

In 2 Peter chapter 1 Paul gives us an exhortation to apply all diligence to: add to our faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. ... "For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his former sins." (2 Pet 1:5-7, 9) There is a danger in forgetting the great things that God has done for us. When we do forget, Paul likens it to being blind or short-sighted.

In Luke 7 Jesus tells Simon, a Pharisee, a parable of Two Debtors. Jesus shares about two men who were so graciously forgiven their debts; one a great debt and one a small debt. Simon correctly states that the one who the moneylender forgave more will love him more. Jesus then tells Simon in verse 47, "he who is forgiven little, loves little." When we forget how great a debt we owed and have been forgiven then our love for the Lord and others will be lacking.

Another danger that I have experienced in forgetting the mercy and grace God has shown us is becoming unmerciful towards others, especially those who have sinned against us or are struggling with sin. In Matthew 18 Jesus tells a parable about a king who wanted to settle accounts with two slaves. The first owed a large amount and when he pleaded with the king for patience in repaying him, the king felt compassion and forgave him the debt. In turn, when a fellow slave owed the first slave a small amount he was unwilling to show mercy towards him. In verse 32-33 that king said, "You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you entreated me. Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, even as I had mercy on You?" When we forget how much we have been forgiven by our heavenly Father we can end up becoming unmerciful and unwilling to forgive others who have done us wrong or who are sinning.

David says, "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits; Who pardons all your iniquities; Who heals all your diseases; Who redeems your life from the pit; Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion." (Psa 103:2-4) When we remember the goodness of God towards us and how He has saved us from the pit of destruction, our hearts and minds are full of His love and mercy.

God desires us to become partakers of His divine nature and to be a fragrance and reflection of His Son, Jesus Christ. I have been seeing more clearly of late that His nature is revealed in this statement, "The LORD is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness." (Psa 103:10) Sometimes, I need to "go and learn what this means: "I desire compassion/mercy and not sacrifice." (Matt 9:13)

God's love and grace is so great to those who are willing to humble themselves and come to Him for help. "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." Truly, "He has not dealt with us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness towards those who fear Him." (Psa 103:12, 11)

I believe when we receive a revelation of God's glory/character and our desperate need for His mercy, we will have His mercy and grace flowing from our own hearts towards other people.