

JUDGES 5:10-12
THE STORIES OF GOD'S PEOPLE!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to Judges chapter 5 as we continue our study through the book of Judges.

Here in Judges chapter 5 we have this song of Deborah and Barak. A song that was born out of their victory against their enemy, the King of Canaan, Jabin; and the commander of his army, Sisera!

The children of Israel were under the oppression of this King for twenty years and it was not easy. The Bible tells us that “**. . . he harshly oppressed the children of Israel.**” Judges 4:3.

Not only that, but the children of Israel were outgunned you might say. Jabin and his army had 900 chariots of iron and the children of Israel had none.

But the Lord instructed, not only Deborah, but Barak as well, to go into battle against Sisera and He would give them this victory.

But Barak, the leader of the army for Israel was a little afraid and would not go into battle unless Deborah went with him, and she did but he lost out on the blessing of destroying the enemy, Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army! A woman would get that victory.

And as the children of Israel gained this victory, we see Sisera flee for his life and we are told what happened in Judges 4:17-24, **“However, Sisera had fled away on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite; for there was peace between Jabin king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite. And Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said to him, ‘Turn aside, my lord, turn aside to me; do not fear.’ And when he had turned aside with her into the tent, she covered him with a blanket. Then he said to her, ‘Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty.’ So she opened a jug of milk, gave him a drink, and covered him. And he said to her, ‘Stand at the door of the tent, and if any man comes and inquires of you, and says, “Is there any man here?” you shall say, “No.”” Then Jael, Heber’s wife, took a tent peg and took a hammer in her hand, and went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple, and it went down into the ground; for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died. And then, as Barak pursued Sisera, Jael came out to meet him, and said to him, ‘Come, I will show you the man whom you seek.’ And when he went into her tent, there lay Sisera, dead with the peg in his temple. So on that day God subdued Jabin king of Canaan in the presence of the children of Israel. And the hand of the children of Israel grew stronger and stronger against Jabin king of Canaan, until they had destroyed Jabin king of Canaan.”**

As you can see, a woman did get the blessing, she killed Sisera!

Now it is out of this great victory that God had given the children of Israel that we see this song of praise and thanksgiving unto the Lord!

And over the past few weeks we have looked at three main points so far in this song. We looked at:

WHEN LEADERS LEAD – JUDGES 5:1-2, 9

REMEMBER GOD – JUDGES 5:3-5

LIFE UNDER OPPRESSION – JUDGES 5:6-8

This morning we will be looking at the fourth point that I believe comes out of this song of praise unto God and that is – ***THE STORIES OF GOD’S PEOPLE!***

And, as you will see, we need to remember what God has done in our lives so that we can share these things with others.

We can share them with Christians, and in doing so we can encourage them in their walk with the Lord. Seeing what God is doing is a powerful encouragement for all of us.

Also, we can share what God has done in our lives with unbelievers so that they can see the hand of God upon our lives, that God is real, and He continues to work in the lives of His people!

But how often do we forget what God has done and is doing in our lives. We get so busy and so distracted that we miss out and then we just forget. Let me show you what I mean. We are told,

There is a humorous story I like about a man sitting at the breakfast table reading the newspaper when his wife breezed through the kitchen, gave him a light kiss on the cheek and said matter of factly, “I’ll bet you’ve forgotten what day this is?!”

The husband answered defensively, “I have not!” And he went back to reading the newspaper while his wife finished getting ready upstairs.

But for the life of him, he could not remember what special day it was.

All the way to work it bothered him, “What day is this?” He knew his wife was very sensitive about forgetting special days such as their anniversary or Valentine’s day, but he simply could not recall from memory what this day was supposed to be.

Deciding not to take any chances, on his way home after work he bought a box of candy, a dozen roses, and a gift-wrapped bottle of her favorite perfume.

Upon arriving home he quickly greeted his wife and yelled out surprise as he handed her the various gifts.

To which she replied, “Oh sweetheart - this is the best Groundhog’s Day I’ve ever had!”

