

Cultivating a Spiritual Memory
Joshua 4:1-7 & 20-24

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

Memories shape our identity. Just as a healthy natural life requires remembering, remembering the story of our walk with God 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 very place 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 miracle occurred.

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

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

God has done it for us. For believers, His word is the backstory of our lives. Its power rests in the fact that, when you receive Christ as Savior, you join His story 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 my people; their story, Jesus's story, is my story. It is as if their blood courses through my spiritual veins. It is their spiritual DNA that determines who I am becoming."

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