



## Forget the Past!

**H**ave you ever wondered about the mechanism of forgetfulness? I'm talking about forgetting things, attempting to forget things, wishing that you could forget things, and the like. God wants us to forget those things which are behind, and to reach forth to those things that are before. The more we understand the power of forgetfulness, the more aligned we'll be with God's will.

(Phil 3:13 KJV) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this one thing I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

Forgetting the behind things is a willful act accomplished in the mind. Reaching forth unto future things is both mental and physical. In either case, we should be compelled to do both, starting with the renewed mind, and



then adding in the physical aspect.

(Rom 12:2 KJV) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Renewing the mind is a willful act; transformation is both mental and physical. God wants us to stop conforming to the world; he wants us good, acceptable, perfect and entrenched in his word.

### Apprehension

(Phil 3:13 KJV) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this one thing I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

Not only is putting things to the back of your mind a required *apprehension*, so too is reaching forth into the future.

The Greeks defined katalambano as 'to take eagerly,' with a view of seizing upon, possessing and attaining.

We need to carefully understand how the Bible's source language, in this case Greek, defines it's words; thinking only in your native language might not suffice. Apprehension perfectly realizes this. If you have apprehension about something, you might be worried, afraid, reluctant and so forth. Certainly, apprehension in English might

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also be used for ‘to apprehend’. The Bible’s perspective of this English word is far different; remember – ‘to take eagerly.’ It’s just the opposite.

## What are ‘behind things’?

The Greeks defined *opiso* as ‘to the back,’ and identified those forgotten things as that which follows.

Can you imagine? The sinister things that follow you around, day after day, are the things that you are to put in the back [of your mind].

We are to take the menaces that follow us around day after day, things that we are supposed to ‘forget’, and pack them into the far reaches of our minds. They are supposed to be ‘behind’ in every sense of the word.

Living in the past, with a plethora of past connections to people no longer in our lives, music that we used to enliven us, deadly eating habits, emotions that used to be provoked at the slightest thought, past pleasures and activities that today we find repulsive, and a host of other morbidity that all have one thing in common—they pre-

vent forward thinking, keep us trapped in a life that will never again be, and they thwart all attempts at living the more than abundant life.

(John 10:10 KJV) *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

It is proper to maintain your current circle of friends and family, but dead relationships and disconnected family are another story. Leave what isn’t present or is preventing you to reach forth to what God wants to provide is a story that no longer needs to be read. Someone had to say it. Don’t be afraid to move on; it’ll change every aspect of your life.

The thief steals your future by imprisoning you in your past.

## How do we forget? We forget just like:

The disciples did when they forget the food:

(Mat 16:5 KJV) *And when his disciples were*

*come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread.*

(Mark 8:14 KJV) *Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, neither had they in the ship with them more than one loaf.*

Forgetfulness is the opposite of how God tends to his sparrows:

(Luke 12:6 KJV) *Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?*

Forgetfulness is the opposite of how God tends to you:

(Heb 6:10 KJV) *For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.*

We are to obey the commandment to not forget about the angels:

(Heb 13:2 KJV) *Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*

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They might seem like strangers to you, but they're not strangers to God. He wants us to care for them.

Forgetfulness hinders abundant sharing and the good that we should extend to God's family:

**(Heb 13:16 KJV) But to do good and to communicate [share fully—abundant sharing] forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.**

Forgetfulness is just like forgetting what you look like, just after you looked in a mirror. The thought/image vanishes. If you concentrated, you might remember. If you concentrate on forgetting a harmful past, it will vanish.

This steps into the category of resisting the devil.

**(James 4:7 KJV) Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

Align yourself with God's will. Break away from all past haunts. Address the dangers of heeding what follows

you. Like the sparrows moving forward to another field, another tree, and another extravagant meal, seize upon the real and vital need to live in the present so that you can REACH FORTH unto those things that God places before you. There is no sin in leaving the past behind; there is sin in living with the past in the fore. The concept of living the more than abundant life can and will take on an entirely new meaning. Let's humble ourselves to God's will now and always.

Much Love in Christ.

Jerry D. Brown