



**The Truth About Moving Forward
(You Must Know What to Forget)**

June 5, 2022

Series Summary: Four Things That Will Help You Move Forward

- A. Forgetting** (Requires a high level of maturity to let things go)
- B. Reaching** (Requires a clear sense of direction- you can only reach for what you can see!)
- C. Pressing** (Requires a stubborn level of grit)
- D. Believing** (Requires unwavering faith)

Text: Philippians 3:13–14, NIV

- 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: **Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize** for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Big Question: How good is your memory?

Textual Example of a Bad Memory:

- **Numbers 14:1–4** That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud.
2 All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, “If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! 3 Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. **Wouldn’t it be better for us to go back to Egypt?”** 4 And they said to each other, **“We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.”**

**I. The Good Side of Forgetting
(Caleb Chose to Forget the Threat and Believe)**

What Caleb Said: Numbers 13:30, NIV

- 30 Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.” (HE DOESN’T EVEN MENTION WHAT HE SAW).

Note: Numbers 13:1-4: God told them they could “take possession of the land.”

- The Lord said to Moses, 2 “Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders.” 3 So at the Lord’s command Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. All of them were leaders of the Israelites. 4 These are their names:
 1. Shammua son of Zakkur;
 2. Shaphat son of Hori;
 3. Caleb son of Jephunneh;
 4. Igal son of Joseph;
 5. Hoshea son of Nun;
 6. Palti son of Raphu;
 7. Gaddiel son of Sodi;
 8. Gaddi son of Susi;
 9. Ammiel son of Gemalli;
 10. Sethur son of Michael;
 11. Nahbi son of Vophsi;
 12. Geuel son of Maki.

II. The Bad Side of Forgetting (The Leaders Forgot What God and Caleb Said)

What The Elders Said: Numbers 13:31-33 NIV

- 31 But the men who had gone up with him said, “**We are not able** to go up against the people, for **they are stronger** than we.” 32 And **they gave the children of Israel a bad report** of the land which

they had spied out, saying, “The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. 33 There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”

III. The Results of Forgetting What You Should Remember (Numbers 14:10-35, NIV)

1. You can develop misapplied anger (They became unfairly angry with Moses)
2. You can get on the wrong side of God’s grace (v11)
3. You can get put into the replacement pile (v12)
 - **10 But the whole assembly talked about stoning them.** Then the glory of the Lord appeared at the tent of meeting to all the Israelites. **11** The Lord said to Moses, “How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the signs I have performed among them? **12 I will strike them down** with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they.”
4. You can become stagnated and unable to advance
 - **20** The Lord replied, “I have forgiven them, as you asked. **21** Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, **22 not one of those** who saw my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness but who disobeyed me and **tested me ten times**— **23 not one of them** will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. **No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it.**

Note: The Only Exceptions

- **24** But because my servant **Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly**, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it. **25** Since the Amalekites and the Canaanites are living in the valleys, turn back tomorrow and set out toward the desert along the route to the Red Sea.”
- **26** The Lord said to Moses and Aaron: **27 “How long** will this wicked community grumble against me? I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites.
- **28** So tell them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Lord, **I will do to you the very thing I heard you say**; **29** In this wilderness your bodies will fall—**every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against me.**

Note Again: The Exceptions Joshua and Caleb

- **30 Not one** of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, **except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.**

Note: The Consequences

- **31** As for your children that you said would be taken as plunder, I will bring them in to enjoy the land you have rejected.
- **32** But as for you, your bodies will fall in this wilderness. **33 Your children will be shepherds here for forty years, suffering for your unfaithfulness,** until the last of your bodies lies in the wilderness.
- **34 For forty years**—one year for each of the forty days you explored the land—you will suffer for your sins and know **what it is like to have me against you.**
- **35** I, the Lord, have spoken, and **I will surely do these things** to this whole wicked community, which has banded together against me. They will meet their end in this wilderness; here they will die.”

Conclusion: How good is your memory?

Next Time: How Far Are You Willing to Reach?

Read Ahead: Philippians 3:13–14

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