



together

REMEMBERING TOGETHER

When old friends, long separated by time, get together, they give their brains a rigorous workout. It's amazing how much you can remember about stuff that you thought you had long forgotten. One shared memory easily ignites a string of memories. You discover you're not so forgetful after all. And events, people, and experiences that are on the tip of your tongue often prompt your friends to remember more completely the same thing.

Memory is a strange thing. Scientists love to study how we remember, which is strongly connected to how we forget, how our brains store and recall memories, and how our brains actually don't get full. Our brains have sensory memory, working memory, and long-term memory. When the Bible asks us to remember, it is not simply requesting a mental task, but for us to *engage* in a practice that demonstrates that God does not intend to redeem us simply theoretically. He has redeemed us to the very core of our being. God's redemption is practical, tangible, and sensory.

Paul says, "Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Acts 3:13-14)

The act of forgetting and remembering is how we press on. It is the call from God in Christ Jesus.

Life in Christ has never been about our works. It's always been about remembering His. Trying to measure whether or not what we are doing is enough is anti-remembering. It is forgetting that God is enough, by trying to add to his enough. Remembrance is a loaded word, but every sacrament and every word of Scripture points to it. Remembering is the embodiment of life with God. When we ask ourselves, are we depending on God enough? Are we abiding in Him? How do we live as a Christian? The answer always leads back to 'remember'.

Our personal stories are interwoven into God's perfect plan of salvation through Jesus. Parts of our stories are rugged, and some are very sweet. In all of it, we remember TOGETHER and remind one another of the hope and promises we share in Jesus.

We are remembered by him, written in his Book of Life, where we can never be forgotten.

Excerpts taken from Gretchen Ronnevik's "Ragged" and Edward Grube's "Remembering Together" (LEA devotions 2022)

Recall and share one of your earliest memories in your faith walk.

Paul says that although he has not yet attained fullness in Christ, he forgets what is behind and strains forward to what lies ahead. The act of forgetting and remembering is God's call to us. Which is harder for you Forgetting or remembering?

TOGETHER: How does being a part of a community of believers encourage you to remember God's promises?