

Text: Philippians 3:13- (NKJV)

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead.

<Introduction>

I. An **OLD TESTAMENT** example of handling the past

Isaiah 54:1-4 – (NKJV)

- 1) Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the LORD.**
- 2) Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes;**
- 3) For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.**
- 4) Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more.**

A. If God tells you to do it, then you **CAN** do it.

1. To be **FULFILLED**, you must forget.

2. To grow to your **POTENTIAL**, you must forget.

3. To accomplish your **DESTINY**, you must forget.

B. The key to the future is addressing the **PAST**.

1. **REPROACH** – failures and disappointments others know.

2. **SHAME** – failures you know.

C. The biggest need isn't learning to remember, but learning to **FORGET**.

1. You don't **REMEMBER** what you should because you don't forget what you should.

2. Your mind is **FOCUSED** on things you should forget instead of the things you should remember.

II. **HOW** do you forget?

A. You forget because you are **FORGIVEN**.

1. **ISRAEL'S** example

Hebrews 4:7 (NKJV)

...AGAIN HE DESIGNATES A CERTAIN DAY, SAYING IN DAVID, "TODAY," AFTER SUCH A LONG TIME, AS IT HAS BEEN SAID: "TODAY, IF YOU WILL HEAR HIS VOICE DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS."

2. **PAUL'S** example

GALATIANS 1:23-24 – (NKJV)

23) BUT THEY WERE HEARING ONLY, "HE WHO FORMERLY PERSECUTED US NOW PREACHES THE FAITH WHICH HE ONCE *TRIED TO DESTROY.*"

24) AND THEY GLORIFIED GOD IN ME.

B. You may not realize it, but you are already **GOOD** at forgetting things.

Isaiah 43:25 – (NKJV)

"I, *EVEN I, AM HE WHO BLOTS OUT YOUR TRANSGRESSIONS FOR MY OWN SAKE; AND I WILL NOT REMEMBER YOUR SINS.*

1. You forget things which don't **MATTER** to you.
2. To forget you have to **LEARN** what really matters.

3. If something doesn't matter to **GOD**, then it shouldn't matter to you.

C. God forgets when He forgives because it doesn't matter **ANYMORE**

Jeremiah 31:34 – (NKJV)

No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

1. Don't let a bad experience become a bad **ATTITUDE**. Put the past in the past.

I JOHN 2:8 – (KJV)

Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.

2. Remember, unless you forget the past, Jesus can't **REIGN** in the present.

ISAIAH 43:18 – (NKJV)

Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old.