

## RECALL REMEMBER RECORD

*with Pen, Paper and a Bible*

I actually begin my day with my **calendar**, so that I know what is ahead for the day. If I need to be sure to remember something I am doing that day, I go ahead and get that written somewhere so that my mind is not preoccupied.

**Move to pen and blank pages** so that you can recall the events of yesterday. I now keep a numbered system in my **journal** so that I actually have a long running record of God's goodness to me. (Ann Voskamp wrote One Thousand Gifts, and I learned to number from her). Everything that goes into my journal is preceded by 'Thank you'. I Thessalonians 5:18 tells me to give thanks IN my circumstances. Ephesians 5:20 tells me thank God FOR everything. Those words have different meanings, and I think that thanking Him FOR things is often hard.

Lamentations is a powerful little book in its ability to teach us something about recalling. It follows Jeremiah's prophecy about the captivity of Judah. Lamentations is a 'lament' over the destruction of Jerusalem. Tucked away in the middle of these five chapters are the words to the hymn, Great is Thy Faithfulness. HOW can He speak those words? The answer is found Lamentations 3:21. "Yet this I call to mind and therefore, I have HOPE! RECALL His goodness so that you too, will find HOPE.

**Move to the Word.** Have yourself a reading plan so that you are not randomly picking up the **Bible** and hoping to find something good for the day. Your plan is simply your plan, and it will not necessarily look like someone else's plan. Your goal is to know God, and you want to know Him in the fullness of His revelation. Some portions of Scripture are just hard! But if God included them in His revelation of Himself, then it is valuable and not to be skipped over. Halley's Bible Handbook was especially helpful to me in understanding the BIG picture of Scripture.

As you read, pull out another notebook. I call this my "**God Said' book**. (Luke 8:42-48). I always go to the Word in faith believing that God wants to teach me about Himself and how I should live in response to who He is. Therefore, I want to be able to recall and remember His **Goodness and Guidance** to me. (Post it notes.....Record a verse about His Goodness and a verse about His Guidance and put your notes in your pocket, assuming that God might put someone in your path who needs the encouragement of these words today!). Write in your notebook whatever you think might be a specific word for you. If it is for your Training and Teaching, write in green. If it is Correcting and Rebuking, write it in red. (II Timothy 3:16-17)

A simple method that I love is from Anne Graham Lotz. (You can find this on Youtube on How to study the Bible). You are making columns on your paper looking for Scripture Says, Lessons Learned, and the Message for Me (application).

**Move to Prayer. I have yet another notebook** for specific prayers. I call it "Traffic with Heaven". Amy Carmichael said that our record of prayers and how they are answered is the evidence of our pattern of coming before the throne of God with our requests.

If you have worked through the evidence and kindness of God's presence from the previous day, and you have studied His Word about Himself, now you are ready to pray specifically for yourself and others. I like to date my requests so that I can track and see how God answers. It is SUCH an encouragement to others to be able to honestly tell them, "I have prayed for you." And it will bolster your faith with much courage as you watch Him *always at work in the world*. (John 5:17)

And last of all, find yourself some heroes who have **written books**. I love to have mentors from many years ago who have kept a record of their walk with God, which has turned into **devotional books**. My mother and I used Streams in the Desert, by Mrs. Charles Cowman. I currently have been reading many of Amy Carmichael's books that were written from her bed in her last twenty years of life. She was crippled in a freak accident, which left her bedridden. She studied the Word and then wrote just a few lines and sent those lines out to be read to her workers, who were caring for many children in the orphanage she founded in India. (Edges of His Ways is probably my favorite.). Notice the order of the Bible and then devotional reading. Hebrews 4:12 tells us that the Word is LIVING and ACTIVE. The power is in the Word. Therefore, the Bible is main course. Devotional reading serves as an appetizer. It whets my appetite to know the Word and the God of the Word, but devotional reading is never meant to be the 'meal'. Be careful not to fill up (your time) on the appetizers and no longer be hungry for the main course.

Note the process:

I start with a look at today.....

I move to a look at yesterday so that I am reminded of God's faithfulness.

Then study the Word and meditate on what you have learned (with pen and paper in hand.)

Now.....your heart and mind have the perspective of Heaven so that you can pray for others in light of what you have learned from the Word.

Last of all, be encouraged by the lives of your spiritual heroes. Hebrews 13:7-8 says: "Remember your leaders, who spoke the Word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." So I encourage you to" read their books and their biographies. It helps me 'stay the course' when life is hard.

NOW last of all.....can I just PROMISE you that it is WORTH EVERYTHING to follow Christ with your whole heart? He longs to see you fulfill the calling placed on your life. Ephesians 1:15-22 is such a powerful prayer that Paul prays over the church at Ephesus. It is my prayer for me and for you as well!