

May 2, 2021

### **Don't Forget to Remember!**

“What was that called?” she asked. My high school classmate scribbled the answer on her hand. She did not want to forget. Before the era of sticky notes and smartphone reminders, youth commonly jotted things to remember on the palms of their hands—a phone number, a name, or a task to be done.

Though many people rely on external reminders, Professor Paul Reber at Northwestern University estimates the human brain can store the equivalent of 2.5 million gigabytes of information. The largest computer hard drive is currently around 18,000 gigabytes. Amazingly, God designed His human creation with nearly infinite storage, or at least an incomprehensible limit. This is good news! This means we can spend a lifetime studying and memorizing God's Word, storing it up in our minds and hearts, yet never maximize capacity.

Not only has God gifted us with phenomenal memory capacity, but He has also told us what to remember and why. After God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt, he called them to remember His mighty works, His salvation, His promises, and His faithfulness so that they would not turn away from Him and follow after other gods. The word “remember” occurs 197 times in the Old Testament. Remembering the right things is important. “Do not forget the things which your eyes have seen . . . ; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons. . . . ‘so that they may learn to fear Me all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children’” (Deuteronomy 4:9-10). Teaching the essential things—the eternal truths of God's Word—in our homes and churches is time well invested, so that we will not forget them.

The beautiful thing is that even when we do forget, God does not. He lovingly says to His people, “Can a woman forget her nursing child and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you. Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands” (Isaiah 49:15-16a). This vivid imagery of inscription on God's hands helps us to grasp His faithfulness: “I will not forget you.” This word picture also seems prophetic. One day, quite literally, His nail-scarred hands would be the proof of it—Jesus the Savior, pierced for you and me.

God does not need a sticky note or a smartphone to prompt His memory. He will never experience memory failure like our computers. He does not even need to be reminded to remember not to forget. God is trustworthy and reliable. He will not forget to remember you.

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AFLC Promotion for May is Parish Education