I don’t think that man will ever forget Groundhog’s Day again – do you?

Memories are important aren’t they? And some memories serve as markers, pivotal moments in our lives that change us, teach us, impact us whether we are prepared or not.

I’ll bet there is not a mom present who cannot tell in great detail the events surrounding the birth of a child, or for a hopeful couple, the day they adopted.

I’ll bet there is not a man or young teen present who cannot tell in great detail the events surrounding the purchase of their first car, or their first real job with a paycheck.

Do you remember the first time you went fishing, or hunting, or baked a cake? Have you ever flown in a helicopter, jumped out of plane with a parachute, been on a zip line, or rappelled down a cliff?

Those kinds of memories stay with us don’t they? They are markers, etched in our brain cells like flags on a golf course that say here is the spot where something significant happened.

Ever go on a family vacation break and something unexpected happens that was miserable at the time, but you can laugh about it today?

Ever go camping and some major catastrophe takes place with your tent or your brand-new sleeping bag gets completely soaked and you had to come up with a plan B?

Ever have such an unbelievable experience in life, whether good or bad, and to this day you can still tell the story?

- <http://bit.ly/38FFkoG>

My point is this. We have all had stories of what God has done and is doing in our lives and we need to let others know what God is doing. That is what we see here in Judges chapter 5, in the verses we will be looking at this morning. Remembering the victory that God gave the children of Israel against Sisera and Jabin, the King of Canaan.

We will be looking at four main points in our study this morning and they are as follows:

THE VICTORY IN BATTLES GOD HAS GIVEN US

THE PRICE PAID FOR OUR SALVATION

THE PROMISES GOD HAS GIVEN TO US

LET OTHERS KNOW WHAT GOD HAS DONE

So with the reminder of our time this morning, let's look at this topic, ***THE STORIES OF GOD'S PEOPLE*** as we pick up in Judges chapter 5, beginning in verse 10, and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word!

JUDGES 5**VERSES 10-12**

Remember back in Judges 5:6-7a, in this song, we saw what life was like when they were in bondage to Jabin. We are told, **“In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath, In the days of Jael, The highways were deserted, And the travelers walked along the byways. Village life ceased, it ceased in Israel . . .”**

The people were afraid to go out into the streets. They took backroads to hide from the enemy. There was no village life, no songs of laughter and joy.

But now that has all changed and people are out and about again.

And in this song, we now see the cry to go and tell others what God has done. We see the call for the leaders, the wealthy and even the common people who have seen this great work of God to go out and tell the people the stories of God!

And how important it is to tell others of the great things our God has done and is doing in our lives and in the life of this church.

It shows people that our God is living, our God is powerful, and our God can do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think!

It is as Jesus said in Matthew 5:13-16, **“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”**

But we must ***REMEMBER!***

Let me show you how easy it is to forget what God has done with this article. We are told,

In the world of science there is no more prestigious institution than Cambridge University's Cavendish Laboratory, home to more than two centuries of Nobel Prize-winning research, including the discovery of the structure of DNA.

Inscribed over its entrance are these words: "The works of the Lord are great, sought out by all of them that have pleasure therein" - Psalm 111:2 (KJV).

The verse (in Latin) was carved in oak over the original entrance when the laboratory was established in 1874 by Cavendish Professor of Physics, James Clerk Maxwell (1831-1879).

Maxwell was known for numerous achievements in mathematical physics, including formulating the classical theory of electromagnetic radiation. He was also a committed follower of Jesus.

When the Laboratory moved to its present site 100 years later, the inaugural verse again received star billing, now in English.

If we're shocked at eminent scientists citing Scripture as the ground and inspiration of their work, it's because we've lost sight of how important biblical ideas were to the foundations of Western intellectual life, including the origins of modern science in Europe. Prominent early scientist, Johannes Kepler, for example, spoke for many of his time when he described his work as "thinking God's thoughts after him."

We've forgotten our own history. As a result, we don't fully understand the present and our role in it.

To forget our story is to forget who we are and why we're here.

