

Looking Back

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God has spoken to me and others around me several times lately about looking back. God has had me prophecy to several in trying and difficult situations and admonish them to look ahead into the eyes of Father and not to look back at their past, their problems, their losses, what could have or even should have been but to keep looking forward. So often, Christians get distracted from what God wants to do because they obsess with what they think the enemy did to them or stole from them. All the while, Father is saying, "Will you let it go, I don't want you to try to take it back; I want to give you something even better. You are missing My purpose and plan because you are stuck on what you no longer have." Often, instead of allowing God to take our past memories and pains and grow us we hang onto them ourselves and let them inhibit growth and maturity. When we do such **we deny God the glory due Him in our lives.**

Jesus tells the disciples, you cannot look back

Luke 9: 59 *And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. 60* **Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. 61** *And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. 62* **And Jesus said unto him, *No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.***

"Here is a youngman that seems resolved to follow Christ, but he begs a short delay. To this man Christ first gave the call; he said to him, Follow me. Religion teaches us to be kind and good, to show piety at home, and to requite our parents; but we must not make these an excuse for neglecting our duty to God. Here is another that is willing to follow Christ, but he must have a little time to talk with his friends about it, and to set in order his household affairs, and give directions concerning them. He seemed to have worldly concerns more upon his heart than he ought to have, and he was willing to enter into a temptation leading him from his purpose of following Christ. No one can do any business in a proper manner, if he is attending to other things. Those who begin with the work of God, must resolve to go on, or they will make nothing of it. Looking back, leads to drawing back, and drawing back is to perdition. He only that endures to the end shall be saved." (Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary)

Lots wife looked back and it cost her life

Genesis 19: 24 *Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; 25* *And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground. 26* **But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.**

Israel looks back and it cost them the promise

With the Red Sea before them and Pharaoh's army behind them, the children of Israel looked back and feared the armies of Pharaoh more than God. With the Promised Land before them, they looked back at Egypt and desired to go back into bondage rather than face the cost of the promises of God.

Which way are you looking?

Looking forward is looking in the spiritual, looking back is looking in the natural or flesh. We all have a tendency to look back. Have you ever ran a race and been in a pack of runners and had the tendency to keep looking back to see who is behind you and how fast they are coming upon you. Have you ever watched professional athletes who are runners of football players? The really good ones never look back. They keep their eyes on the goal and focus on accomplishing what they have to accomplish with all that they have within them. Why would you look back unless you forgot something, fear something, or are seeing just how much you can get away with while giving as little effort as required at present?

In the Kingdom of God, looking back is a matter of the heart. When we live in fear, depression, anxiety, anger, or any sinful trait of the flesh we are looking back. Looking back can only lead to false expectation of what the future holds and leave you hopeless. Looking back with regret or soulish desire can only open the door for the enemy to ambush your emotions.

Grace in God and those who grow in His grace look ahead. They look forward into the glorious hope of Christ Jesus. Living in fear is looking back but trusting God regardless of the natural is looking forward. Living in despair is looking back, but those who look forward count it all joy. Giving in to your anger is looking back, but a lifestyle of forgiveness is to look forward to the wonder of Christ's love. Too look back is lust; to keep your eyes front is character. To look back is disobedience; to look forward is love Father even more than you did yesterday and be a better servant for Him.

Judah looks back and cries out to God

2 Chron. 13: *12 And, behold, God himself is with us for our captain, and his priests with sounding trumpets to cry alarm against you. O children of Israel, fight ye not against the LORD God of your fathers; for ye shall not prosper. 13 But Jeroboam caused an ambushment to come about behind them: so they were before Judah, and the ambushment was behind them. 14 And when Judah looked back, behold, the battle was before and behind: and they cried unto the LORD, and the priests sounded with the trumpets. 15 Then the men of Judah gave a shout: and as the men of Judah shouted, it came to pass, that God smote Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.*

Grace to look forward again

Judah is an example of the awesome grace of Father. If you are looking back, have looked back or cannot seem to see the awesome plan of God before you. If all you can see is the mess of life and baggage that is dragging behind you, cry out to God, as did Judah, from whence your salvation comes.