

Do Not Forget the LORD

“¹ Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land that the LORD promised on oath to your forefathers. ² Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. ³ He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. ⁴ Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years. ⁵ Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you. ⁶ Observe the commands of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and revering him. ⁷ For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valleys and hills; ⁸ a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; ⁹ a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills. ¹⁰ When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. ¹¹ Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. ¹² Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, ¹³ and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, ¹⁴ then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ¹⁵ He led you through the vast and dreadful desert, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. ¹⁶ He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you. ¹⁷ You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” ¹⁸ But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today. ¹⁹ If you ever forget the LORD your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed. ²⁰ Like the nations the LORD destroyed before you, so you will be destroyed for not obeying the LORD your God.” (Deuteronomy 8:1-20)

The above text that we read is the message of Moses the servant of the Lord to the Israelites before they cross to conquer the Promised Land that God had promised to their fathers. They are the new generation, their fathers they left Egypt and they were headed toward the Promised Land but because they disobeyed the Lord, God forbade them from entering, so they wandered in the desert for forty years and they died there. But now their children are at the edge of the Promised Land and here we found Moses exhorting them of how to live and walk with God.

The Promised Land for us is the Eternal Life and Life to the full with Jesus our Lord. Jesus came down from heaven, He took our sins by dying on the cross instead of us. So that in Him we can reach God, have Eternal life and enjoy life to the full through Him. Moses was telling them the Word of God that instructs us also to do the same in order for us to enjoy His blessings in our lives.

1- Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today: We have the promises of God but we need to obey His commands so we can live and get increase and prosper. God may allow trials and hardships to pass through our lives before He grant us what He promised us. He does this in order to test us, to know what our hearts’ motives are and to humble us. God through trials and hardships make us convinced that man does not live on material things alone but on every Word and promise that comes from His mouth. The Lord wants us to trust Him fully and not to rely or trust other things. During the forty years in the desert the people clothes did not wear out, and that was prove to them that God can be trusted; He is the one who can sustain us and provide all our needs.

2- Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you: Trials and hardship through life is God’s discipline and His preparation for us to receive His promises. God’s discipline purifies us and imparts to us His holiness and makes us ready to enjoy His blessings. Therefore,

3- Observe the commands of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and revering him. For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land. God had blessed us, but He is willing to bless us more if we continue to obey Him and walk in His ways. What you had received is much but as you continue to obey you will receive more from Him; more than what you think or imagine.

4- Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God: How you will forget the Lord? By *failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees*. Jesus said, **“If you love me, you will obey what I command.” (John 14:15)** If we become negligence and complacent people toward God’s commands then we are forgetting the Lord our God. **Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God.** Riches and God’s blessing should not be the reason for you to be spoiled, boastful and proud. Do you remember from where God took you? Do you remember the bars that you were behind? Do you remember how God saved you and brought you forth? God **led you through the vast and dreadful desert, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions**. God had saved you from very dangerous enemies; God had sustained you in land without even any resources. **He brought you water out of hard rock** so you can drink; God supplied all your needs from where you did not expect or imagine. Therefore today do not forget the Lord, be faithful to Him and don’t neglect your responsibilities toward Him.

5- Do not ever says, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me”: Don’t be proud of your own power and strength. All what you have is from the Lord and His blessings in your life. **For it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth**, and that is God’s faithful attitude toward you.

My dear and beloved: Be faithful and an obedient child of the Lord who had blessed you much and is willing to bless you more as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord I commit my life and my ways in your hand. I will continue to be faithful toward you and your Word and commands. I will cherish, honour and remember all your goodness to me, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.*