No wonder *remembering* is such a central theme in Scripture. God knows the gravitational pull of human awareness, which draws us inexorably toward forgetting. God's people are always in danger of losing their memory, forgetting who they are and whose they are.

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Again, this is so important, that we remember the works of God in our lives and there are some reasons we are to do this, and we will focus on that right now. And, just as this song called the children of Israel to do this, we will see that God's Word has called us to do this as well.

THE VICTORY IN THE BATTLES GOD HAS GIVEN US

Obviously, in this song, Deborah and Barak are remembering how God has given them this great victory against Jabin and the Canaanites.

I know I have said this a lot lately, but I guess it is something that the Lord wants us to hear again and again because it is so easy to forget. And that is God will see us through and yes, it may be difficult, but remember what God has done in the past, the deliverance that He has given in the situations you have faced, for the strength to endure what you are going through now! Remember those victories!

In Psalm 77 we see that the Psalmist is overwhelmed, hopeless. And we see that a lot in the Psalms, where they start out in despair and end up with praise unto God!

This Psalm could have been written during the Babylonian captivity. One hundred thirty-five years after the Assyrians were thwarted in their attack, the Babylonians would destroy Jerusalem. This time they would not be delivered. This time, Jerusalem would go up in flames.

And the Psalmist is overwhelmed by this. He wrote, **“In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord; My hand was stretched out in the night without ceasing; My soul refused to be comforted. I remembered God, and was troubled; I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed. You hold my eyelids open; I am so troubled that I cannot speak.”** Psalm 77:2-4.

In other words, it didn't seem like God was listening to his cry. His city is in rubble. His Temple destroyed. People were killed and it seemed like God was silent.

The burden was overwhelming, and it seemed like he tried to do everything to get God's attention, but He was silent. There was no comfort. It seemed that God had turned His back on him.

And then it seems that the Psalmist gets refocused, yes judgement was coming upon them for their sin, but God did not give up on them. Listen to what he says in Psalm 77:10-14, **“And I said, ‘This is my anguish; But I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High.’ I will remember the works of the Lord; Surely I will remember Your wonders of old. I will also meditate on all Your work, And talk of Your deeds. Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary; Who is so great a God as our God? You are the God who does wonders; You have declared Your strength among the peoples.”**

Notice that he speaks of being in anguish, overwhelmed at what he is seeing but then he speaks of taking his eyes off the situation and placing them upon God, meditating, remembering the faithfulness of God. That is so important for us to do!

Yes, the situation that they were in was overwhelming, they were going into captivity. And from a human perspective, there was nothing that they could do.

But, from a spiritual perspective, God was not done with them. He has not forgotten them. This chastening by the Lord will end and the Psalmist gains this perspective by looking to the past deliverance for strength in this very bad present situation!

And as he does, it seems like his whole countenance has changed.

Instead of anguish, he is remembering the years walking with God.

Instead of anguish, he is remembering the works of God.

Instead of anguish, he is talking about what God has done.

Instead of anguish, he is remembering how great God is.

Instead of anguish, he is remembering the wonders that God has done.

Instead of anguish, he is remembering all the times that God has shown His strength.

And listen to where the Psalmist goes to in the past to gain this perspective. We are told in Psalm 77:15-20, **“You have with Your arm redeemed Your people, The sons of Jacob and Joseph. The waters saw You, O God; The waters saw You, they were afraid; The depths also trembled. The clouds poured out water; The skies sent out a sound; Your arrows also flashed about. The voice of Your thunder was in the whirlwind; The lightnings lit up the world; The earth trembled and shook. Your way was in the sea, Your path in the great waters, And Your footsteps were not known. You led Your people like a flock By the hand of Moses and Aaron.”**

The Psalmist goes back and remembers God’s awesome deliverance of His people from Egypt.

Remember the story. As they left Egypt God lead them to a place where they seemed to be trapped. On one side there was a mountain range. On the other side there was a mountain range. And there was no way you were going to get 2 to 3 million people through those mountain ranges.

