

## *Cultivating a Spiritual Memory*

### *Joshua 4:1-7 & 20-24*

The human heart is prone to spiritual \_\_\_\_\_. God's people are so susceptible to it that, when the Israelites crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land for the 1<sup>st</sup> time, He gave them a strange task to remind them of the importance of cultivating a \_\_\_\_\_. Joshua 4 records that event.

Memories shape our \_\_\_\_\_. Just as a healthy natural life requires remembering, remembering the story of our \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ is crucial for a healthy spiritual life. So, God gave Israel a way to cultivate a spiritual memory. They were to "take 12 stones from the \_\_\_\_\_ where the priests stood" to build a memorial. After the miracle recorded in Joshua 3, God had them get stones from the exact spot where the \_\_\_\_\_ occurred.

Notice also, they didn't just collect the stones, they piled them up in a place so that people would pass by and \_\_\_\_\_ about them. Our spiritual memory is cultivated by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ our story. These are ways we keep alive our awareness that "the Lord is powerful" and we continue to "fear" Him (\_\_\_\_\_ of His power).

You might be thinking, "I haven't done a good job \_\_\_\_\_, of keeping tokens or telling stories. So, I don't have " \_\_\_\_\_ " to help me remember God's power and be certain of it."

God has done it for us. For believers, His word is the \_\_\_\_\_ of our lives. Its power rests in the fact that, when you receive Christ as Savior, you \_\_\_\_\_ and you have stones too. When you read about Moses or David, of Elijah, or Jesus, you begin to realize, "those are my stones, too! Those are \_\_\_\_\_ people; their story, Jesus's story, is \_\_\_\_\_ story. It is as if their blood courses through my spiritual veins. It is their spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ that determines who I am becoming."

His word serves as a towering \_\_\_\_\_ to help us remember who we are and who He is. The Bible is our story that God is \_\_\_\_\_. When you accepted Jesus as Savior, you became His \_\_\_\_\_ in His story of the redemption of His creation.