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**Part 1**

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

**#1373-B**

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

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## Part 1

# Mentoring by Reminding: Why Are We to Remember?

The troops were trudging through the sand-soaked desert on their way home. What an incredibly different experience this had been, a kind of seesaw scenario where one army seemed to have the upper hand and victory was all but secure. Then suddenly the other side began to move in, and it looked for a moment as though the tide had turned.

Moments later, however, the advancing army began to retreat and it all began again. What they did not know, of course, was that the battle that was being fought in the desert was only a mirror image of one being fought in the heavenlies, and that the director of this war was Jehovah God. The vehicles with which He turned the tides of battle were a man named Moses, His friends Aaron and Hur, and an incredible tool designed in eternity past called intercession. When Moses prayed, God defeated the Amalekites. When Moses' arms grew weary, the enemy advanced. With the help of his co-intercessors, Aaron and Hur, however, by day's end, the victory belonged to Israel (or so they thought). In reality, the victory, as always, belonged to God.

Now the soldiers were on their way home, weary but grateful. It was time for a victory celebration, and it was time for rest and recuperation. Or so it would seem. If, however, you look carefully at the next verse of Scripture, you will see what ranks as important on God's scale of priorities, and what Moses was trying to communicate to Joshua through it all. We left off in Exodus, chapter 17, where we were reading of the battle and the outcome:

And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.

But Moses' hands *were* heavy; and they took a stone, and put *it* under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

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And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this *for* a memorial in a book, and rehearse *it* in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi:

For he said, Because the LORD hath sworn *that* the LORD *will have* war with Amalek from generation to generation.

(Exodus 17:11-16)

What a strange turn of events. Poor old Moses had been holding his arms up to heaven for a whole day. So weary was he that his friends had to help prop them up during the last part of the battle. And the first thing God does when he gets home is give him a number two pencil and tell him to start writing. When he gets through writing, he's supposed to start rehearsing. This must be important to God. And why is it so important that he get poor old war-weary Joshua and go through it with him, page by page, word by word? Joshua knew exactly what had happened. Or did he? *He was there, that's for sure.* And he was aware of the ebb and flow of the conflict, *that's for sure.* But did he understand *what was really happening?* And would it be so clear in his mind that he would never forget how to make the "spiritual switch"?

It *would* be if Moses wrote it down and rehearsed it in his ear. And it *had* to be if the next generation were to understand just what spiritual warfare was all about. Moses, remember, was mentoring Joshua. He wasn't just concerned about the here and now. He was training up the man who would take his place, and he was pouring into his life *everything of importance, spiritually,* as he went along.

And that is what this series of studies is all about. It is all about mentoring. We have already looked at mentoring by example and mentoring by intercession. In this study we move on to Moses' next class in the school of discipleship: Remembering, 101. It sounds like an easy course, the kind you would sign up for just to fill up enough hours to get your degree. But easy, it's not. If it were easy, you and I would be able to, on a moment's notice, recall the incredible things God did last month, last year, or in our childhood or early adult years. We would be able to tell our children and our grandchildren details of the wonderful miracles

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God has performed on our behalf. Somehow, however, Satan has snatched from the memory banks of the aging computers in our minds, vital spiritual reminders, and we seem to have everything *but* perfect recall. What could we have done differently? What could we do from now on that would guarantee that we would not forget His wonderful works and His wonderful word? Hang on. That's what this study is all about.