In front of them was the Red Sea and from a human standpoint, you were not going to be able to cross the Red Sea and get to the other side.

And then, coming up behind them was Pharaoh with his men to capture them.

And as you read this story in Exodus you may wonder why did God do this? Why would God lead them into this trap? There truly was no place for them to run to. There was no place for them to scatter. And as you look at this you can clearly see that their backs were up against the wall. There was no way out!

And when it seemed hopeless God showed them where to walk, as He parted the Red Sea. In other words, He wanted them to look to Him to see the salvation that He would bring to this situation!

Thus, the conclusion that the Psalmist came to, was this.

If God could take the children of Israel, who were slaves in Egypt, bring them out without a fight, bring them through the Red Sea on dry ground, and then have those waters of the Red Sea come crashing down upon Pharaoh and the Egyptian army, killing all of them, He can surely do that again and deliver them from this present situation that they were in!

What about for us?

Think about it. If God did that back then, as I look back on how God delivered me in the past, surely He could deliver me from my problems today, even though I might not see His hand working at this time.

And when I look back, I can see His footsteps that were guiding me all the way!

God is able to deliver His people today just as He did back then, do not forget that! What a great, loving Shepherd He is!

I don't know about you but looking at what God has done in my life has given me great strength in the battles that I am facing now. I think you can say that same.

Now I think we do all understand this, how God can use the past to encourage us in the present situations we are in.

But then things get worse. Trouble is increasing. There is no way out. Things look dark, they are black, you are losing hope.

Now you may be thinking, "That would never happen to me. I see how God has delivered me in the past and I know He will do the same in the present!"

I think the Children of Israel felt the same way. Let me show you what I mean, and how quickly their attitude can change because of the situation that they were in.

After God delivered them from the hands of the Egyptians, after Moses and the children of Israel sang a song of praise unto God for delivering them, after Mariam and the woman danced and sang praises unto God, we are told, in the same chapter as this song, **"So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah. And the people complained against Moses, saying, 'What shall we drink?'"**

Exodus 15:22-24.

Three days after this deliverance, it would seem, that they ran out of water and they started to complain. Now keep in mind that they are in the desert, they are traveling with about 2 to 3 million people, and they could not go to the Piggly Wiggly to buy water. So it was a problem!

But what happened to them? Why did they get to this point?

They forgot how God delivered them in the past, actually, right after He delivered them, they forgot what God had done, and thus, in this present situation they are not praising God any longer, but they are complaining!

It is hard to be patient. It is hard to wait upon God to deliver us from the situations we are in. And when it doesn't happen as quickly as we like, we lose sight of God and the situation overwhelms us.

We need to do what the Psalmist said in Psalm 105:5, “**Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth.**”

As you look back at all that God has done and is doing in your life, you can't help but worship Him.

If your focus is on yourself, then there will be no joy.

It is not that we are to ignore what we are going through, but we are to give those things to Him, cast them at His feet because He cares for us.

Then that weight is taken off our shoulders and we can stand with hands held high and praise the King of kings and Lord of lords!

You see, there is nothing we are trying to carry; thus, we can lift our hands up high to Him!

The point we are seeing here is this - ***THE VICTORY IN THE BATTLES GOD HAS GIVEN US*** – may we look back on them to help us, strengthen us in the battles we are facing today!

THE PRICE PAID FOR OUR SALVATION

Now you may be thinking, “Why is this so important? Why do I have to remember what Jesus did for me, the price He paid for my salvation?”

I think it is important that this is remembered all the time because as we begin to take it for granted, I think our love, our devotion to the Lord will decrease and we begin to forget the cost for my, for your salvation.

Peter reminds us in I Peter 1:17-21, **“And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”**

Look at what Peter is saying here. Because of all that God has done for you, redeemed you by the shedding of His precious blood, live your life in such a way that it would bring glory and honor to God!

You see, remembering what Jesus has done for us should change the way we live. It should cause us to love Him more and more.

Our salvation is not based upon money, conduct, religious traditions handed down, but with the precious blood of Christ.

