

The Danger of Forgetfulness

by [Paul Tripp](#)

2 Timothy 2:15

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

We all do it, probably every day. It has a huge impact on the way we view ourselves and the way we respond to others. It's one of the main reasons we experience so much conflict in our relationships. The scary thing is: we barely recognize that we're doing it.

What is this thing we all tend to do that causes so much harm? We forget the generosity of God.

In the busyness and self-centeredness of our lives, we sadly forget how much our lives have been blessed by and radically redirected by the generosity of God. The fact that he blesses us when we deserve nothing (except for wrath and punishment) fades from our memories like a song whose lyrics we once knew but now cannot recall.

Every morning, God's generosity greets us in at least a dozen ways, but we barely recognize it as we frenetically prepare for our day. When we lay our exhausted heads down at the end of the day, we often fail to look back on the many gifts that dripped from God's hands into our little lives.

We don't often take time to sit and meditate on what our lives would have been like if the generosity of the Redeemer had not been written into our personal stories. Sadly, we all tend to be way too forgetful, and there are few things more dangerous in the Christian life than forgetfulness.

Forgetfulness is dangerous, because it shapes the way you think about yourself and others. When you remember God's generosity, you also remember that you simply did nothing whatsoever to earn his blessing. When you remember his generosity, you're humble, thankful, and tender. When you remember his generosity, complaining gives way to gratitude and self-focused desire gives way to worship.

But when you forget God's generosity, you proudly tell yourself that what you have is what you've achieved. When you forget his generosity, you take credit for what only his blessings could produce. When you forget his generosity, you name yourself as righteous and deserving, and you live an entitled and demanding life.

When you forget God's generosity and think you're deserving, you find it very easy to withhold generosity from others. Proudly, you think that you're getting what you deserve and that they are, too. Your proud heart is not tender, so it's not easily moved by the sorry plight of others. You forget that you are more like than unlike your needy brother or sister, failing to acknowledge that neither of you stands before God as deserving.

...ill you remember to remember the generosity of God? Remembrance produces upward worship, inward humility, and outward generosity. Give thanks, be humble, and be generous, because the blessings you receive from the Lord are not what you deserve.

God bless

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How has God been generous to you [this year]? List at least 10 examples.
2. Look at your list. Which of those 10 examples are you tempted to take personal credit for? Why does God deserve all the credit?

3. How have you been arrogant and self-righteous about blessings when you should be humble and grateful?
4. How have you failed to extend generosity to others [this year]?
5. How can you be generous to others as an expression of your humble gratitude for the undeserved blessings you have received as a result of the generosity of God?