We will need to look at several things:

- 1- The reasons to remember
- 2- Some things to remember
- 3- The ways to remember

And then, hopefully, we will have to, both individually and collectively, create:

- 4- A plan for remembering

### THE REASONS TO REMEMBER

God seldom tells us to do something without explaining the reason why. He wants us to be treated as “intelligent” creatures, though our behavior often seems to indicate otherwise. Creating remembrances, memorials, reminders, and even traditions that bring to our minds the things He needs us to remember are, without a doubt, of primary importance to God. Through the years, Satan has, on occasion, taken the remembrances and traditions and placed man's focus on them rather than on the substance they represent. In an effort to overcome that, man has often allowed the pendulum of remembrance to swing into the free-fall category, and we often misunderstand taking one day at a time to mean that the days behind us are without meaning. Not so. In fact, each day's walk with God is impacted by the days that have gone before. We are the product of weeks and months and years of walking with God. Every miracle, every revelation of His nature, every promise from His word, every experience, both good and bad, are part of the story of our life, and if you tear out a page or omit a chapter, you deprive the rest of the story of its meaning. Oh, dear Christian friend, *God wants us to remember everything He has done and everything He is for so many reasons.*

1- It is the only way to understand God's plan as it unfolds through time.

God had a plan for Amalek and for His children. His plan

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was that the remembrance of what Amalek tried to do and the resulting miracle of intercession and intervention would never be forgotten. He wanted the children of Israel to understand that the Amalekites and Israelites would be enemies for generations to come. This was not a typical national skirmish. It was to be as so many tribal, religious, and national conflicts are in the mid-east even today, ongoing warfare from generation to generation. Whenever you see that, *look for spiritual implications and spiritual roots to the conflicts*. These were usually battles fought in heaven that were played out on earth. “The Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation”, said Moses. And yet, we read in Deuteronomy 25:

Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt;

How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, *even all that were feeble behind thee*, when thou *wast faint and weary*; and he feared not God.

Therefore it shall be, when the LORD thy God hath given thee rest from all thine enemies round about, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee *for an inheritance to possess it*, *that thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven*; thou shalt not forget *it*.

(Deuteronomy 25:17-19)

We know more now, about Amalek than we did before:

- 1) He was a cowardly warrior, with no scruples. He murdered the feeble, and focused on destroying the weak.
- 2) He had absolutely no fear of God.
- 3) When the time is right, God will blot out even the remembrance of the Amalekites from the face of the earth. And He has. No such people exist anywhere today.
- 4) He did, however, *never want His children (the Jews) to forget them, what they did, and what God did. Never.*

He gave them an order. “*Thou shalt not forget it.*” And the order is passed down to us as we have become His body on earth. We must go back, reconstruct the battle, relive the struggle, remember the outcome, and be revived by the principles: such principles as intercession, spiritual warfare, co-laboring in

prayer, and the ultimate victory that awaits God's own when His people call upon His name. We are not to forget it.

Don't you see, however, *that it took the passing of time for all of the prophecies relating to the Amalekites to come true, and for all of the principles to make sense?* That is why you and I are to keep such an accurate account of God's working in our lives. Many of the miracles and most of the warfare will only begin to crystallize into a wonderful plan when we have allowed the handwriting of God to etch upon the scrolls of time the big picture. Bits and pieces don't tell the story. I cannot help but be overcome with awe at the grace of God when I look back over my life and see that *every single thing God has allowed to happen has been a part of a plan to make me what He wants me to be.* And the pieces to the puzzle I struggled the most over are the key parts to the picture. Without some recollection of the past, the present would not be such a miracle. Without putting it all together, the incidents would become only happenings with little meaning. Placed in their proper perspective, however, they each become jewels in the crowns God is forming for us to wear in heaven.

2- So valuable is the process of remembering that it is a key ingredient in the Holy Spirit's job description.

In John, chapter 14, Jesus was going back to the Father to become our intercessor. He was, however, leaving us a living legacy. He was giving all of Himself in the form of His Spirit to each of us individually. That meant that all of God's power and all of God's wisdom would be available to each of God's children. He said this:

These things have I spoken unto you, being *yet* present with you.

