

Milestones of Faith 1 Samuel 7:12

It is necessary for us to take time to pause and remember God's faithfulness in our lives.

Context for 1 Samuel 7:12

Ebenezer. Stone of help

I. Liminal Space

II. Three Milestone Postures

"Defining moments rewire our understanding of ourselves or the world. In a few seconds or minutes, we realize something that might influence our lives for decades."

—Heath, Chip; Heath, Dan. *The Power of Moments: Why Certain Experiences Have Extraordinary Impact* (p. 13). Simon & Schuster. Kindle Edition.

A. Looking Up

"Remember that as followers of Jesus we don't gauge our success by results but by faithfulness to Jesus Christ and His remarkably different kingdom."

— Glenn Packiam, *Discover the Mystery of Faith: How Worship Shapes Believing*

"We need not fear that in seeking God only we may narrow our lives or restrict the motions of our expanding hearts. The opposite is true. We can well afford to make God our all, to concentrate, to sacrifice the many for the One."

Tozer, Aiden Wilson; Tozer, A. W.. *The Pursuit of God* (Updated, Annotated) (p. 10). Aneko Press. Kindle Edition.

B. Looking Back

"The time is ripe for looking back over the day, the week, the year, and trying to figure out where we have come from and where we are going to, for sifting through the things we have done and the things we have left undone for a clue to who we are and who, for better or worse, we are becoming. But again and again we avoid the long thoughts... We cling to the present out of wariness of the past. And why not, after all? We get confused. We need such escape as we can find. But there is a deeper need yet, I think, and that is the need—not all the time, surely, but from time to time—to enter that still room within us all where the past lives on as a part of the present, where the dead are alive again, where we are most alive ourselves to turnings and to where our journeys have brought us. The name of the room is Remember—the room where with patience, with charity, with quietness of heart, we remember consciously to remember the lives we have lived."

— Frederick Buechner, *A Room Called Remember: Uncollected Pieces*

C. Looking Forward

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal

glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” 2 Corinthians 4: 16-18

Annual Examen
Based on the *Ignatian Prayer of Examen*

Looking Back

- What gave me the most joy this year?
- What gave me the least joy?

- When did I most sense God?
- When did I least sense God?

- What am I most thankful for?
- What am I least thankful for?
- What is important to God about my year?

Looking Forward

- As I look ahead, to the coming months what comes to mind?
- Where do I sense that God is leading me in the coming months?
- With what spirit do I want to enter the next few months, next year?

Ask for God's presence and grace for this spirit as you enter the next year.