

January 16th, Untethering Your Past
Part 3 in the series ‘New Beginnings’

What were some things from last Sunday’s message that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

READ Philippians 3:12–14 (NLT)

12 I don’t mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. **13** No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, **14** I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

Why do you think Paul put a focus on forgetting the past?

Why wouldn’t God want us to live in the past?

READ Genesis 3:8-13

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. **9** But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

10 He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

11 And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

12 The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Why do you think Adam and Eve hid from God?

Why do you think they shifted the blame?

Why do you think God wanted them to tell Him what they did? Wouldn’t He already know everything that happened?

READ Psalm 32:3-5 (NLT)

“When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer

heat... Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the Lord." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone."

What do you make of the physical toll on David's body that came from hiding his guilt from God?

What do you think was stopping David from confessing his sin to God?

What's the one thing Pastor Jim said we have to do to keep our past mistakes, failures and sins from smuggling themselves into our present and future?

A: Own your past: until you own it, it will own you.

How can confessing the brokenness in our past renew our minds? (Romans 12:2)

READ 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

"Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

READ Lamentations 3:22–24

The faithful love of the Lord never ceases! His mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning. Each day I say to myself, "The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!"

What would you say Jesus wants us to do with the pains of our past and what would you say is his response?