



SPIRITUAL AMNESIA

By J.J. Turner

“I forgot!”

How many times have we heard or uttered these two words? Forgetfulness is a two-edge sword. On the one hand it is a discipline that requires attention. On the other hand it may be sign of failed mental capacity.

It's a strange and sad feeling, even shocking, to walk into a hospital room to visit and the person not know you are anything about the past. Because of a head injury the person has amnesia. There is a type of amnesia that has far greater consequences than a physical blow to the head. It's the blows of daily life that cause Christians to *forget* the joy, peace, commitment and blessings given by our heavenly Father.

The Gospel is not only the initial power unto salvation (Rom. 1:14-16), it is the continual power as it is *“kept in memory”* (1 Cor. 15:1-5). Do we continually remember the death, burial and resurrection of Christ? Is the story of the cross alive, fresh and motivational in our daily lives?

The nation of Israel was a victim of amnesia: *“Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? yet my people have forgotten me days without number”* (Jer. 2:32). The writer of Hebrews challenged his readers to *“...give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip away”* (Hebrews 2:1). The phrase *“drift away”* is a nautical one used to describe how a ship floats off course. A ship's helmsman is continually aware that his job is to keep the ship on course. Likewise, the task of every believer is to stay on a straight spiritual course (cf. Matt. 7:21-23).

We must not forget our objectives as Christians. We must guard against drifting off course and into other things that don't glorify God (Eph. 3:21). A daily reading of the word will help us remember. Daily prayers will help us remember. Having Supper with the King every Sunday will help us remember. We must remember the danger of ending up with a "*ship wrecked faith.*" Our daily challenge is to keep our minds "*focused on things above*" (Col. 3:1-3).

"*I forgot*" will not be accepted at the Judgment (Heb. 9:27).