But the Comforter, *which* is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come *again* unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when

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it is come to pass, ye might believe. (John 14:25-29)

Jesus was telling them what was going to happen, including the fact that though He was leaving, he was sending His Spirit whose task it would be to *bring all things to our remembrance*. Just as God knew there would be times when we would not know how to pray, and so He sent His Spirit to pray *through* us and *for* us, in like manner, *there would be times when we would not remember what God had said and what God had done*. He planned for that, too. He made sure that His Spirit, who had perfect recall, had the freedom to impart to us *reminder messages on the screen of our hearts, so we would remember His word, His worth, His work and His ways*.

If we have not either committed those things to memory, or made some provision for our feeble minds to recall them, however, *He cannot bring them to remembrance, for they are not there*. Before you can recall something, it must be first recorded. Therefore, for God's Spirit to fulfill one of His most crucial assignments, we must prepare the corridors of our hearts for his visitation into the "memory" room by placing the furniture of experience and the photos of God's word in their proper places. It is *that* important to God. One of the Holy Spirit's key responsibilities on planet earth is, as God indwelling His children, to *bring to their remembrance the words, worth, works, and ways of God*.

To do that, we must allow Him to have the raw materials; the reminders of life's experiences written down or created in some form of remembrance, or intertwined with the Scriptures which have been carefully laid up in our hearts and meditated on "*night and day that we may observe to do according to all that is written therein*." (Joshua 1:8). More about that later. The key here is to understand that our job is to create the reminders so the memories are available for recall. God's job (which He has graciously assumed) is for His Spirit to be the agency by which He brings to our minds *exactly the Scripture, exactly the memory, exactly the experience He needs us to be reminded of*. It's that important.

3- It is so important to God that we remember those things, that He has assigned parents the responsibility of passing them on to their children so the next generation can profit by the works of God in their parents' lives.

It is the task both of the parent and the mentor to see that the



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next generation has the benefit of recall from one generation to the next. In our society, we have seemingly infinite ways to record events. We see television, read magazines, or visit internet sites that recall events, both good and bad, oftentimes over and over until those images are literally burned into our subconscious minds. We have seen John F. Kennedy, Jr. saluting his father's casket as it passed so many years ago, and it made an impression. Upon the death of JFK Jr, however, the news media played and replayed that picture over and over again. It was shown so many times that now *whenever you hear his name, that's the picture that comes up on the screen of your mind*. What did that? Recall. Recurring recall. We will now be hard pressed to substitute another image in our minds for that one.

In generations past, parents and grandparents often gathered their families together and told the children stories about days gone by. That was before Nintendo and cable television and the internet. Children revered their elders and longed to hear how God had spoken in their lives in their youth, or in days gone by. This generational communication was their main source of information, and it served to perpetuate family values and family traditions and family memories. That is the way God intended it. Deuteronomy 32 reminds us:

Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will shew thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee.

When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel.

For the LORD's portion *is* his people; Jacob *is* the lot of his inheritance.

He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.

As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings:

So the LORD alone did lead him, and *there was* no strange god with him. (Deuteronomy 32:7-12)

You are likely to forget God's miraculous ways. The solution? Ask your parents. Let them help you remember the days of old.

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There is great profit therein. Particularly let them share with you what God did. Let them reveal God's *works* as they revere God's *ways* and recite God's *word*, thus reiterating God's *worth* for worship. It need not be a cold, traditional thing. Let them share things God really did, thus revealing who God really is.

It is a generational thing. Look at what Moses was to do with Joshua. First, he was to write it all down. All of it. How Amalek made light of Jehovah; how he took advantage of the feeble and the weak, how he scorned the name of God and the word of God. Write down what happened, Moses, when you and Aaron and Hur lifted up the rod of God; how it was Jehovah who won the battle; a battle really fought in heaven between Satan and God. Write down the deeper issues; how God was now leading them into the land He had promised their parents; how warfare was a necessary ingredient to possessing the land.

More than that, having written it down, *as soon as Joshua returns and has a chance to greet his family and wash off some of the desert sand, read it and reread it to him so he will come to understand what really happened.* It's part of mentoring him, you see. You have to teach him, experientially, how to write things down and go beneath the surface from *what* happened to *why* it happened.

