



EVERYTHING NEW AGAIN

October 2014

So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 MSG

It seems like everyone is complaining about poor memory, and none more than those who have mental health problems requiring medications. And when you're aging, other losses also enter the mix. The problems could be quite depressing.

How wonderful it would be to be like the student in this photograph—bright and focused, taking in everything he's being taught . . . and remembering. Everything new.

In an old journal from six years ago I wrote about how I'd been reading *The Secret Message* by Brian McLaren for the second time. "And I don't remember reading it the

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first time.” I wrote. “And Carol (not her real name) who had lent it to me said I had been all excited about it the first time! . . . and I don’t remember the first time! That’s scary!” And now, in 2014 . . . I’m reading the same book for the third time . . . Everything new again.

I wonder, though, if there might be some good things about having a bad memory. For one thing, you don’t need to buy as many books. Having everything always new can be a good thing ☺

But maybe, in trying to look on the bright side, I’m being too optimistic about this. We should try to ward off the onset of memory loss if we can, by exercising our brain. There are games we can play, reading is good, and I’ve seen online tutoring on how to memorize Bible verses. We need to do what we can.

If we’re to build on our knowledge and understanding, we need to remember the things we’ve learned. Forgetting things we’ve read may mean that we’re not growing as much as we could intellectually. However, I believe that although our minds might not be working as well as we’d like, there’s nothing to stop our hearts from growing as we read, listen to sermons, and study our Bible.

Yes, we’re experiencing losses—memory probably being only one of them. But listen to what the apostle Paul said: “. . . *we’re not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace.*”

This Scripture is an invitation from God not to lose heart. Our memory problems and other losses are only for now. Compared to the future life we have with Jesus they are as nothing. God is making us new inside, preparing us for our life with Him. Not a day goes by without His unfolding grace.

“These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us.”

Think of your heart and how God’s love can make it grow despite losses connected to illness or aging. Consider how, through you, God’s love could flow into the lives of others. When you think about that, your problems should become quite bearable.

With God’s help, we could make every day new again.

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