



BUILD AN EBENEZER REMEMBERING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

EBENEZER • A STONE OF HELP

1 Samuel 7:12 tells the story of a miraculous battlefield victory, after which Samuel "took a stone and set it up ... He named it Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far the Lord helped us.'" Ebenezer

These touchstones of help, built from words, also fill the book of Psalms, telling of God's love and faithfulness across the generations." Psalm 78:2-3 says, "I will utter hidden things, things from of old – things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us."

God's people built Ebenezers to anchor them in truth in the midst of frightening, painful, difficult, or challenging circumstances.

How many seeming disasters has God turned into blessings?

How many times have God's people been graciously forgiven?

How often has God turned toward His people and heard their prayers?

How many times has God rescued, protected, and providentially provided for His people throughout the generations?

God holds our tomorrows just as surely as He held our yesterdays. He knows what we will face and when, and He has promised He will never leave us. We are called to remember God's goodness, His character, and His faithfulness.

Why? "Because when pain becomes severe or sorrow becomes crushing, you can look at that memorial set in place in a time of greater strength, and you can pray, 'Oh God, thus far you have helped me, and I have every reason to believe you will continue to help me.'" Joni Eareckson Tada

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... *these stones shall become a memorial* ... Joshua 4:7

We are God's precious children, filled with His Spirit, washed with His blood, forgiven, redeemed, and delighted in. We are called to remember His faithfulness and to share those stories with others. Like the Psalmists, we can build our Ebenezers with words, touchstones of God's love, protection, provision, forgiveness, and faithfulness in our lives.

THOUGHTS TO GET YOU STARTED

- Create a list of blessings you have received from God's Hand. List experiences or events which initially seemed like disasters, but which were really blessings in disguise.
- Write about the people who have shaped, influenced, cared for, mentored, taught, protected, or selflessly loved you and the impact that had on your life. How has God led you through a difficult situation?
- How has God provided for you?
- When has God protected you?
- In what ways has God answered your prayers?
- When have you felt called by God?

Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts; let them proclaim your power. Psalm 145:4 NLT

We build our Ebenezers and write down our stories so that when the winds of illness, anxiety, depression, fear, disappointment, grief, uncertainty, or pain begin to blow and the waves roll and the thunder comes, we are securely anchored in the storm.

As Monica Oullette writes, "It is through telling our stories that we encourage one another in our grief, illness and struggles ... through hearing and sharing faith stories that we grow closer to one another and closer to God."

Our Ebenezers are touchstones of our faith, powerful reminders of the Presence of God at work in the lives of His people, anchors of truth in the storms of life.

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