



Pastor Scott Velain

Christian Amnesia

Have you ever been on a journey, just cruising down the road, and everything seems just fine, and it almost seems like life is on autopilot until you look up... and see a sign that you shouldn't see?

I remember one time my wife and my younger daughter and I were on a road trip up to Michigan to see one of our older daughters who was finishing up college and on her way to becoming a doctor several years ago. And of course, Michigan is right above Ohio, which is the state that we live in. And we were just cruising right along without a worry in the world until we looked up and saw this great big sign that said "Indiana"!

Needless to say... we were not going to Indiana. We were going to Michigan. Now fortunately I think we were only about 50 miles off or so if I remember correctly, but nevertheless you can imagine how shocked I was when I saw that great big Indiana state sign passing by as we drove right into Indiana.

At the very next turnoff we turned around and we went back towards Ohio and found our exit that led us up into Michigan and everything was just fine after a very frantic 45 minutes or so. But I got to tell you, it was really easy to miss that exit. We were all talking and we had our minds on other things and because we weren't paying attention... no one caught the exit that we were supposed to get off on and am thoroughly convinced that if that Indiana sign had not been as big as it was... we may very well have gone on to Illinois!

That's what happens when you allow life to steal your attention... and things could have been a whole lot worse than that, but thankfully, once again we had prayed before going on that road trip, and it just so happened that we did indeed catch the Indiana State sign, which alerted us to the fact that we were headed in the wrong direction.

Now that may sound like a funny story at the onset... but I tell you the truth my friends, life is much like that. Life is full of all kinds of twists and bends, and hair pin turns that often times catch us off guard, and especially we Christians.

The world is full of professing Christians, but true God fearing, cross bearing, Messiah following Christians are not so easy to find. And the reason that they're not so easy to find is because you don't find them in places where you would often find those who are not so serious about their faith.

True God fearing, cross bearing, Messiah following Christians are careful to guard their eye's and their ears from wicked things. True Christians, know that you tend to become what you associate with. True Christians won't be yoked together with unbelievers for a reason. Not only is it not safe for them to be yoked together with an unbeliever, but they are commanded not to be.

As modern-day Christians we go through great lengths to protect ourselves and to protect our children. We not only read the Bible, but we study it continuously. We always keep the seventh day Sabbath of our Father holy, and we not only keep his feast days, but we do all that we can to teach others to keep them as well. We wear blue cords on the corners of our hips to remind us of his commands. We pray before our meals, and before we lay our heads down on our pillows at night. We do all that we can to keep the Shema of God found in Deuteronomy chapter 6 and yet... somehow... some way... from time to time, life has a way of getting away from us and we seem to forget who we are.

Life has a way of taking a turn that is so drastic, and that seems so important, and so earth shattering, that it can often times cause a Christian to have amnesia.

Now, that may seem like a rather ridiculous statement first... but I assure you my friends that it happens every day. I can assure you that every single solitary day, somewhere in the world there is a Christian who has just come down with amnesia.

Amnesia is usually caused from a traumatic experience or a hit on the head, and it causes its victim to forget who they are for a period of time. Some people's memory come back, and others never do. Amnesia is a very serious problem not only for the medical industry, but also for the Christian community.

Now I know that there are a lot of Christians out there thinking, "I'm never going to get amnesia, what is this guy talking about?" But I assure you my friends that everybody within the sound of my voice has experienced Christian amnesia. During my trip to Michigan I forgot where I was going because I wasn't paying attention. We've all experienced at one point in time in our lives or another, when we've caught ourselves doing something that we had no business doing. At some point in time in our lives, we've all done something, or said something that is completely out of character for who we truly are. At some point in time we've all forgotten where we were going in life.

