistic to God, or the timing of that event that so caused you to fall to your knees, praising God for revealing Himself so clearly. Have you forgotten? Or have you just forgotten to share it with those you love? And have you forgotten to write it down so even after you have gone home to be with God the miracle of it can go on?

We have asked many times, but we mention it again. Why not make a plaque or paint or buy a picture that depicts that miracle and hang it somewhere in your home. It will only have meaning to you, *but every time you pass it, you will remember.* And when your children ask you in time to come, *“What does that picture*



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mean?” you can say unto them: “*That is to remind me of what my God did for me.*” That will not only teach them about the miracle, it will teach them about the ministry miracles can have when you do something to help you *remember*.

What about the time you prayed for a house and God provided one in such a way that no one could ever explain it away? He did it. Don't forget it. What about the time you prayed because there was no way you could send that child to school or buy that used car or pay that bill. *Then God met your need and He did it in a way that was a miracle to you.* Write it down.

I can remember so many times in my life and in the ministries we have experienced when *apart from God's intervention*, there was no hope. But a phone call in the night or a last minute gift or the intervention of someone who must have been an angel unawares brought light and life where darkness prevailed. Our children need to hear about it. Our grandchildren need to hear about it. The Psalmist said it like this:

O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people.

Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works.

Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD.

Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore.

Remember his marvelous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;

(Psalm 105:1-5)

Do you make known his deeds among the people? Do you talk of all His wondrous works? Do you remember His marvelous works that He hath done? His wonders? The judgments of His mouth? We are seeing raised up a generation of skeptics in our day. They do not believe God is still active in human affairs. They see so much violence and so much greed and so much infidelity and so much hatred they cannot balance what they see with what they hear about a God who gave Jonah a fishy adventure or brought fire from heaven or made the sun stand still. They hear us saying He is coming in great power, but they have no concept of that great power. Because we have forgotten, they have never known.

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3- We are to remember the blessings that came from our trials.

Again and again, God reminded the Israelites about their bad times and the good things that came from them. We try to forget them. I cannot help but note, however, that looking back over my life, *virtually all of the things that made a lasting difference in me and produced some level of ministry through me came from things I never would have allowed, had I been God.*

The writer of Hebrews warned us in chapter ten:

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;

Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used.

For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.

For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

(Hebrews 10:31-36)

Call to remembrance the former days. What former days? The days in which wonders and miracles were abounding? Perhaps. But this passage is urging us to *remember the bad times, too*. It was in those bad times that we were being blessed. Then we were being illuminated and didn't even know it. That word illuminated is a Greek word that means "to be spiritually enlightened". It means after we were saved and received the light. Perhaps it also means that when trials came, the light bulb went on and we began to realize what knowing God was all about. It wasn't all about getting earthly goodies and being released from earthly sorrows. It was about "enduring a great fight of afflictions". That word "afflictions" used here is the word "pathema" {path'-ay-mah} the same word used to describe the sufferings of Christ. Those sufferings were "blessings" for "blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute you and say all manner of evil against you falsely for His sake." How could *that* be a blessing? Because "great is your reward in heaven", that's how.

But your children and those you mentor or disciple may not

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know that, unless you help them understand it. Share with them how the bad times became the good times because they were the very tools God needed to shape you into His likeness and give you the kind of testimony that can, in turn, change their lives. What a God. What a plan. But what a waste *if we forget to remember*. Why not write a few letters to God thanking Him for your trials. Tell Him how you felt and how your feelings caused you to doubt and to become angry or fearful. Then share how, looking back, you began to see the reality of Hebrews 12,:

Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. (Hebrews 12:11)

Even so-called “mature” Christians today tend to judge what God is or isn’t doing by whether or not they are enjoying good health, prosperity, good relationships, freedom from sorrow, and the absence of trials or difficulties for those they love. That is a tough challenge to overcome. They can read about it in the Scriptures or even read biographies of those who are testifying to the truth of it, but somehow it only becomes personal when it gets closer to home. If God has changed your life through suffering, *don’t be ashamed to share it*. It may be the switch that turns on the light of illumination in someone’s life: your children, your disciples, your friends. It may finally make sense to them that “blessed are they that mourn” for it is in the mourning that we are comforted, and in the process, changed.

### 4- We must remember to learn from others’ mistakes

One of the shortest, but most powerful verses in all of Scripture is this one:

Remember Lot’s wife. (Luke 17:32)

Remember what she did. She got so enamored with the world that when given an opportunity to be set free, she couldn’t turn her back on the life she was leaving behind. It was a “salty” story. She kept looking back until she was frozen in that state. She never experienced the freedom God had for her because of the temptation to go back to the life she left. What a remembrance. If that is a temptation to you, why not frame some kind of a picture of her with that simple warning: *“Remember Lot’s wife”*. Every time you pass it, you will be reminded that to go back to the life you left means never experiencing the life you could have

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in Christ. If you want to be even less obvious, set a salt shaker on a table as a decoration to remind you. You might even attach a little note to those who pick it up that says, “*Ask me what I am here for.*” When they ask, you can tell them.