Think about this. Almighty God became flesh, dwelt among us, went to the cross of Calvary to pay in full the penalty for our sins. Took beatings so bad that His back was raw, his face was so disfigured that He did not look like a man any longer. And then they crucified Him.

Now some see that, and they think that they must be worth a lot for God to do that for us.

Let me say this. The only thing we brought to our salvation was our sin. Jesus did it all and not because we were so good, but we were so bad He had to pay the price for our sins.

In fact, before He even created us, He was the Lamb slain before the foundations of the world. He was the Lamb of God who would come to take away the sins of the world!

But we are seeing this trend of coming against the blood atonement and yet, the Bible tells us that without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. So this is a dangerous teaching and many are listening to this!

Let me show you what I mean. We are told,

Emergent Church leaders consistently, repeatedly denigrate sin, the savior, and salvation via the cross of Christ. “If the cross is a personal act of violence perpetrated by God towards humankind but borne by his Son, then it makes a mockery of Jesus’ own teaching to love your enemies and to refuse to repay evil with evil” (Steve Chalke and Alan Mann, *The Lost Message of Jesus*, pp. 182-183.)

But it was love that brought Jesus to the cross. There was no other way. Christ shows us how God loves his enemies- love is the heart of the gospel. “While we were yet enemies, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8, 10). The Bible declares that those who bring the gospel are the ones who bring peace (Rom. 10)

Harry Emerson Fosdick was a famous liberal pastor of the Riverside Church in New York City, (1878-1969), who denied the doctrine of the atonement, “Jesus suffered as a substitute for us.”

In Fosdick’s book *Dear Mr. Brown*, he states: Too many theories of the atonement assume that by one single high priestly act of self-sacrifice Christ saved the world.’ Fosdick ends that statement with a pronounced – “No!” He insists, “These legalistic theories of the atonement are in my judgment a theological disgrace.”“ Fosdick considered the idea that God would actually send His Son to die on a Cross *to take our place* to be the basis for a violent and bloody religion. He rejected the biblical message of an atonement and substitutionary sacrifice.

In an interview, Brian McLaren questioned the idea of God sending His Son to a violent death, calling it “false advertising for God”:

[O]ne of the huge problems is the traditional understanding of hell. Because if the cross is in line with Jesus’ teaching then - I won’t say, the only, and I certainly won’t say even the primary- but a primary meaning of the cross is that the kingdom of God doesn’t come like the kingdoms of this world, by inflicting violence and coercing people. But that the kingdom of God comes through suffering and willing, voluntary sacrifice. But in an ironic way, the doctrine of hell basically says, no, that’s not really true. That in the end, God gets His way through coercion and violence and intimidation and domination, just like every other kingdom does. The cross isn’t the center then. The cross is almost a distraction and *false advertising for God*. (emphasis added)’ (quoted in Faith Undone by Roger Oakland p.192)

The Emergent movement wants to re-imagine things. The way things are going as they remove words and sayings from books you should not be surprised by a company removing the crucifixion from the Bible because it is offensive. After all the book of Urantia (which I suspect some may be reading) says it was not God's plan for Jesus.

Brian McLaren endorsed Alan Jones' book, "Reimagining Christianity: Reconnect Your Spirit without Disconnecting Your Mind." McLaren had this to say: "*Alan Jones is a pioneer in reimagining a Christian faith that emerges from authentic spirituality. His work stimulates and encourages me deeply.*"

If this is authentic spirituality then the Bible has become obsolete in his view. Jones, an Episcopal priest, holds a similar view to the outspoken liberal Fosdick.

Jones is the Dean of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco that promotes the labyrinth. He is a promoter of inter-spirituality, He is also a member of the Living Spiritual Teachers Project which is a group of about twenty-five that include Zen and Buddhist monks, New Agers and even Marianne Williamson (who promotes a Course in Miracles, a book that denies almost every authentic Bible teaching of Jesus Christ.)