I'd like to read you a story about a man by the name of "King David" (you might've heard of him). It's written in the Scripture that King David was a man after God's own heart. King David was loved by our Father in heaven so much... that our Father in heaven decided to mold his only begotten son from the very body of David. Our Father in heaven loved David so much that he promised David that he would establish his throne forever. Let's turn to second Samuel chapter 7 versus 12 through 16:

2Sa 7:12 *When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.*

2Sa 7:13 *He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*

2Sa 7:14 *I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men,*

2Sa 7:15 *but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.*

2Sa 7:16 *And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”*

Now the reason that I'm bringing this up is because I want us to completely know and understand how much David was loved by Yahovah. I don't want there to be any doubt in our minds about how much our Father in heaven loved his servant David. And yet... I'd like to read you the story of one of the most famous men on earth that ever had amnesia. Just four verses down in second Samuel we find a very troubling story about a very troubled King who virtually forgot... who he was. Let's turn to second Samuel chapter 11 is one through five:

2Sa 11:1 *In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.*

2Sa 11:2 *It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful.*

2Sa 11:3 *And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, “Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?”*

2Sa 11:4 *So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house.*

2Sa 11:5 *And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, “I am pregnant.”*

Here within the pages of second Samuel chapter 11, we have a clear case of Christian amnesia. As you probably already know, things just get worse from here. David not only committed adultery with Bathsheba, but he also had her husband Uriah murdered so that he could take his wife from him. This my friends, is a classic case of King David not remembering who he was.

How long do you suppose it took for David to forget who he was? How long do you suppose it took for David to go from a good godly man, to a wretched adulterous murderer? From the moment that David caught a glimpse of Bathsheba in the corner of his eye, how long do you

suppose it took David to go from good to evil? I would submit to you my friends that it took less than a split second... less than a twinkle of an eye... and the Devil had him.

Remember I told you just a few minutes ago that life has a way of taking a turn that is so drastic, and that seems so important, and so earth shattering, that it can often times cause a Christian to have amnesia? Just how fast do you think that can happen? Just how long do you think it would take for anyone of us to go from a good godly person to a wretched sinner?

You see for David everything was going just fine. Israel had never been bigger, or stronger. Wealth was pouring into the kingdom, things seemed to almost be on auto pilot... and then... as we're told in 2nd Samuel chapter 11 verse 2... "It happened... late one afternoon." David fell.

I want us to understand that this was no small fall for David. David was in a very lofty place. David was the King of the house of Israel. David was loved by God. David was a hero of the people. David was well known by everyone. There was no way that what David had done could be hidden from either God or man. Which brings us to our next frightening question.

If David... who walked with God, who talked with God, who was loved by God, who had everything that a man could ever want could so easily forget who he was... what chance do I have? How can we ever be expected to stay the course, and to stay on that narrow path, or to endure to the end when even David himself couldn't do it, a man after God's own heart? We'll talk about that as we move forward but stay with me.

Life is a funny thing, it can change on a dime. Right now you're listening to this seventh day Sabbath message. But in a blink of an eye, if the phone began to ring and someone on the other end of that line told you that your son or that your daughter, or that your mother or your father, or someone very close to you just died... life would change on a dime.

Life is unpredictable. You never know what it's going to throw at you. We have no way of knowing what life is going to bring tomorrow. We don't even know if we're even going to be alive tomorrow. We walk each and every day on a thread called "life".

As Christians we value our faith. The Bible tells us that we are to love God with all of our hearts and with all of our souls and with all of our strength. We're told to keep these words on our hearts. We're told to teach these things diligently to our children, and to talk of them when we sit in our houses and when we walk by the way and when we lie down and when we rise.

We're told to bind these things as a sign on our hands and that they shall be as frontlets between our eyes. We're told to write them on the door posts of our houses and on our Gates. But what happens when life happens? What happens when it all comes tumbling down like a house of cards? What happens when we find out that we have cancer? What happens when we actually do get to hear how many days we have left? It's like dropping a monkey wrench into a transmission case full of gears. It's like somebody throwing a rock into a pond that so calm that

it looks like a mirror. Chaos ensues.

