

Remember Your Ebenezer

Scripture

“Now when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel had gathered together at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard [of it], they were afraid of the Philistines. So the children of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry out to the LORD our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines." And Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered [it as] a whole burnt offering to the LORD. Then Samuel cried out to the LORD for Israel, and the LORD answered him. Now as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But the LORD thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day, and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel. And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, and drove them back as far as below Beth Car. Then Samuel took a stone and set [it] up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the LORD has helped us."” (1Sa 7:7-12 NKJV)

Devotion

Dark days require God’s children to remember past deliverances. Samuel sat up an Ebenezer, literally a stone of help to express thankfulness to God for their victory, and as a reminder to future generations that God is able to deliver.

It is very easy to forget God’s favor when you are facing desperate times. However, these are the times when we must search for and cling to past victories. When doubts flood your mind and God seems so distant look back and remember what God has done.

Now two things are required: 1. You be in a penitent state. 2. You are humbly seeking the Lord’s help by faith. Israel was in the same location where they had been defeated by the Philistines before. They were now turning to God when the Philistines drew near to battle. They did not flee or rely upon the strength of their army, but cried out to God through Samuel.

Are you facing something beyond your control? Look back to your Ebenezer. God will not forsake those who call upon Him.

“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what [is] the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him [be] glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (Eph 3:14-21 NKJV)

His love in time past forbids me to think
He’ll leave me at last in trouble to sink;
Each sweet Ebenezer I have in review,
Confirms His good pleasure to help me quite through—John Newton, *Begone Unbelief*.