

Evidence
May 28,2023

Prayer:

✓ **Evidence**

Is the message about God's Faithfulness? Yes

Is the message about Trust? Yes

Is the message about Remembering? Yes

Is the message about the Goodness of God in our Past, Present and Future? Yes

Is the message about you and me being the evidence that God can change lives?
Yes

It is about the Evidence of God's Hand in our Lives!

It is so easy to forget God's faithfulness. It is so easy to forget and then begin to murmur or grumble about our situation. We take our eyes off of Jesus (the author and perfecter of our faith) and put them on the problem and often begin to grumble.

My spiritual father was a Presbyterian pastor named Dan Lyons. He and his wife Sharon had three children, two older boys and their youngest was a girl. Their

daughter was one month older than our first-born daughter and they were best friends beginning at about 2 years old.

Pastor Dan, in order to try and curb the grumbling and complaining of his three children reminded them about the people of Israel. These were God's chosen people and after they had been set free from slavery and after they had received the 10 Commandments and God had supplied them with food and water miraculously in the desert day after day, after all of that and more they began to grumble at Moses and at God.

Pastor Dan reminded his children of what happened to the grumblers.

I remember the time when Pastor Dan heard his daughter grumbling, he said to her, "What happens to grumblers?" and she replied, "They leave their bones in the desert!"

That may not have been a very effective way to teach about grumbling but it was so funny to hear those words from the mouth of a preschooler.

Remember, that God's first response is not to strike them dead. No, when they grumbled about no food, God sent Manna. When they grumbled about no water, God brought water out of the rock, when they grumbled about not having anything

but Manna to eat, God sent the quail. We need to always look for and remember His benefits. Look for the evidence of His goodness.

So, we are going to look at some scripture and then and I will talk about the Evidence of God's hand in my life over the past 70 years including the evidence of His hand in my life long before I was born again. Let me remind of what Paul wrote

in ✓ ***Ephesians 1: 4-6 NLT***

⁴ Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. ⁶ So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.

With that said here is the text for this message:

✓ ***Psalm 103:1-5***

Bless the Lord, Oh, my soul. And all that is within me bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, Oh my soul. And forget not all his benefits.

Who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases.

Who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies.

Who satisfies your mouth with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagles.

We are told here to remember. Bless the Lord and remember His benefits. The psalmist lists some of the benefits (not all). The benefits are some of the evidence of the goodness of God in your life.

Remember especially when life is filled with tough stuff.

✓ **Psalm 42:5-6**

Why are you in despair, O my soul?

And why have you become disturbed within me?

Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him

For the help of His presence.

O my God, my soul is in despair within me;

Therefore, I remember You from the land of the Jordan

And the peaks of Hermon, from Mount Mizar

Therefore, I will remember You in the land of Shell Point and the second floor of Macoma Court, and from the 3rd floor of the Larsen Health Center.

✓ **Isaiah 46:9**

“Remember the former things long past,

For I am God, and there is no other;

I am God, and there is no one like Me,

✓ **1 Chronicles 16:12**

*Remember His wonderful deeds which He has done,
His marvels and the judgments from His mouth,*

God was moving on my behalf long before I called Him my Lord and Savior. God was present and directing my life because I was chosen to be His child from before the foundation of world. So, in 1963 when I flunked 4th grade He was working. In 1964 when my dad divorce mom and abandoned our family God was there working. It was because I flunked 4th grade and my dad divorced my mom (two really terrible things in my life) that we moved to Bloomington, MN to be near my mom's sister. It was because I was a year behind other kids my age that I was able to be in the band program in my school and the All-City Choir program in my town. It was because of all of these things that I was able to audition for a select Madrigal singing group in 9th grade where I met this cute blond soprano. (Her name is Jana). All of this before I was saved. In all of the hard things in my life God was using His Creative Grace to bless me. It wasn't until years later that I could look back and see the evidence of His Goodness in my Life.

But that is what we are told to do, remember His faithfulness in the past, and remember His goodness in the past and TRUST Him with the present and with the future.

The disciples were witnesses to the miracles of Jesus and they quickly forgot and began to fret and worry. Jesus had to remind them in order for them to TRUST Him.