We've all been there, we've all seen it happen, we all know what it feels like, and we all know that there's nothing we can do to stop it. Chaos will surely come, and what it does many of us will have at least a momentary relapse of amnesia.

Have you ever woken up in the morning just feeling good? You just have that sense of love, and peace, and joy in your heart, and the day is starting out to be a perfect day... You start out with a nice cup of coffee, the suns shining and it's a beautiful day. The car starts right up, and you turn the radio on, and you start singing...until you get to work.

You walk in the door and there stands the boss ready to read you the riot act because someone forgot to put paper in the copier. Jim didn't show up today so you have to work over. Barb just spilled coffee all down the front of herself, and you. Tom's got leave early to go take his kids to the dentist. Becky came in this morning smelling like a brewery, management wants you to fire her before the days out.

Life changes on a dime. The devil knows exactly what buttons to push and what levers to pull in order to take your mind off of who you are as a Christian. He knows how to get you to forget who you are. He knows how to take your mind off the Torah, and how to put your mind on the things of this world. He's an old pro at what he does, he's been doing it for thousands of years. The buttons and the levers that he pushes and pulls behind the scenes are the exact same buttons and levers that he pushed and pulled thousands of years ago, even in David's time. Nothing has changed. Human nature will always be the same generation, after generation, after generation.

How did David avoid the trap that the devil set for him with Bathsheba? How did David overcome being an adulterous murderer? How was it that Satan lost that hand in the first place? David overcame the wickedness that was in his heart by keeping the law of God by faith, and not by his works.

You see David knew that Yah did not want sacrifices of animals. What Yah truly wanted was the sacrifice of a humble spirit, and of a humble heart. The sacrifice of animals was put in place to teach man how to have a humble spirit, and a humble heart. David was far from a perfect man. David had caught the Devil's amnesia and he had forgotten who he was for a time, but David knew how to repent, David knew how to humble himself before his Father in Heaven. David knew what the rest of the House of Israel did not know, and that was how to keep the law by faith, and not by works.

I want us to notice the words of David after his fall with Bathsheba. We can find those words in Psalms 51:

Psa 51:1 To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. Have mercy on me, O God,

according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Psa 51:2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

Psa 51:3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Psa 51:4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

Psa 51:5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Psa 51:6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

Psa 51:7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Psa 51:8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

Psa 51:9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Psa 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Psa 51:11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Psa 51:12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Psa 51:13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

Psa 51:14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

Psa 51:15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

Psa 51:16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

Psa 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Psa 51:18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;

Psa 51:19 then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

You see David was smart enough to know and understand what Yahovah his Father truly wanted. Because David was close to Yha's heart... he knew what he had to do. David knew that he had done wrong, and he makes no argument about it. David turns to Yah and begs for his mercy, according to his steadfast love.

David knows that only Yah can wash the sin from his bones. Only Yah can cleans him from the filth and the stench of his sin. David tells Yah that he knows that he has done evil in his sight, and he knows that he was born into sin through conception.

David knows that only Yah can fix what is broken within him. David begs Yah to hid his face from his sins, and to blot out all of his iniquities, and to create a clean heart in him, and to renew a right spirit within him. David begs Yah to remove the amnesia from him, that caused him to forget who he was and David begs Yah not to take his Ruach Hakodesh away from him, and to restore to him the joy of his salvation.

Now my friends I'd like to remind you that we're reading the "Old Testament" here, not the New. And I want you to notice the words that David is using. Words like "salvation" and "Ruach Hakodesh", and "contrite heart". All of these things are found in the New Testament my friends. David knew how to keep the law by faith, and not by works, which meant that when you broke Yah's law you confessed it and repented of it. David knew that the law could not forgive him of his sins. The penalty of the law was upon him and the only one that could remove that penalty of the law was the one that put the penalty of the law in place...Yahovah himself... and David was smart enough to know and to understand that.

