

SERMON

11 November 1972

TAKE TIME TO REMEMBER!

Mr. Armstrong feels a lot of the problems we are now facing in the Work are the result of a spiritual decline, lack of contact with God around the world. It's not so much whether people are giving, but a question of whether God is blessing the Work because of our spiritual decay. We sit in meetings at Pasadena and listen to discussions--and must decide that God is not blessing the Work as it should be, that something is wrong, even though the Work is growing. This is why Mr. Armstrong fasted over a period of some days and asked God's help and inspiration. Maybe we need the fast next Sabbath personally, or maybe not. But the WORK needs it, as well as many of the brethren. The Work needs to be spiritually rejuvenated and awakened. (In one church in the USA there was an actual decline in membership, the dropouts and disfellowships outnumbered new members. This (one) year there will be approx. 1000 disfellowships in the U.S. alone. It indicates a certain amount of spiritual let-down.)

WE HAVE ALL LET DOWN.

God knows there is a spiritual rot that must be combated. Probably a lot can be traced to the fact that the Devil is wrath. The decline of society is increasing. Pressures and demands are increasing upon us, but this does not justify it.

ONE THING I AM GOING TO ASK YOU TO DO -- REMEMBER.

We must remember.

Philip. 3:13 Forget what is behind, strain forward to what lies ahead. Reach out to what is before. Let's forget the problems and sins and filth of the past--God has forgotten it--and remember what God WANTS us to remember. (There are lots of things to forget but also lots to remember.)

1k.17:32 Remember Lot's wife. Realize the lesson for us. Remember the lessons of the past.

Ps.6:5 In the GRAVE there is no remembrance of God. This is the time TODAY to remember so can be a better tool in the hands of God. Cast our minds back, re-live some of the exciting experiences in the past, in the right way, to recapture thrills and encouragement.

Rev. 2:5-- Remember from what we have fallen--repent and do the Works we did at first. The principle holds good for us. Remember from whence WE have fallen, before we began to decline. (If have.) Some here not sure if want to stay in the Church--

maybe this thought of remembrance will be specially applicable. There have been times when some of us have watered up at the privilege of serving, but now there is a resentment and people are not sure. REMEMBER the time when God was crystal clear in our minds and prayer and service an enjoyment. (Mr. HWA has a fantastic concept of God and uses all the words he can to talk about his God. It's a part of his whole mind all the time. You just sit & marvel to hear it.)

So REMEMBER how used to serve--and do it again Or else candlestick will be removed.

REMEMBER how prayed, studied and fasted.

There is something wrong in God's Church, but it is not that we are not the WORK OF GOD. There is no other on the face of the earth, but there is rot and decay. So recognize our faults that we are not where used to be, not as thrilled to study, find it inconvenient to fast (do it more to appease God than for anything else.)

So,  
REMEMBER about the past--childhood, deliveries from danger, intervention when not aware of it. There is a reason why it all works out.

REMEMBER -- you young fellows, your first date (but maybe you'd rather forget it!)

REMEMBER -- more importantly, such things as when first heard the broadcast.

-- and more so, when it first made sense.

the first time you wrote for the magazine and literature.  
the first time you wrote for a visit and what you thought (& did) as the representative of A/College came up your garden path and you opened the door!

REMEMBER as doctrines began to be excitedly understood.

REMEMBER when God revealed about tithing--when you knew you would rather starve to death than steal from God.

REMEMBER when first took the Passover with meaning.

REMEMBER the first Feast of Tabernacles.

REMEMBER the first time trusted God completely for healing --how would have been willing to endure to death.

REMEMBER your faith when first decided that God came first--before the life of a child -- before the keeping of a job.

We have all gone through similar trials in own way, a certain stepping into the unknown. IS IT STILL THAT WAY as when first we believed?

Heb. 11 God required an awful lot of those people but said they would delivered and they will be in the resurrection. But do WE still have the faith today that we DID have? How many of us have actually lost faith? Where have we let down?

