

Living Memories of a Spiritual Journey

God's Mission is our Journey [illus.: college clothes]

Some may say, "the clothes make the man"...**but God makes the man.** The clothes simply tell the story!

Our Spiritual Journey must be Actively Remembered

Remember: In the Bible, to *remember* is not just to cognitively recall something. To *remember* is to actively identify with a past event and to experience that event in the present.

I. We Must *Engage* the Past (8:1-5, 15,16)

Israel: 1) Humbled and Tested

2) Disciplined (nurturing guidance) and fed with manna

— This was their Story. This is what they were to *Remember*.

Why? 1) to be blessed by God

2) to learn dependence upon God (faith, not sight)

** God is the source of everything, His *words* are more basic to life than the food we eat and the clothes we wear. (Mt.4:4).

** It is the *word* of God which declares that bread will ultimately be given from Him, not produced on our own.

** Israel was to know the difference between *self-sufficient bread* and *grace-bread*.

** Memory is the fuel which powers the Love Relationship between God and His people. Faithfulness to our history is faithfulness to the God of our history.

** When we engage the past it becomes alive in the present. The events become a living memory and create a renewed Relationship with God!

[illus.: Robinson Creek]

II. We Must *Entrust* the Future (8:6-14,17-18)

—The urgency of Remembering = The threat of forgetting.

—To entrust the future to God, we must first un-trust ourselves.

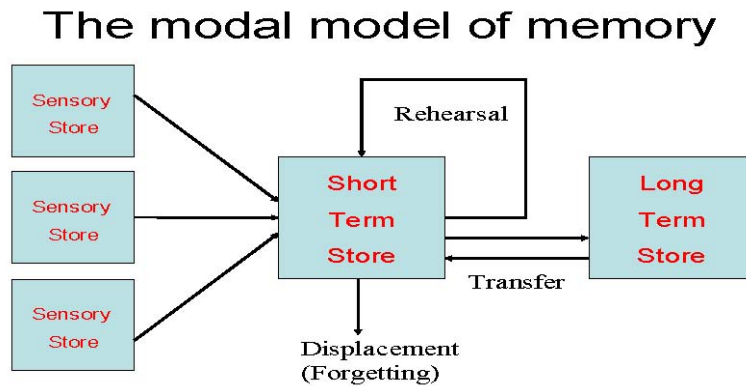
** Nothing hurts God more than being forgotten. It leads to Sin.

** Israel was to entrust their Future to God by attributing their success and possessions to Him, not to themselves.

** Self-Generated bread = self-reliant forgetfulness—the sin of Pride.

** Forgetting God is the symptom of a greater heart problem.
Spiritual *amnesia* has no place in our Spiritual *journey*.

[illus.: Clive Wearing]



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*** The danger is forgetting God—not necessarily in mind, but in practice. We may believe in God and know he is there, but do we act like he is God, or do we act as if we are God?

Who are we trusting in? Who are we boasting in? We cannot have a life plagued with spiritual amnesia if we are to be living as God's people. We must engage the past, entrust the future, and tell the story!

*** Let's actively Remember the story of our Spiritual Journeys:

- 1) Our family
- 2) Our church
- 3) Our personal journey

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Chart Taken From: http://www.lifesci.sussex.ac.uk/teaching/C8550/STS_WM.PPT