David had always kept the law of Yahovah, and when he broke that law through carelessness, David knew full well what the penalty of the law was. The penalty for adultery was death according to the Torah but David also knew that Yah would rather have mercy than punishment. David was taken away by the moment. Sudden amnesia had caused David to forget who he was. David was sifted by the wicked one, but Yah forgave him because of his heart... it's always been about the heart. David did not come before Yah just to be forgiven... David came before Yah to be made new. David came before Yah to get a new Spirit, a right Spirit. He came before Yah with a promise of other followers because of Yah's mercy and his grace. Where sin abounds.... Grace abounds more!

Notice in Verse 16 David says and I quote "you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You will not be pleased with a burnt offering." In verse 17 David says "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, and a broken and contrite heart".

This is what Yahshua came to preach and teach. These things that David already knew and understood are exactly what Yahshua (his offspring) came to teach us! David was far advanced in his understanding of Yahovah and this is why Yahovah loved David so much. David bowed down and chastened after Yah's heart, not just to be forgiven... but because it hurt David to know that he had hurt his Father by sinning against him. He knew Yah's heart was broken and because it was, so too was David's heart, and because Yah searches the hearts and minds of men... he knew that David's heart was truly broken because of the sin that he had committed.

Is there any wonder why Yah chose David's offspring to be the Messiah, that would come and teach the world who Yahovah truly is and what he truly wants from us? Yahovah knows that we are children. He knows we're going to make mistakes. He knows we're going to fall and bloody our knees and elbows from time to time, but if we love him... truly love him with all of our heart, mind and strength... he will indeed move the penalty of the law out of the way for those

who belong to him.

David knew how to keep the law by faith. We must always remember that faith is synonymous with love. Yah told Israel that if they would humble themselves and if they would turn and seek his face and that he would forgive their sin and heal their land. Yah has always been ready to forgive the sin of those who truly love him. The early Israelites simply did not understand how to keep the law by love. The early Israelites were keeping the law by works, thinking that it was all about obeying the law so that you could earn your way into heaven. Yah never tells us that we can earn our way into heaven anywhere in the 66 books of the Bible. It has always been about our faith and our love for Yah that causes that chain reaction of grace and mercy to flow from him.

If the early Israelites would have kept the law through love and faith (which is what faith is by the way) they would have attained the righteousness that the law was intended to give them. Let's turn to the book of Romans chapter 9 verses 30 through 33:

Rom 9:30 What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith;

Rom 9:31 but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law.

Rom 9:32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone,

Rom 9:33 as it is written, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

You see this is what David already knew. David was way ahead of his time when it came to understanding the things of Yahovah his Father. David understood his Father, and the reason that he understood him is because he truly loved him. The similarities between David and his offspring Yeshua should be striking to us. They really are almost like the same person. They both certainly had the same spirit.

Everything that we read in Psalms chapter 51 was taught to us by Yeshua 1100 years after David teaches these very same things to us in his time in about 1100 BC. And yet people will continuously wrongly proclaim that the Torah has been disconnected from the Brit Hadasha. Nothing could be farther from the truth my friends.

We as modern-day Christians need to be aware of the fact that this life is going to get us from time to time. This life has been manufactured to get us. This life has been manufactured to trip us up. This life has been manufactured to steal our attention away from what's really important.

You know there's an old Tim McGraw song out there called "I wish you could live like you were dying." Not long ago there was a documentary that I watched where they had interviewed

people with stage 4 cancer who knew that they were going to be dead in about four months. It was a heart wrenching documentary to get through knowing that each and every one of these people had passed away four months after their interview.

But what was striking to me, was what they all said was important. Not one of them said their house was important, or that their belongings were important, or that anything that they had earned or bought monetarily was important. Each and every single solitary one of them said that even by the grace of God if they were to be healed instantaneously... none of them would want to give up the knowledge that they had gained through knowing that they were going to die.

Think about that for just a moment. One of them even said that if they had to trade the knowledge that they have now in order to be healed... they would not trade what they know now even to be healed. Why? Because they had been given the truth. And to them, it was more precious than all the gold in California.

