

Don't Look Back

Don't look back:



Three words that together make up what I believe is a timely prophetic utterance for the body of Christ in this hour. Let me write them again: *Don't look back.*

Many are carrying hurts and wounds from the past. We don't shake them off and come up higher because we keep looking back to the people and circumstances that crushed our hearts. Instead of allowing the Holy Spirit to use the injustice to propel us to places of greater authority in the kingdom like Joseph did, we rehearse our past in our own minds like a scratched CD.

Out of the abundance of the bitterness and resentment in our hearts, our mouth speaks poison that defiles us. And we remain less than effective in proclaiming the kingdom of God because we won't bury the dead and say farewell to the past. The good news is, Jesus is our past, present and future healer.

Others are paralyzed by the past. We've become spiritual paraplegics, so to speak, unable to move forward because fear of an unpleasant history repeating itself has gripped our souls. We've given up on the dreams that God has put in our hearts because of a traumatic life event arranged by the evil one who

comes to steal,
kill and destroy. We are afraid to pursue the prophetic
promises the Lord has
spoken over our lives, sometimes more than once. Like Lot's
wife, we continue
looking back at the death and destruction and figuratively
turn into a pillar
of salt, frozen in time. The good news is, Jesus came to loose
us from our
spiritual paralysis.

Then there's
shame, a spiritual disease that's running rampant in the body
of Christ because
of past sin. Because we don't understand the heart of the
Father, we wallow in
a stew of guilt and condemnation and feel unworthy to move out
into the things
of God. When Jesus said, "No one who puts his hand to the plow
and looks back
is fit for the kingdom of God," I don't believe He was
condemning someone who
looked back. I believe He was warning us of the danger of
looking back. Why?
Because looking back makes us spiritually unfit for kingdom
work. By looking
back, we are essentially putting God's kingdom off until
tomorrow. Faith is
now. The good news is, Jesus bore all our shame and all our
sin so we can
repent and move forward in the grace of God.

Yes, there is
such a thing as looking back to past victories to encourage
ourselves in the
Lord like David did. But other than for purposes of glorifying
His name,

looking back has little value—and it can rob our peace, our joy and even our destiny. I'm reminded of Kathryn Kuhlman's teaching on the Beatitudes. She taught that when God created man in His own image and after His likeness, He created man with a forward look, with a pair of eyes that would constantly be looking forward and not backward.

"By looking backward instead of forward, we bring on ourselves much of our distress, our unhappiness, our frustration, our confusion, our lack of peace. ... It seems the easiest thing in the world to do is to live in the past," Kuhlman said. "When we live in the past, there are and will be regrets. We see the nurturing of hurt feelings. There will be thoughts of injustice, there will be memories of things that should be buried and forgotten. We are reluctant to loose our hold on the past and hesitate to start living in the future. As a result, instead of joy and adventure, we know only the pangs of remorse, and we never have peace of mind."

My past has seen plenty of heartache and sorrow—and I am sure that in your own life you've experienced some of the same. I have had to learn by the grace of God to let go of the past, to walk toward the future by the power of God. I can tell you that I would be living a life of defeat if I did not resist the

temptation to relive
the abandonment, abuse and losses I've experienced. I have
made many mistakes
in this life, and I have received many wrongs by people who
were as close to me
as anyone could get. I had to make it my determined purpose to
move on. The
secret to moving forward is to repent, forgive and press on.

Again, the Lord
is saying to you, "Don't look back." It's not only prophetic,
it's scriptural.
In closing, consider the words of the apostle Paul, who had to
forgive himself
for religious mistakes and forgive others for trespasses
against him:

"Not that I have
already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on,
that I may lay hold
of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.
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, I press toward the goal for
the prize of the
upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:12-14, emphasis
added).

Receive this
insight today and run the race toward your prophetic destiny
unburdened by the
past. When you cross the finish line, Jesus will be there to
reward you as a
good and faithful servant who spent their energy building the
kingdom instead
of allowing the devil to destroy their peace.

About the

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