REMEMBER such times as when we had to wait -- and when we didn't have to wait, when things happened so fast, like shooting down duck in a shooting gallery.

Ps. 243:5

David REMEMBERED the days of old. Meditated on what God had done, on what His hands had wrought.

David REMEMBERED when fled for his life, the friendship with Jonathan, when could have killed Saul (and been disqualified as King), REMEMBERED Goliath and how God delivered the whole army.

And in spite of a lot of mistakes, he qualified to be King because he did take time to REMEMBER. He spent much time in meditation. His pillow was soaked with his own tears as he thought about the laws of God.

He had to put LAW into practice in own life and spent a lot of time thinking about it.

And as we have the same kind of attitude, that will qualify us to be with David in the World Tomorrow. If we forget what God has done, how great He is, and what He has put us through, and don't realize FROM WHENCE WE HAVE FALLEN, then we have had it, because have kicked ourselves out. (God has not done this.)

Start with realizing from whence we have fallen! Don't muse on the works of MAN, but on the Work of God's hands, and His power and the majesty of His creation.

Deut. 4:9 Keep your soul diligently, lest forget what eyes have seen.

Be thankful we have a GOD, an executive team at HQ.

REMEMBER the people God has called and converted and how He is using key men. (We have now developed a certain impact and circulation, but far from being a TOTAL world impact.)

REMEMBER to tell God what we remember, and thank him. The Israelites saw miracles, were delivered, crossed the Red Sea.

BUT we must have own remembrances. God has opened the Red Sea in type, for us, on different occasions.

TEACH our children how God blesses. When kneel down with little child, make sure child understands later when answer comes. Capitalize on the lesson learned.

Deut. 6:10-15. We have houses which WE did not fill, vineyards and olive trees WE did not plant -- take heed lest we forget! How many things do we have that we don't deserve? God has kept us alive -- and not only this, we have the SPIRIT of God and are joined to His mind. BE THANKFUL FOR BLESSINGS.

So now, when we are a son of God, beware, lest we forget that God has opened our mind and that we have the things of God unlocked to us now. We owe our lives to God and cannot repay Him. But He is willing to make it a bargain -- IF WE WILL JUST SERVE. An oath has been taken. Nothing should diminish God in our mind. Don't let the around affect us.

We are in CONTRACT with God.

Deut. 8: 1-20 All the commandments God has given[us] be careful to do....that you may live and multiply..

REMEMBER all the trials. V.5. Consider how God has chastened us. V.18. God gives us power to produce all things, and thus confirms His covenant. V.20. We will perish if not obedient. So REMEMBER that God gives us the power to do everything we do.

But, what kind of obedience and remembrance ?

There is a lot of mind/head obedience. Things are only done because it's knowledge and not done in the right attitude.

Prov. 3:1.

Let thine HEART keep my commandments. Obedience is in the heart. It's knowledge with feeling, concern, emotion, with a strong zeal and a desire to accomplish and to serve and to be useful to someone else. Be excited by wonderful experiences, the ways and the paths through which God leads us.

THIS IS OUR TIME OF TRIAL --on us and the Church.

The Church is wealthy, but this is not enough. All of our problems are basically spiritual -- and this is the time to beware (when our houses are filled). NOW is the time when we are at our biggest point of danger. We can continue to decline or make the change. Recapture the faith God once saw in us.

Jude 3

EARNESTLY CONTEND for the faith (though blind) we first had. Now we have maturity, but let us have child-like faith too. Don't forsake one for the other. Return to the peak, when closest to God.

Our minds cannot grasp the GOAL, what is ahead. David mused and remembered, wouldn't let self forget the great things of God. And he will be KING of Israel. A position also awaits us, to be kings, priests, pillars of strength in the great family, great government of God -- but we won't be there unless we REMEMBER today, think of the future & praise God for all He has given us.

So let's contend for that faith and go on and recapture that faith that most of us have lost, and LET US GO ON FOR GREATER HEIGHTS AND THINGS IN GOD'S WORK!!!

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