

Count Your Blessings

"These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever."

Joshua 4:7 (NIV)

"Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far the Lord has helped us.'"

1 Samuel 7:12 (NIV)

In 1 Samuel 7:12 we have Samuel making a memorial with stone to celebrate the fact the Lord had helped them in a time of trouble. He called the stone memorial "Ebenezer". That word means "stone of help".

So we see in certain situations in the Old Testament that the Lord was honoured with a visible monument that was to be a reminder every time they saw it that the Lord is our helper.

About 30 years ago a dying man I was helping gave me his coin collection to sell and use the money to help me financially. The man did not know that my bank account was empty and I had end of the month bills to pay.

I took the collection to a

person who sold coins to collectors and he appraised the collection and gave me a cheque in payment. The proceeds of that collection covered all of my bills with some left over.

I kept 3 Canadian silver dollars from the collection. I kept one for myself and gave one to each of my two sons. I explained to my young sons how we received a gift and it covered all of our expenses just in time. Then I asked each son to keep the coin in its presentation case and every time they saw it they were to remember how the Lord helped us in a time of need. I explained to them that we need Ebenezers to encourage us in our difficult moments in life.

Today you should look back on your walk with

the Lord and look for memorials celebrating times when the Lord rescued you from some difficulty you could not resolve on your own. If you can find some visible reminder, like the silver dollars I had, set it somewhere prominent so you will see it often. Each time you look at it you will be blessed and strengthened by recalling the gracious hand of the Lord in your life.

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