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Topic: Remembrance

The Importance of Remembrance

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This year is the 25th anniversary of the horrendous 9/11 attacks on America in 2001. This week I revisited that event by watching a close-up sobering video of the second plane hitting the North Tower. Most of us know where we were that day, how we found out the news, and the shock we all felt.

The Bible speaks a lot about the importance of remembrance, of purposely remembering God as our Creator (Ecclesiastes 12:1), remembering Jesus's sacrifice for us as we participate in Communion with the Lord while Christians gather together in His name (Luke 22:14-20). As we partake, we are to remember Jesus's body broken for us, and His blood poured out to provide the forgiveness of our sins. As Jesus was preparing to go to the cross, to enter into death and the grave, He told His disciples that He would come to us via His Holy Spirit. On the third day He resurrected to show that His sacrifice was effective in bringing us reconciliation with God.

In John 14:26 we find that Jesus gives a special gift to each person who believes and entrusts their life into His hands. Jesus said: "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you." When we receive Christ, God comes to us via the Holy Spirit to teach us, and to remind us of everything Jesus did. Jesus comes to us via the Holy Spirit to stir our memories of all the things Jesus did and taught. God uses our memories and minds to teach us truth.

Through the Holy Spirit, God reveals to us who we really are. He shines a light on how He was involved in the experiences we have had in our life, that are recorded in our memories. But the memories are then illuminated to reveal how God was at work in this or that situation in our past. God teaches us that He has been involved in our lives, even when we were rejecting Him, or unaware of Him or His involvement in the events of our lives.

The Holy Spirit also opens the Bible to us, to show us God at work throughout the events in the Bible, from creation, to parting the Red Sea, to the comfort of the Psalms. He reveals God at work in world history as He worked through Israel, Jesus, the Disciples, the Apostles, and the church. The Spirit shows us where and how God is active in our current life situations. As we interact with God each day, and accomplish things God had planned for our lives, we are writing new memories which God will use to lead us through future days.

The Holy Spirit also continually reminds us of all the advice and wisdom that Jesus lived and taught, and then shows us how to apply His teachings and truths in our day to day situations. The Spirit of God is our guide, counselor, and teacher who lives inside us and leads us to know God's will for our lives, and gives the power to do it. He is God who comes along side us (Greek word "paraclete" meaning to come along side to assist), and to live through us.

Jesus did not leave us alone after He returned to Heaven. He and the Father come to live inside each Christian via the Holy Spirit to show us truth, to direct us, and then to come along side us to guide us safely until we arrive in Heaven. The Holy Spirit comes to empower us to live a life that pleases God. Furthermore, He then uses all the power of God necessary to enable us to successfully do what God's will is in each situation.

New memories are made throughout each day of our life. They are internal records of God at work in your life today, in my life today. God is alive and active in each believer's life. Remember God, your Creator, your Savior, and your Advisor. Remember that you have access to God's power actively energizing and empowering you throughout each day! While we often remember unpleasant things, which we would prefer to forget, even those can be used by God to guide us to make right decisions today and tomorrow.

Consult God, and make some new memories, to the glory of God!

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