



BUILD AN EBENEZER

REMEMBERING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

EBENEZER • A STONE OF HELP

In 1 Samuel 7:12, we read the story of a miraculous battlefield victory. When it was over, Samuel "took a stone and set it up ... He named it Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far the Lord helped us.'"

Touchstones of help are also built from words. They fill the Psalms, telling of God's love and faithfulness across the generations.

I will utter hidden things, things from of old – things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us.

(Psalm 78:2-3)

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

- How many seeming disasters has God turned into blessings?
- How many times has God graciously forgiven us?
- How often has God leaned in and listened to our prayers?
- How many times has God rescued, protected, and provided for His people through all generations?

God holds our tomorrows just as He held our yesterdays. He knows what we will face in the future and He promises to be with us always, every step of the way. We are called to remember God's goodness, character, and faithfulness — to build our Ebenezers so that we will not forget.

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

THOUGHTS TO GET YOU STARTED

- Create a list of blessings you have received. 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 generously loved you, and the impact they have 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)

We build our Ebenezers and tell our stories so that when the winds of illness, anxiety, depression, fear, disappointment, grief, or pain begin to blow, we are securely anchored in the storm.

As Monica Oullette so beautifully writes:

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

Ebenezers are touchstones of our faith, reminders of the Presence of God, anchors of truth in the storms.

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