Jones rejects the Gospel message in no uncertain terms. "*The other thread of just criticism addresses the suggestion implicit in the cross that Jesus' sacrifice was to appease an angry god. Penal substitution [Christ's death on the Cross] was the name of this vile doctrine.*" (Alan Jones, *Reimagining Christianity: Reconnect Your Spirit without Disconnecting Your Mind* (Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2005 p. 168)

"*The Church's fixation on the death of Jesus as the universal saving act must end, and the place of the cross must be reimagined in Christian faith. Why? Because of the cult of suffering and the vindictive God behind it.*" (ibid. p. 132)

Jones goes on to say, "*Penal substitution was the name of this vile doctrine.*" Alan Jones, p. 168

The apostle Paul said "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:1-2). Paul preached "Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Corinthians 1:18,23). The book of Acts tells us that the apostles preached Christ crucified. Jesus even told us to pick our cross to follow him. McLaren is recommending a book that holds this to scorn. The very core of Christianity is Christ crucified by which we have our salvation.

What we are seeing are men without the Spirit of Christ leading people into an pseudo intellectual - philosophical movement that offers a new spiritual openness in the place of the Holy Spirit indwelling us.

Without the preaching of the cross it neglects the true spiritual condition and need of mankind. This is not leading people to the truth of their sin by a confrontation of the gospel for salvation but instead offering a substitute without the purpose of God becoming man as Jesus. It is opening the door to thousands to go another way. This new message is integrated in the church to reach the post- modern generation that does not see any one way more valid than another. All this leads to is interfaith - accompanied with universalism.

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Make no mistake about it. Without the shedding of His blood for us, we are still dead in our trespasses and sins with no way out. And the Devil has made many comfortable in that position, and they are not headed for heaven but Hell! Our righteousness is like filthy rags before God! That is our problem and we can't clean ourselves!

Here is the wonderful news as Paul tells us in II Corinthians 5:21, **“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”**

You see, like I have said, our righteousness is like filthy rags before God and unless our righteousness is like the righteousness of Christ, we will not enter into eternity with God!

Thus, Jesus took our sin on the cross of Calvary, paid that debt we owed God for our sin in full, and He gave to us His righteousness and because of that we can see God, have an eternity with Him.

You see, without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins!

We truly need to remember ***THE PRICE PAID FOR OUR SALVATION*** – it will cause us to love the Lord more and more as we do!

THE PROMISES GOD HAS GIVEN TO US

When you look at the Bible you will find many, many promises of God to us. In fact, the Bible is so full of God’s promises, that it is not really possible to count them. Some people have tried and come up with a number and they counted about 3000 promises of God to us. Others have counted 7000 promises of God to us. Herbert Lockyer wrote a book called All the promises of the Bible and claims to list 8000 promises of God to us!

In other words, there is no shortage in God’s promises to us, that is not the issue. The issue is, do we believe in what He has told us?

In II Peter 1:2-4 Peter tells us, **“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”**

These three verses are power packed. If we would only read them and apply them to our lives, truly believe them!

Today people water down God’s Word or they negate it but look at the importance that Peter applies to it.

Peter tells us that grace and peace are increased or multiplied as we know God. In other words, we are more aware of the grace of God and we can enjoy the peace of God.

What do we need for spiritual life and for that matter, physical life? Folks, we need Jesus.

We have seen God’s grace extended to us as He empowers us and gives to us all we need to live. Not because we deserve it, but it is a gift of God to us.

And now the point I want to focus on as Peter tells us of the peace of God that is found in the precious promises of God to us.

Look at the promises that God has given to us in His Word and that knowledge should help us to live godly lives.

That is what Paul said in II Timothy 3:16-17, **“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”**

Also, peace through the storms of life can be ours as we rest in His promises. Paul, in Romans 15:4 put it this way, **“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”**

We do have all we need to succeed in this life if we have Jesus!

But, if you lack the knowledge of Him, you will be swept away and thus, read His Word and apply it to your life and the pulls of this corrupt world will not have its grips on you!

Believe in the promises of God, they are precious, and they will help us to walk by faith and we trust that what God has said, He is more than able to bring to pass!

