

**Month: February 2013**

**Food for thought:** Your future is BRIGHTER than your past!

**Scripture:** Phillipians 3:13 *"I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead"*



I am not a guru on the subject of farming but i drive through a lot of farming areas in the Welsh valleys and have noticed how when a farmer on a tractor stops focusing on what is ahead but continuously distracts himself with what is behind or on the periphery, it becomes difficult and almost impossible to plow in a straight line. I watched one particular young farmer veering off course several times as he kept on turning his head back.

The same thing applies to driving a car. Steering while looking in the rear-view mirror is not advisable! I know we glance in the mirror from time to time, if we have to make a lane change or if we're quickly checking the cars behind us or reversing but we don't spend our time & energy focusing on the view behind us. Why? Because it's difficult to see where we're going when we're looking in the rear-view mirror and are sure to crush!!

**But how often do we do this in our spiritual life?** We hop in our car of life and drive looking in the rear view mirror of our past. We see our failures and disappointments, our lapses in judgment, relationships that were unwise, bad decisions that continue to show their ugly face. We listen to the lies that we are no good, that God's death on the cross couldn't cover our sin, that what we did is unforgiveable because we can't forgive ourselves. Believing these lies and focusing on our past keeps us from moving forward in our walk with God. Paul says in Phillipians 3:13-14 *...I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us."*

One way of moving on is to stop condemning yourself of what happened in the past. Learn from it but move on! I know some people might feel they have disappointed everyone they love but let me bring into remembrance Paul's life. If anyone could be buried under condemnation it would be Paul. Despite what you might call unforgivable sins Paul received God's forgiveness and moved on to his high calling in Christ. You too have been forgiven and must start moving forward with God's help or else condemnation and regrets will eat you up. They take up your time, they sap your energy, and they leave you feeling like a castaway on a deserted island.

In the Bible, Lot and his family made an escape. They were specifically told not to look back. What did Lot's wife do? She looked back, and things did not work out well for her. In fact, she was turned into a pillar of salt! We get so caught up in what we could have done or should have done; we don't take the time to look at God's plan for our lives. We don't think about the lessons we should be learning from our experiences. God never wastes a hurt, and He works it all for our good. (Romans 8:28)

God wants to do a new thing in your life. "Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in else the desert" So, I challenge you to look AHEAD with great expectation and joy. Know that nothing comes as a surprise to God. He loves you dearly and He will be with you through the calm, the storm, the joy, and the pain. Whatever has been holding you back from moving on just hop over it! Skip over it! Jump over it! Leap over it! i don't care what you do but just make sure you get over it! Your future is bright...embracing it! God's counting on you!

I pray that this be the season you boldly step out from the tyranny of your past and step into the freedom of your bright future. No more looking back! The past is behind! Realms of possibilities await you. May your journey be a wonderful one! Have a great month!

**By:**  
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