How did that impact Joshua? It prepared him for an event that would take place not long after Mo went home to be with His God. The children of Israel had supernaturally crossed the Jordan River, and God was giving him his first post-Jordan instructions. Listen:

And it came to pass, when all the people were clean passed over Jordan, that the LORD spake unto Joshua, saying,

Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man,

And command ye them, saying, Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm, twelve stones, and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night.

(Joshua 4:1-3)

You know what was about to happen, I trust. God was about to create a memorial before they went an inch further. He wanted an entire nation to have a visual representation of what their God had done. Look what happened:

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Then Joshua called the twelve men, whom he had prepared of the children of Israel, out of every tribe a man:

And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of Jordan, and take ye up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel:

That this may be a sign among you, *that* when your children ask *their fathers* in time to come, saying, What *mean* ye by these stones?

Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever. (Joshua 4:4-7)

The first thing, once again, that God wanted done was to create some kind of remembrance, *so that the next generation would have a reference point, something to attract their curiosity that would allow their parents to remember and to recount this amazing miracle on their behalf.* You may be saying, “But who would ever forget such a thing?” They did, Beloved. And so do we. Over and over God had to remind them. Generation after generation He brought it back to their attention: How He brought them out of Egypt. How He provided for them in the desert. How He defeated the Amalekites. How He led them into the land on dry land. Over and over He reminded them, so that *when the next generation asked, “What was that all about?” they could get it straight.* They did not have video cameras, scrapbooks, cassette tapes, photo albums and all of the tools we have to record the working of God in our lives. We have all of that...yet still we don't remember to remember. How sad.

Paul was mentoring Timothy. He wanted Tim to understand the importance of remembering. He wanted the next generation to have the benefit of the experiences of the present one. Pity we don't do more of that today. We have so many men and women who have walked with God for years who have memories and miracles and ministries to share with a new generation and with their children's children. Instead, we relegate them to some kind of “Old-timer's status” and assume they aren't “hip” enough or relevant enough to communicate with this new generation. Maybe what this new generation needs is not more of what they want, but more of what they need. Paul wrote to Tim in I Timothy,

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### chapter four:

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

Forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. (I Timothy 4:1-6)

It may not be what they want to hear, Tim, but sound doctrine is passed on from one generation to the next. A whole new breed of legalistic liars had surfaced, and Paul knew that the solution was a crash course in remembering. In I Corinthians, chapter four, Tim was to take to the Corinthian church a dose of the same medicine:

Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace;

And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it:

Being defamed, we entreat: we are made as the filth of the world, *and are* the offscouring of all things unto this day.

I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn *you*.

For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *have ye* not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church. (I Corinthians 4:11-17)

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Paul had given the Corinthians, not only his doctrine, but his very life. He was like a father to them. But they had conveniently forgotten that Paul did not want to become a hero, but a spiritual father; he did not want them to be followers of him, but followers of Christ. Already, they had forgotten. So he sent his disciple, Timothy to “bring into remembrance” what he had said and what he had taught.

Churches need to do that occasionally. Parents need to do that occasionally. Christian organizations need to do that occasionally. They need to stop some of their hurried activity long enough to sit down and go back to the basics: who they are, why they are who they are, and what wonderful things God has done to bring them to that place. Otherwise, each generation has to begin again with no reference points, and with no recurring memories of God’s work and God’s ways to that point.

Remembering. We must prepare for it. The older we get, the harder it gets, and unless we begin early to make provisions for the next generation, we cheat them out of a blessing. Ecclesiastes says it well:

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while  
the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou  
shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;      (Ecclesiastes 12:1)

Start early creating remembrances; learn to build quiet reminders that do not call attention to themselves, but rather call attention in your heart to the things God has done. And when appropriate, make things that elicit curiosity in your children, so that when they ask you “in time to come, saying: ‘What mean ye by these stones?’ ye shall say unto them, ‘so glad you asked.’” Then you can lovingly give an answer “for the hope that is in you with meekness and fear”.