In Lamentations 3:22-24 we are told, **“Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. ‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘Therefore I hope in Him!’”**

Look at these promises of God to us. God is compassionate towards us and thus, we are not destroyed. In fact, we blow it and then, a new day dawns and His mercy, His compassion towards us in new. Thus, it causes me to trust in Him, hope in Him!

And we are aware of what Paul said in Romans 8:28, **“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”**

Let me ask you this question. How many of you have in your Bibles something like this, ***“And we know that most things work together for good . . .”?***

None of you? That is shocking. Not that it is not in there, but since it is not in there and that Paul reminds us that all things are working together for good, then why don’t we believe it?

We need to and the Devil loves to get us to doubt that promise that God has given to us.

Now I may not see how it is working out for good.

I may not feel that it is working out for good.

But I can **KNOW** that what is happening in my life, somehow, somehow is working out for good for my life! We need to trust in that promise of God to us! I can know because God's Word tells me so and I can trust in what God's Word tells me because it is truth!

May we trust in **THE PROMISES GOD HAS GIVEN TO US** – and as we do, it will give to us tremendous peace through the storms in our life that we are facing!

LET OTHERS KNOW WHAT GOD HAS DONE

And it all boils down to this. If God is doing great things in your life, and He is, then you need to let others know what God is doing!

In fact, that is what we have read here in Judges 5:10-12, **“Speak, you who ride on white donkeys, Who sit in judges’ attire, And who walk along the road. Far from the noise of the archers, among the watering places, There they shall recount the righteous acts of the Lord, The righteous acts for His villagers in Israel; Then the people of the Lord shall go down to the gates. Awake, awake, Deborah! Awake, awake, sing a song! Arise, Barak, and lead your captives away, O son of Abinoam!”**

People need to hear our God stories, what God is doing in our lives, just like the children of Israel needed to hear them, be reminded of them.

And these God stories will not only touch unbelievers lives as they see what God is doing, but I think they will also encourage believers. Let me show you what I mean. We are told,

There was an old man at our church who had loved God all of his life. This man John, walked around saying “God is Good”. He said it all the time, whenever and wherever he was. When John got married he said, “God is Good”.

When John lost his job he said, “God is Good”. When John’s father died he said, “God is Good”. When John’s wallet got stolen he said, “God is Good”.

Well, you get the idea, no matter what John did, or what happened to him, we would always hear him say, “God is Good”.

A few months ago, John was diagnosed with cancer. The disease had spread rapidly and he was told by his doctor he’d have only a few weeks to live.

Still, even on his death bed, John could be heard by everyone in the hospital repeating his famous line, “God is Good”.

Our pastor Charles was John’s best friend. Charles went everyday to visit John in the hospital. And every night before Charles left John would tell him, “God is Good”.

Finally after weeks of watching his best friend get worse and worse from his terminal disease, Charles just could not stand it any longer and asked John, “John you are my best friend and I love you. I love the Lord as much as you do, too. I have listened to you say that God is Good your whole life. Through the good times, maybe I can understand you saying how good God is. Maybe even through the hard times, to help yourself cope. But now, laying here on your death bed, how can you be so optimistic? How can you say ‘God is good’ every day when you know he is letting you die?”

John just looked at Charles and smiled.

“Dear friend, don’t you see all of those times I was saying God was Good, it was my way of praising him in the little way I could. And look what my reward is for remaining faithful, I am dying. You say God is letting me die as if that is a bad thing. Charles, have you forgotten that is our goal. To live our life for Him, and join him one day in heaven. See, GOD IS GOOD! He has finally called me home and in a few hours I will be with Him. I can’t imagine anything greater than that.”

John died that night in his sleep. Charles stood up and said only two things at John’s funeral: “I will miss my friend but I know I will see him again one day soon, and GOD IS GOOD.”

Let us praise the Lord in everything that comes our way for our reward will be great in Heaven.

- <http://bit.ly/2tQn0uv>

I can’t tell you how important it is to remember what God has done in our lives and then tell others what God has done in our lives. Let them see how great our God is and the amazing things that He can do and will do!

