



**A Courageous Look at The Past  
(What are your Big Lessons from your past?)**

**April 8, 2018**

**New Series:** What lessons would you learn if you took a courageous look at your past, present, and future?

1. A Courageous Look at the Past:” **What are your big lessons from your past?” (April 8)**
2. A Courageous Look at the Present: “What do I have right now in my life?” (April 15)
3. A Courageous look at the Future: “What will happen to me if I stay on this road?” (April 22)
4. A Courageous look at those around me. “What will happen if the people around me don’t change?”

**My Big Thought: My past taught me a lot about myself**

**A. I look back and see that I was naive and inconsistent at times**

- **Even though God has provided what the Bible calls an “abundantly above” life that I could not have imagined, I missed some things God had planned for me.** I made some choices that created some unnecessary long-term challenges for myself. I missed some **emotional** peace, **financial** freedom, **relationship** ease, **academic** confidence, **entrepreneurial** opportunities, and some spiritual **discernment** (or judgments) that were designed to bless and protect me from some **bad influences**. These choices were made mainly because there was **not a mature, willing to talk, discerning voice in my early success years.**

**B. I look back and see I needed more up-close guidance from mature voices**

- **All of us need voices in our lives that know the up close details** of our lives. When you are impressive at an early age you can often lose the guiding voices you need to stay balanced. If you are not careful you become **your own voice to yourself** (Ezekiel 13:2, “They prophesy out of their own imagination”). It is when you live by failed cultural habits that you learn from the world around you (family or friends) that you miss God’s best for your life. **Let’s take a look at how the past can affect us in a good way and in a bad way.**

**I. Two Dangers When Looking Back At The Past**

**1. It can keep you tied and bolted to the past (Philippians 3:13-14)**

- 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; **but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and** reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

**2. It can be the reason you stop reaching forward**

- “reaching forward to those things which are ahead,”

**II. Two Major Benefits of Looking At The Past**

**1. The past if viewed properly will help you develop a Better Life Recipe (I Corinthians 10:6-13)**

- 6 Now **these things became our examples**, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. 7 And **do not become idolaters** as were some of them. As it is written, “The people sat

down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.” 8 Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; 9 nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; 10 nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

## 2. The past will remind you to pay attention to your temptations

- 12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

### Note: Seven Things Paul Reminded Them About Their Past Temptations

1. He reminded them that **they could fall** (take heed lest he fall) (v12)
2. He reminded them that **they don't have unique temptations** (v13)
3. He reminded them that **God has been faithful to them** (v13b)
4. He reminded them God **will not allow them to be, “Tempted above their ability** (v13)
5. He reminded them that **God will make a way for them to escape** (v13)
6. He reminded them that **God will help them bear their challenges** (v13)
7. He reminded them that **life can become difficult even for faithful people** (12-13)

### Closing: Questions for you to consider

1. Have you allowed some big lessons you learned to go to waste? (Yes, for a season I have)
2. Have you allowed some big failures in the past to slow you down? (Yes, good old shame)
3. Have you ignored key things you should have dealt with? (Yes, assuming God would help)

**Quote from a friend:** “Don’t let a moment in your past become a monument and stop your momentum.”

**Next Time: A Courageous Look at the Present: “What tools do I have to work with right now in my life?”**

**Big Question:** What do I have right now in my life to work with?

**Answer:** Spiritually, I have three things that give me an advantage

1. God’s Presence (John 14:15-20)
2. God’s Promise (Psalm 23; John 14,16)
3. God’s Perspective (His Word, John 16:12-15)