

The shadows of yesterday forecast the tomorrows of those who don't know how to "Get Past Their Past"!

Philippians 3:12-14 –

12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But ***one thing I do: Forgetting*** what is behind and ***pressing*** toward what is ahead,

14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

You will never join your efforts to God's purpose and dream until you FORGET AND PRESS FORWARD!

It is impossible to "Forget" without a "Pressing Forward."

Many are so focused on overcoming their past that they never become forward focused.

Proverbs 3:5-6 –

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Many people get trapped in their past and the circumstances of life because they focus on the question "WHY."

If we don't get past the "WHY" question, we will be trapped in a hopeless cycle of pride and human reasoning.

They lift their need to "Understand" above the command to "Trust the Lord."

JOB – Why God, Why?

- God reveals it is Satan who is afflicting Job
- Job doesn't know this and begins to try to "Reason" WHY this is happening.

Job 1:20-21 –

20 At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship

21 and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."

- Why didn't I die at birth?
- I curse the day I was born.
- I curse the day I was conceived.
- Though he slay me, yet will I trust Him.
- Job's friends blame Job and tell him that he must have sinned.
- Job's wife tells him to "Curse God and die."
- Job begins to cry out to God and wants to know WHY!
- God answers Job

Job 38:1-7 –

1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. He said:

2 "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge?"

3 Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me.

4 "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand.

5 Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it?

6 On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone

7 while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?

- God never answers Job's questions.
- God never addresses 40 chapters of questions about WHY!

Why is not important. Humans think it is; we think it is **all important**. Because WHY has to do with UNDERSTANDING!

If UNDERSTANDING is preeminent in your life, then the answer to WHY is the all encompassing question that **MUST BE ANSWERED**.

Until WHY is replaced with TRUST, you are trapped and forever linked to your past!

Some say, "I won't TRUST Him until I UNDERSTAND!"

I don't have to UNDERSTAND; FAITH is the evidence of THINGS NOT SEEN!

We have more knowledge of God and his ways than Job, but like Job, life will give us the opportunity to pass the **"Trust the Lord with all you Heart"** test!

Job acted differently when God took him up on his challenge and so would we!

Job 40:3-4 –

3 Then Job answered the LORD:

4 "I am unworthy-how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth.

God blessed Job for trusting Him.

Job 42:12-13 –

12 The LORD blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the first. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys.

13 And he also had seven sons and three daughters.