✓ ***Matthew 16:9-10***

Do you not yet understand or remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets full you picked up? Or the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many large baskets full you picked up?

His disciples were worried about the immediate needs, and they worried about tomorrow's needs.

That may be the biggest concern for us. We are in the latter parts of lives. We can easily worry about the future, be it worry about our finances or about our health or about the crazy things we see and hear about in our nation. Or possibly our concern is about our children and our grandchildren and for some of you even our great grandchildren.

What does the scripture say about that?

✓ **Psalm 103:17-18**

*But the lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children,
To those who keep His covenant And remember His precepts to do them.*

So, remember His lovingkindness and His faithfulness and remember His precepts to do them. So, we are to not only remember His faithfulness, but we are to remember His precepts and commandments in order to do them.

✓ **Psalm 13:5-6**

*But I have trusted in Your lovingkindness;
My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord,
Because He has dealt bountifully with me.*

✓ **Lamentations 3:21-23**

*This I recall to my mind,
Therefore, I have hope.
The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease,
For His compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
Great is Your faithfulness.*

♪ ♪ ||: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.
His mercies never come to an end,
They are new every morning, new every morning,
Great is Thy faithfulness oh Lord,
Great is Thy faithfulness! :|| (Sing it with me if you know this song)

Remembering is important for us individually and also as a church.
On the first Sunday of each month we are told to remember as we partake of
Communion or The Lord's Supper. Here is what Paul says in

✓ **1 Corinthians 11:24-28**

and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Remembering is commanded by our Lord and Savior.

So, I encourage you to remember and to look for the Evidence of His hand in your life. Take a moment right now and think back. Look back for the evidence in your life. How has God cared for you in your finances, in your homes, with the raising of your children, with your marriage and your spouse? How is He caring for you here at Shell Point?

Evidence

Ed Cash / Ethan Hulse / Josh Baldwin

Em D/F# G

All throughout my history

AM G D

Your faithfulness has walked beside me

Em D/F# G

The winter storms made way for spring

Am Em D

In every season, from where I'm standing

G

I see the evidence of Your goodness

D/F# Em D C

All over my life, all over my life

G

I see Your promises in fulfillment

D/F# Em D C

All over my life, all over my life

Em D/F# G

Help me remember when I'm weak

Am G D

Fear may come, but fear will leave

Em D/F# G

You lead my heart to victory

Am Em D

You are my strength and You always will be

G

I see the evidence of Your goodness

D/F# Em D C

All over my life, all over my life

G

I see Your promises in fulfillment

D/F# Em D C

All over my life, all over my life

C D

||: See the cross, the empty grave

Em D/F# G

The evidence is endless

C D

All my sin rolled away

Em D/F# G C

Because of You, oh, Jesus :|| Oh

G

||: I see the evidence of Your goodness

D/F# Em D C

All over my life, all over my life

G

I see Your promises in fulfillment

D/F# Em D C

All over my life, all over my life :||

G

D/F#

So why should I fear?

Em D C

The evidence is here

G

D/F#

So why should I fear?

Em D C

The evidence is here

Evidence, let me close with one other thought, if you were arrested and accused of being a Christian and you were put in front of a judge and a jury would there be any evidence for you to be found guilty of being a Christian?

Moses spent time with God on the mountain and when he came down his face glowed. It was evident that he had spent time with God.

✓ **Psalm 34:5**

*⁵ Those who look to him are radiant;
their faces are never covered with shame.*

If you are a radiant Christian, there will be evidence.

✓ **Matthew 5:14-16**

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Everyone will see your good deeds, your evidence and they will praise God.

✓ **1 Peter 1:15-16**

¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” (Quoting Leviticus 19:2)

You shall be holy.... ♪ ♪ ♪

Manifest Jesus, Holy Spirit Fruit...

✓ **Romans 12:1-2** The Message

12 ¹⁻² *So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.*

It is the well-formed maturity in you that becomes the evidence that those in the culture around you will recognize and hopefully will be drawn closer to God.

✓ Closing Prayer