It always came back to love, life, and the pursuit of happiness which never really has anything to do with material things. My friends I've seen people dirt poor who live in huts with dirt floors singing and dancing and laughing, with their children outside playing and enjoying life to the fullest, and I've seen rich Hollywood actors with all the material garbage and money that you could possibly want... hang themselves in their closets.

When we as Christians realize that life has caused us to have a moment of amnesia... all we need to do is to call on the name of Yahovah and his only begotten son. Our Messiah said that he would not leave us as orphans and because he said that he would not leave us as orphans, I know that he will not leave us as orphans.

My friends when you're driving down the road and you hit a huge pothole, and that pothole rips that steering wheel out of your hand and forces the wheel in another direction... do you just let the vehicle go where it wants... or do you grab that wheel back and jerk it back on the road?

My friends if I catch myself in a moment of amnesia all I have to do is remember that it is written that the Lord is a refuge for the oppressed and a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who seek Yahovah lack no good thing. Isaiah chapter 26 versus three and four tell us that those of us steadfast in mind, you keep in peace because they trust in you. Trust in Yahovah forever for in Yahovah you have an everlasting rock.

As modern-day Christians we must always remember that it is Yahovah that goes before us. He will be with us, and he will not fail or forsake us. We have no reason to fear or to be dismayed. I'd like us to read some red-letter words from our Messiah that come from the book of Luke chapter 12 verses 22 through 40:

Luk 12:22 And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on.

Luk 12:23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.

Luk 12:24 Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!

Luk 12:25 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?

Luk 12:26 If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest?

Luk 12:27 Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Luk 12:28 But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith!

Luk 12:29 And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried.

Luk 12:30 For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them.

Luk 12:31 Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

Luk 12:32 "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Luk 12:33 Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys.

Luk 12:34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Luk 12:35 "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning,

Luk 12:36 and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.

Luk 12:37 Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.

Luk 12:38 If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants!

Luk 12:39 But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into.

Luk 12:40 You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

My friends... when we begin to worry about our sustenance, and when we begin to worry about

what clothes we'll wear on our backs, or how we'll provide for our families, we must remember that Yahovah already knows these things. He knows what we need before we need it.

When we have amnesia... and we forget who we are, and the power that we've been given because we have been grafted into the body of our Messiah... we need to go back and remember who we are. We need to remember the promises that have been made to us. We need to remember what we have repented from and why. And above all... we need to stay vigilant. We need to stay sober minded. We need to be as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves. We need to be the light on the Hill, and the salt of the earth that we were created to be.

This spirit of amnesia that causes us to forget the power that we have been given and the office that we hold needs to be nailed to the cross. If anything needs to be nailed to the cross... it's this worldly amnesia that needs to be nailed to the cross.

Psalms 145 versus 18 and 19 says that the Yahovah is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him, and he hears their cry and he saves them. First Peter chapter 5 verse seven tells us to cast all of our anxiety on him because he cares for us. My friends our Father in heaven did not give us a spirit of timidity to make us timid. He gave us a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline the keyword here being "self-disciplined".

The more we keep him in our mind, and in our hearts the less amnesia we will have. The more places that we take them with us, the more times we talk about him, the more time we spend contemplating him... the less amnesia we will have.

The more we do his will, the more we keep his commandments, the more we keep his sabbaths and his appointments and his precepts... the more time that we take to literally stop, and smell the roses... the less amnesia we will have.

In the end I pray that our Father in heaven would protect us from the amnesia of the world. I pray that he would bind us together with chains and that he would strengthen us and perfect our armor and prepare us for the battle that is to come. Until we take that last breath, and finally step through that veil into the other side... let us always remember... at the end of the matter when all is been heard... fear Yahovah and keep his commandments, for this... is the whole duty of man.

And if you will do that... We... will walk arm in arm and shoulder to shoulder through the Gates of his soon coming kingdom together.

