

# Rehearse the Facts

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Now that the holidays are over, many of us lift our eyes to the next year ahead of us. Reflective, wistful at times, feeling both sadness and joy, prayerfully thanking God for what has been and what He would have for us next. Requests made, concerns shared, fears laid at His feet, we praise God ahead of time for what 2016 holds; trusting His promise that He will never leave us nor forsake us.

In preparation for this transition, the words of Paul the apostle stood out for me as I read them early on a crisp Sunday morning. "Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand." (I Corinthians 15:1 NIV) Paul goes on to outline the most important things chronologically that God has provided. The prophet Isaiah speaks a similar theme in chapter 25, listing all the victories God has performed for the children of Israel.

Tearfully, I realized the truth of what each of these men were promoting. We must remember what God has done. Not just on the cross but in each of our lives each year since the day we have chosen Him. With shorter days, little sunshine, troubled families, lost loved ones, job challenges, and relational conflicts, it is no wonder many lose sight of who God is and where our hope comes from. Rehearsing the facts sounds easy but it does take some determination on our part. It is not a one-time event but something we may need on a regular basis. Here are some ideas:

- Audio/video tape or write a chronological list of what took place that you chose God as Savior
- Write down the relationships and circumstances in which God has come through for you
- Note the ways in which it seemed God disappointed you yet gave you promises to keep you going strong.
- Post these promises where you can see them and add to them as the year progresses

Being so on and off myself with tasks such as these, I realize the commitment this takes. Believe His Word. When weak, turn to those you trust for help. Paul knew the power of remembering, rehearsing the facts of God's behavior. It is to this end we begin this year.

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." (I Corinthians 15:58 NIV)

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