

# Coach House Church BEACONS

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## GET UNCHAINED

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Philippians 3:12-14:

*I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it,[d] but 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.*

There are some of us who are quick to bring up, at the earliest opportunity, what friends and family did to hurt us in the past. I know of Bible believing, Holy Spirit filled prayer warriors who deliberately keep on living in the past: either in their own past, or reminding others of their past.

This becomes more apparent as we go through the church building at the moment, cleaning tidying, removing things that have been stored for years without a human eye even looking at them. But we still manage to hang on to old traditions and thoughts and ways that don't always allow us to move on. Sometimes we can't see the completion of God's promises in our lives because we are too busy looking over our shoulders at the past.

The word of God talks a lot about letting go of our past, because God does not want us all cluttered up with the rubbish. That junk may be the success that you have achieved in the past; it may be your past failures that are taunting you. Remember, yesterday is history (you can't change it) today is a present (enjoy it) and tomorrow is a mystery (we should look forward to it with expectation).

Let me ask you a question? Why do people visit palm readers or tarot card readers. Mainly to learn about the future, not the past, because the future is the

exciting bit. God wants us to walk by faith, trusting in Him and seeing our future through His eyes, not through the eyes of anything or anyone else. And forgetting our past is a key that opens the door to all the promises, riches and blessings of God. Today, we are going to take a quick look at a few bible scriptures and we will uncover how forgetting our past releases our future.

In Philippians 3: 12-14, the writer, Paul made a clear case why as believers, we need to place attention to what is before us, not what is behind. When we forget our past, we open the door towards a bright new future. When we focus on the past, we'll never move forward; but if we press forward, God has already prepared our future reward. Paul had a past as Saul the persecutor and prosecutor of Christians but he had to release this old identity, in order for Him to move forward in the ministry to which God had called Him. Even when he became a believer, he had to get himself to a point when he considered past achievements as worthless, in order to completely possess the riches of Christ. Moses put aside his position as prince in Pharaoh's palace for him to be used by God. Abraham had to leave his family for him to enter into the fullness of the promises of God.

When we get saved, we no longer identify with the devil, but with Jesus our Saviour. We change camps to God's team. Forgetting your past releases your future. God's grace and mercy are new every day

The Bible in the book Lamentations 3: 22-24 says the ***The faithful love of the Lord never ends His mercies never cease***, but this Bible passage will only work in our lives if we are a new creation by the renewing of our minds. If you keep on living in your old ways, you may be not be able to partake of this newness of His mercies. Matthew 9:17 tells us that old wines should not be poured into old wineskins, otherwise the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved. We need to move in line with His grace and allowing the past to creep into our today will hurt our future and keep us out of line with the move of God. God says He will be merciful to our unrighteousness and our sins and lawless deeds He will remember no more.

Forgiving has to do with forgetting, we can obviously not erase our memories but we can stop dwelling on them. You can't forgive if you don't forget the past Forgetting and forgiveness go hand in glove, whether it is forgiving yourself or others. When we forgive, we must forget. Forgiving and forgetting position us to receive God's best and move to the next level of God's favour. As a true believer,

we need to forgive the person who has wronged us. In Luke 17 the apostles asked Jesus to increase their faith so they could forgive the way he expected them too. This tells me that you can't truly forgive without faith. To forgive by faith means you are doing it because the word of God says so, regardless of how you feel. This is not a matter of how you feel; this is a matter of what the word says.

When we don't forgive, we are living in the past and we block the power of God from operating in our lives. Healing, deliverance, favour and financial breakthrough are hindered when we hold unforgiveness in our heart. If we haven't forgotten about a particular offence, we probably haven't truly forgiven the person who committed the offence against us from your heart. Church, this also happens even with in our own church families. We must forgive others as God has forgiven us.

The Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6: forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. We are telling God that we have forgiven others and that we are ready to receive forgiveness from God. This is a condition that must be met before our sins can be forgiven. Paul was able to obtain grace and mercy for the things he did in His past because he let go of His past. He had scars, I have scars from my past, things I wish i hadn't done or said, friendships lost along the way that I wish I could get back. But God forgives us as we forgive those who do wrong things against us. Yes our scars may stay, but they will never define us. We were made into new creations, not a renovated version of the old us, but a totally new us.

The Lord says in Isaiah 43:25-26 (MSG): ***“But I, yes I, am the one who takes care of your sins—that’s what I do. I don’t keep a list of your sins. So, make your case against me. Let’s have this out. Make your arguments. Prove you’re in the right.*”**

God removes and forgets our sins for His and our benefit. God is more interested in doing great things through you than counting your sins against you. God forgives us our sins for His benefit, and it will be to our benefit if we forgive others. You are not doing the person that wronged you a favour if you forgive him or her; you are doing yourself a favour, in fact a huge favour.

God wants us to remember His word rather than our past mistakes and our sins, He is merciful and will not remember our sins when we repent and ask for forgiveness.

In 1 Timothy 1: 12-15. Saul who was later known as Paul imprisoned many Christians because of their belief but God forgave Him. The same God who transformed Paul will transform your life if you forget what is in the past and forgive those that wronged you

Ephesians 4:32 reminds us to be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave us. Be quick to repent, quick to forgive and quick to believe what God says in His word about forgiveness. We must forgive others and ourselves. Forget about the terrible things you have done in your past. God has already forgotten them! Pastor Andy and I are very similar, to the point we can say something and immediately know we've managed to upset the other. But for a while, neither of us managed to work out how to forgive the other, before it blew into a bigger issue. But more recently God has been doing work in us, changing us to be more tolerant with each other, quicker to forgive, and to forget the past. We now regularly find ourselves saying sorry before we've even finished the sentence that's was going to do the harm. God is showing us how to be quick to forgive.

To operate in new levels of favour, we must forget our past; learn to forgive others and ourselves. God saved us, cleansed us of our sins and made us white as snow by the washing of His blood.

Do you want a blessed and glorious future? Make a change today by forgetting your past. The past holds you back from what God has for you, it places shackles on you, it weighs you down, stresses you out and depletes your energy. Break free today from your past. Be unchained. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you. God has plans to prosper you, let go of your past! Walk in the strength of the word of God today.

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**We can't really know God if we keep holding on to our past!**



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