

FORGET AND MOVE ON

An elderly native American sat daily on the front porch of a western resort. Everyone called him Chief Forgetmenot because of his incredible memory; he never forgot a thing. A tourist tested him with the question, "Chief, what did you have for breakfast one year ago today?" "Eggs," replied the chief without hesitation, and the tourist was impressed. Later, the tourist decided that question was too easy, so when he visited the resort the next year, he determined to pose a more difficult question. When he saw the old man in his chair on the porch, he addressed him, "How, Chief," and the chief immediately replied, "Scrambled."

Sometimes we are like Chief Forgetmenot when it comes to sins we have committed, wrongs others have done to us or bad things that have happened to us. Such memories prevent us from moving forward to a better, happier life. They mire us down in shame and failure, animosity and anger, self-pity and bitterness. God wants to relieve us of guilt so we can forget about the sins we have committed and wrongs we have suffered. He wants us to be able to move on when some painful event happens to us that we feel we did not deserve. Scripture says, "*...Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*" Through repentance and forgiveness, Jesus makes it possible for us to learn our lessons from our sins and deal with them properly. Then it is up to us to refuse to let such things continue to determine who we are or to characterize our relationships with others or our outlook on life so that we can move forward and become the people Christ wants us to be.

A prayer from Psalms asks, "*Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!*"

God's prophet promised his people, "*I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.*" Bad things will happen, to us and by us. Christ enables us to forget and move ahead and live abundantly in him.

Philippians 3:13–14, Psalms 25:7, Isaiah 43:25, John 10:10