

DON'T DWELL ON YOUR PAST

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We humans have a difficult time forgetting our past, especially our past that's not our best. However, there are things in our past that are fond memories. People often struggle to forget their past when they recall how someone has hurt them with words or actions. Perhaps they remember how they had hurt someone with their words or deeds.

Now, as a Christian, Satan does his best to remind you of the bad things of the past, and through those thoughts, he lies to you and tells you that you are not worthy or not good enough. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9) ¹¹ "For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. ¹² As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. ¹³ Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him." (Psalm 103:11-13)

This week, I came across a verse found in Isaiah 43:18. We have to keep any single verse in the context of the chapter or chapters the verse is found in. "Do not call to mind the former things, Or ponder things of the past." (Isaiah 43:18) Keeping this verse in the context, I went back and read chapters 42 and 43, stopping at verse 21. Please take time and read Isaiah chapter 42 (it's short) and chapter 43, stopping at verse 21.

I hope these verses give you peace and assurance, as they did me. I read these verses, and the more I read, I felt myself experiencing so much joy, and a peace overcame me. Some might say they gave me a warm and fuzzy feeling. It was great, that's all I can tell you.

I am sharing parts of a verse from chapter 43, which will lead us up to the main verse, which is verse 18. "But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!" (Isaiah 43:1) He who formed us, God, has redeemed us; He knows our name, and He has called us His. Is this not fantastic?

Isaiah goes on to tell us how much God loves us. "Since you are precious in My sight, Since you are honored and I love you," (Isaiah 43:4a). How are we in God's sight? We are precious. Precious translates, valuable. We are valuable to God. So valuable that He sent Jesus to pay the price for our sins and made salvation possible.

If you think that the Great Commission is only found in the New Testament, check this out: ¹⁰ "You are My witnesses," declares the Lord, And My servant whom I have chosen, So that you may know and believe Me And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me. ¹¹ "I, even I, am the Lord, And there is no savior besides Me. ¹² "It is I who have declared and saved and proclaimed, And there was no strange god among you; So you are My witnesses," declares the Lord, "And I am God." (Isaiah 43:10-12)

Not only were the Israelites His witnesses, so are we. He chose us. This choice is not based on Israel's merit but on God's love and purpose, highlighting His grace. It was true then, and it's true now. Just as Israel was chosen to be God's servant, believers today are chosen to fulfill God's purposes in the world, living out His truth and love.

"I am the Lord, your Holy One, The Creator of Israel, your King." (Isaiah 43:15) Jesus made Himself our Savior and Lord. Our responsibility is to make Him King of our life. Yes, there is a difference

between them. The King has final authority over all. Make Jesus King of your life and let Him control everything you do as a bondservant of Jesus.

In chapter 43, God gives the Israelites much encouragement and hope. Their past rebellions have to be on their minds. In chapter 43, we read how God redeems them. This is found in the first seven verses. Then they are called to be His witnesses. This is found in verses 8-13. Now to verse 18. **“Do not call to mind the former things, Or ponder things of the past.” (Isiah 43:18)** I want you to know how much God loves us and has forgiven us.

When we dwell on our past, we forget that God has redeemed us, too. As I mentioned in the beginning, Satan does his best to use our past against us. Verse 18 tells us not to dwell on our past. You cannot change the past; you can only change your future. God has plans for your future that you can't even imagine. Take life one step at a time and allow God to lead you. You might not be able to see where He is taking you, and yes, it can be scary, but He has plans for you, and if you allow Him, He will work all things for good for you. **“For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11)** He knows your future and sees things you cannot see. Do not let this cause uncertainty in your mind.

This requires faith on your part. Faith that God is leading and preparing you for the future, serving Him. Why is your faith so important? Here's why. **“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6)**

God reminded the Israelites of their past and His redemption of them. Also, to not ponder their past, but to look to their future as servants. **“You are My witnesses,” declares the Lord,” (Isaiah 43 10a)**

Dwelling on your past and the bad things you did, and thinking they are so bad that God cannot forgive you, is exactly where Satan wants you, but that is absolutely not true. You read earlier how God redeemed Israel and us. Make God the King of your life and follow His leading. Have a blessed week and remember, do not dwell on your past; rather, let your future be guided by Jesus.

Fear Is Not My Future:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwua24SV4lw&list=RDvwua24SV4lw&start_radio=1