Senior citizens, I believe, have an even greater responsibility. Those in life’s “sunset years” need to be putting down in writing for the next generation *written remembrances of things that could change their children or grandchildren or great-grandchildren now or in days to come*. Peter wrote:

Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in  
remembrance of these things, though ye know *them*, and be  
established in the present truth.

Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir  
you up by putting *you* in remembrance;

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Knowing that shortly I must put off *this* my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.

Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.

(II Peter 1:12-15)

“I’ll be going home soon,” Peter said, and “once I am gone, I want you to have some record of the things that were important to me and the truths that I do not want you to forget.” What a legacy. Do your grandchildren know how you came to Christ? Do they know how God has been at work *using even life’s misfortunes and disappointments to change your life*? Do they know about the answers to prayer that have so strengthened your faith? Do they understand what your priorities have been and why? Do they know what your heart yearns for as you think of them and their future?

Your life will be your legacy, but your legacy can live on if you have or will take the time to record for succeeding generations the things of spiritual import that you want them to understand and hopefully emulate. You may be saying, “But they don’t listen to me. They have their own set of standards; their own lives.” Yes, Beloved, but what if...say, three years from now, God gets their attention and you are gone. Will there be a legacy in writing that will allow you to speak to them, though you are gone?

Moses had to write down what happened. And he had to sit Joshua down and rehearse it in his ear. He had to make sure Josh understood what had happened. As we continue this study, we will look at some of the things in particular that God has told us to remember; we will look at some creative ways to do that, and we will endeavor to make some commitments, both individually and collectively so that we will not put this subject in the archives marked “*something I ought to do, but probably won’t*”.

In the meantime, why not start or reopen a simple “Remembrance Book” and begin to make notes about the things that have happened in your life of spiritual significance: your conversion, special answers to prayer, special insights you have gained, special goals God has given you. Write from the heart. Write a letter to God thanking Him for all He’s done and keep a copy for future generations. Let God speak through you even after you’re gone, as he does today through Moses, through Paul, through David, through Peter.

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Generations yet unborn will thank you. You will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are still mentoring even as you stand before God's throne worshipping and praising Him. What an awesome possibility. What a wonderful privilege. What a precious God we have.

May we never forget it.

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### For Further Study and Application

1- Why do you think Moses was commanded by God to write down what happened in a book? What do you think it meant to “rehearse it in the ears of Joshua”? How much of what God has done in your life have you “written in a book”? Do those you are pouring your life into understand and will they remember how God has worked in your life? If not, are you willing to consider doing something about it?

2- Why do you think God wanted to remind Joshua and the nation about the kind of enemy they had (Deuteronomy 25:17-19)? How could He “blot out the remembrance of them” when He told the children of Israel to “never forget it”? How real is the enemy to those you are pouring your life into? Do they realize how he works? Are they tempted to take him too lightly? Will God one day “blot out the remembrance of him”? Will he one day be taken out of the picture entirely? In the meantime, how can we “never forget him” without putting undue emphasis on his presence?

3- How would you describe the Holy Spirit’s calling to “bring all things to our remembrance”? What must we do before He can do that? How does Scripture memory enter into this picture? What other things can we do?

4- Make a list of the things you have learned about God and His working in people’s lives by listening to and paying attention to the generations who have lived before us. What have you learned from your parents? Your teachers? Your grandparents? Why do you think God arranged it this way?

5- Memorize Deuteronomy 32:7.

6- If you have started a “Book of Remembrance” and are not using it the way you intended, get it out and dust it off today. If you don’t have one, will you begin one now? Ask God for the grace and the faithfulness to begin the process of creating remembrances for those who will follow after you. Thank Him in advance for whatever He chooses to do with your life after you are gone.

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