

Deuteronomy 8:1

Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers.

If how you live today, would determine what your past would look like tomorrow, then what do you want your past to look like? Now go and live it today.

A very profound statement that I believe that the Lord gave me. But think about what it says, because we are so focused on our distant past, that we forget that we have a current past. What do I mean? Well I have been a Christian for over 40 years now, and my life before I became a Christian was chasing after women and partying and reading and watching things I shouldn't have been, wasting money, undependable, as well as my mouth was extremely foul.

Yet people who have only known me, say for the last 5 years, did not know that side of me. And yes it's true that it's all part of my testimony of what God brought me out of, but if you think about it, people are looking at your current past, not your distant past. They are looking how you handle things at work, how you treat your family and finances, how you claim to be a Christian and if your actions match your words by the things you have done and are doing.

Do you go to church on Sunday, but live like, and talk like the world the other six days a week? Do you bad mouth your spouse or even your coworkers and boss? Do you waste your money on useless things and then complain how you can't pay your rent or your bills because you blew all your money on junk and you can't (or wont) tithe?

Think about this. As soon as people meet you, do they think, "*I bet that he or she is a Christian*" simply by how you live and talk Monday through Saturday away from the church crowd? Do they hear your words that are praising your spouse, coworkers and boss, even if your boss is a jerk (in your eyes)? Do they never hear you complain about money because you know better than to waste God's blessing on junk, and you use it for what it was intended for, to pay rent and bills and put food on the table, tithe and to help those in need, and yes, He does give you over and above so you can enjoy a treat for yourself once in a while.

Recently I listened to a teaching that pastor Chuck Swindoll gave to a group of graduating seminary students. And at the end of his teaching, he gave them a list of 15 things that he has learned over his lifetime that he conveyed to them. One of them was:

"Things I'm not even aware of, are being noticed and remembered."

How many little things do you say and do, not even thinking about them, because they are a part of who you are, and others are seeing and taking notice of them?

People may not know you for your distant past, but they all know you for your current past.

So, what are you showing them?

- † **Psalm 64:5 (NLT2)** *They encourage each other to do evil and plan how to set their traps in secret. “Who will ever notice?” they ask.*
- † **1 Corinthians 6:11** *And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*
- † **Matthew 5:16** *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*