

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.

How you live today will determine what your past will look like tomorrow.
What do you want your past to look like? Then go and live it today.

A very profound statement I believe the Lord gave me. But think about what it says. We are so focused on our way past that we forget that we have a current past.
What do I mean? Well I have been a Christian for over 35 years now. My life before I became a Christian was chasing after women and partying and reading and watching things I shouldn't have been. And also my mouth was extremely foul. Yet people who have only known me say for the last 10 or 15 years, did not know that side of me, sure 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.

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 money on useless things and then complain how you can't pay your rent or bills because you blew all your money on junk?

Or as soon as people meet you, think, I bet 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 praising your spouse, coworkers and boss, even if he or she is a jerk?
Do they never hear you complain about money because you know better than to waste God's blessing on junk and use it for what it was intended for, to pay rent and bills and put food on the table, tithe and 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 Charles Swindoll gave to a group of graduating seminary students. And at the end he spoke a list to them of 15 things he learned over life that he conveyed to them. One of them was "Things I'm not even aware of are being noticed and remembered."

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

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

† **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.*