That is what the Lord instructed the children of Israel to do, tell their God story, in a sense.

Listen to what we are told in Deuteronomy 6:4-9, **“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”**

Let people see the love we have for God by how we live out our faith!

Let your children see the love for God you have as you teach them all the things that God is doing and has done in your life. Teach them, talk with them in your home, when you are out of your home, when you go to bed and when you get up in the morning. Let them see that God is real in your life and that you love Him so much you can't stop talking about Him!

Let people see that it is God that is guiding you in your thoughts and in your actions.

Let people see that it is God who is watching over you, your family and your home!

Let people see your God story!

Let me give you this example from my life, and I have many God stories to tell you, as we all do, but the Lord lead me here.

Over twenty-five years ago, before we moved to Wisconsin, we were on vacation and we had our silver minivan with us.

Now we like to go exploring and Julie found a short cut for us to take; only she didn't tell me we needed a four-wheel truck to get through.

As I was driving the dirt road had so many huge holes that I thought I was on the Illinois Toll Road!

Not only was the dirt road filled with holes, but it was also filled with water and before long I buried our van to the floorboards!

We were miles from civilization with no way out.

The only thing we could do is pray which should have been the first thing we did!

Now I didn't tell you this important point, there were not only bear footprints on the side of the road where we were stranded, but also bear droppings and I didn't check to see if they were fresh, I was just hoping this bear didn't like Italian food!

After a short period of time, the Lord gave to us an idea and we lifted the wheels up with the jack and put wood into the whole filled with water and mud and we got out of the short cut that only added hours to our trip!

Now before we packed everything up, I told my son to pick up the jack and put it back in the van and we all got back in and drove back to our cabin.

When we arrived and started to clean all the mud that had accumulated on us and the van, I went looking for the jack and it was not there. I asked my son where he put it and it was, guess where? It was back at the site where I buried our van.

So Julie and I headed back and I didn't go as far in this time. I told Julie to remain in the car and if she saw a bear to let me know.

I don't know what I would do but probably play dead. Hey, get real, I would be dead.

But we did get the jack without any bear sightings, only the footprints and what they left behind, and everything returned to normal, as normal as a family vacation can get.

What was God doing through all of this? I don't know exactly, but I trust He has His plan and purpose but the thing I do remember is that our children saw the power of prayer that day!

It is one of our God stories that we can share with others, besides our children that day, and they can see the amazing God we have!

Share what God has done in your life and what God is doing in your life because believers will be encouraged, and unbelievers will be amazed and intrigued and hopefully come to saving faith!

Remember, ***THE VICTORY IN BATTLES GOD HAS GIVEN US!*** Let that encourage you each and every day. Let that give you the strength that you need for the present battles that you are facing, knowing that God has delivered you in the past and He is more than able to deliver you in this present situation you are in!

Never forget ***THE PRICE PAID FOR OUR SALVATION!*** God became flesh and dwelt among us and He went to the cross of Calvary to pay in full the penalty for our sins so that we can live with Him forever!

Recall ***THE PROMISES GOD HAS GIVEN TO US!*** These are not just empty words or empty promises. What God has said to us He is more than able to bring to pass!

And in knowing all that God has done, is doing and will do in our lives, ***LET OTHERS KNOW WHAT GOD HAS DONE!*** Tell your God story to them as you bring glory and honor to the Lord!

And I will close with this.

That's what biblical remembering looks like. Actively, earnestly, deliberately reflecting on God and thinking carefully about what he's said and done. Rehearsing, recalling, and relishing his story and our role in it. Thanking him, praising him for rescuing us, and for giving us the gifts and opportunities we've had for success and service. Acknowledging who we are and whose we are.

Remembering is deliberate attention.

Forgetting doesn't take special effort. It just happens, it's our gravitational pull.

If we don't *attend* to God's words and works we lose our delight in them. We lose our way, we lose perspective. We forget who we are and whose we are.

We need to remember.

Remember to remember.

- <http://bit.ly/37ywJ73>