Deuteronomy 24:9 adds another illustration:

Remember what the LORD thy God did unto Miriam by the way, after that ye were come forth out of Egypt.

What had she done? Numbers, chapter 12 tells us:

And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman.

And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it.

(Now the man Moses *was* very meek, above all the men which *were* upon the face of the earth.)

And the LORD spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out.

And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood *in* the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth.

And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, *and* will speak unto him in a dream.

My servant Moses *is* not so, who *is* faithful in all mine house.

With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?

And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and he departed.

And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam *became* leprous, *white* as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, *she was* leprous.

(Numbers 12:1-10)

There are many lessons to be learned from this one simple story. One of the lessons is that God has told us not to forget it. Miriam was a pretty important woman. She played an important role in Moses’ escaping Pharaoh’s edict to be drowned. She

belonged to the “first family” of Israel. She was given the title of “prophetess” which indicates a pretty important role, spiritually. She had a pretty important musical talent. She knew how to celebrate victories. But she didn’t like brother Moses marrying this Cushite woman. So she began to use this unacceptable marriage (unacceptable to her; not to God) as a springboard for murmuring. Her real problem was not with the wife. That was the surface issue. Her real problem was that she and Aaron had become jealous over her brother’s success and asked the question: “*Is he any more important or any more spiritual than we are?*” The answer was yes, and God took care of answering the question for Moses, who was far too meek to come to his own defense.

This is a story with many lessons. If it speaks to you about your own jealousy, or your own rebellion to authority, or your own judging of others based on who they marry or where they go or what they do, maybe you need to write a letter to Miriam, thanking her for reminding you of the dangers of losing your perspective. Then leave it where others in your family can pick it up and read it. It will help them remember what submission to godly authority is all about, and it will help them understand why we need to learn from key Bible characters and what we need to learn from others who make wrong choices.

Think about making a book of biographies. Make one section “Lives to learn from: wrong choices and their rewards”. Go through the Scriptures and write down the stories of those who just missed greatness by choosing to compromise in the very areas where we are tempted. Look for common denominators. Ask God to teach you how to avoid those pitfalls by *learning from life’s living legends what not to do*.

Remembering and reminding: the two lost arts of Christian behavior. The missing links in many of our lives that could easily keep us from developing the mind of Christ and being the effective disciples we long to be.

The issue in this series, however, is mentoring. We are looking through the lens of Moses and Joshua at how to pour our lives into others, and we must not fail to come back to where we began. In our next study we will take a final look at “mentoring by reminding” by looking at specific Biblical illustrations that show us how to implement the process of remembering and reminding

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in our churches, in our ministries, and in our personal lives. The key, however, is not simply that we come to understand the importance of the past on the present and the future. The key is that we come to understand just how to apply the principles of reminding to the process of parenting and disciple-making.

I believe we must begin with Scripture memory. We can write things down in books, make plaques, paint pictures, create remembrances and even develop recurring traditions and not be changed if we fail to recognize that the *only thing capable of changing us is the word of God*. The Bible says of itself:

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (II Timothy 3:16,17)

I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. (II Timothy 4:1,2)

We will look more at this in our next study, but the first step in learning to lay up truth that will never depart is memorizing the word of God. Joshua tells us:

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. (Joshua 1:8)

No commandment in Scripture is more ignored than that one. We want God's Spirit to bring to our remembrance everything He has said, but we only give Him one-thousandth of what He has said to work with. I believe all mentoring must begin with Scripture memory. We are to meditate day and night, but if it is not in our mouths (laid up in our hearts) we have nothing to meditate on. If we do nothing between now and our next study, let every one of us at least be willing to memorize and meditate on Joshua 1:8. I pray that you will remember to remember. (If not, I promise to remind you.) ☺

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For Further Study and Application

1- If someone were to ask you what character qualities God possesses that mean the most to you, *how would you answer?* Can you, without looking in a book or asking anyone, name ten aspects of the nature of God? Can you share Scriptures that verify that God possesses those qualities?

2- What practical effect does God's omnipotence have on your Christian walk? What does it mean that you possess "*the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places..*"? Do you experience that power on a daily basis? Should you? Can you?

3- What about His omniscience? What does that mean to you? Write God a letter and thank Him that He is omniscient.

4- Meditate on Isaiah 46:9. Write out in your own words what you think that verse is saying.

5- Reread Isaiah 40:12-18. Does that passage help you get things back in perspective?

6- Do you share with your family the "little miracles" God does day by day? Do you write them down? Do you stop to say, "Thank you, Lord," or have you started to take them for granted?

7- Do you ever "call to remembrance" your "times of affliction" and thank God for what He did for you by letting you suffer? Do it.

8- What can you do to "Remember Lot's wife"? Do it.

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