

WISE WORDS are like DEEP WATERS; wisdom flows from the wise like a...

# Bubbling Brook

Ministries

Proverbs 18:4

## RIPPLES

<b>BIBLES GIFTED</b>	<b>648</b>
<b>BOOKS GIFTED</b>	<b>572</b>
<b>DISCIPLING VISITS</b>	<b>963</b>

Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them and are established in the truth which is held firmly in your grasp.  
2 Peter 1:12 AMP

## BUBBLES

"I received my Bible and I love it. Thank you so much, its a wonderful thing what you do for people who don't have or unable to get access to learning about the Word of God. I appreciate this so much and its such a beautiful Bible."

"May God continue to bless Bubbling Brook. The Lord is using it as a vessel to spread His word and inspire people to seek Him."



## Examples

He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. Matthew 28:6 NASB

Just as He said.

I marvel at this particular phrase of the resurrection account in Matthew, because this Easter morning, as I sit reflecting on the mighty and awesome work of God at Calvary and the Empty Tomb, it came with a summation to something I've been contemplating for the last month.

I love all of the gospels, especially the portions concerning the certain victory of our Risen Lord. However, it is in Matthew where I see a particularly beautiful-to-me side of God's awesome character: His patience with and compassion toward the doubting, unbelieving, and forgetfulness of our sin-touched human nature.

In March, I was studying my way through Mark and, repeatedly, as I walked through Christ's miracles with the disciples, I kept asking them, "Why would you doubt?" For example, in Mark 8 we find the account of Jesus' feeding of the 4,000 (the second time He took impossibly minimal supplies and multiplied them to provide sustenance to the thousands of men, women, and children that left their jobs, homes and

communities to hear Him teach). In verse 4, the disciples ask, from my seat, such an utterly ridiculous question. "Where will anyone be able to find enough bread here in this isolated place to feed these people?" In the peace of my early morning quiet time, I found myself shouting, "Seriously!" Back up to Mark 6. Jesus had just fed even more than the number that were hungry before Him in chapter 8. The disciples observed Him sit down and proceed to break a few loaves and fish again and again and again. They then personally collected 12 baskets full of leftovers after every person (more likely over 15,000 people if we include the women and children) was satisfied. On top of that, they had just watched Him walk on water (v. 45-52) and heal probably hundreds, maybe even thousands, of people (v. 53-56). These were just three of the many miracles they'd witnessed while living and traveling with Him. So why in Mark 8 would they have asked such a (to me) stupid question?

What could have made it so difficult for them to remember, to anticipate future miracles, and to have faith and trust that problems they were sure to continue to encounter would be handled by Him? Would I, had I been there, have

shown such weak faith? Bold thought, right? It reeked of pride and Holy Spirit convicted me. Then, He whispered to me, and I was humbled. I recognized my own humanity and the wealth of knowledge that I have which they didn't at the time. Even so, there is just no way that I, in my 2022 toddling state of spiritual growth, possibly possess more faith than the disciples who literally walked, ate, slept and spoke with Jesus Christ in the flesh. It's not a matter of faith the level or amount of faith a person has. I think this particular matter resonates with me so deeply because I've experienced it myself. I've had moments where I honestly found myself asking what could possibly rescue a given situation, moments where I too have failed to remember the truly miraculous that He has arranged in my life. And when I recognized how forgetful and faithless I was being, I became genuinely frustrated by my own lack. It's a part of the Christian walk that you've probably heard about in church or Bible study, maybe experienced (as I have on several occasions) and glossed over without really contemplating the implications. Mark Batterson calls it spiritual amnesia. I think that's probably quite perfect. We literally don't remember His great works.

I've found that it's a theme throughout the book (and, if we look at the big picture of the entirety of the Bible, it's literally everywhere - the children of Israel post-Egyptian exodus are perfect examples). In Mark 9, Peter, James, and John personally witness Christ's transfiguration. They saw, with their own eyes, Elijah and Moses (if you don't know, both of them were thousands of years dead at that point) meet with Jesus on that Mount. They heard, with their own ears, the voice of the Heavenly Father resonating around and through them. Over and over again, Jesus' disciples witnessed the miraculous. And yet, over and over again, they forgot what they'd seen, their faith wavered and unbelief crept in.

Even on the day that Jesus was resurrected, the angels that were at the tomb when Mary Magdalene and others arrived, had to reiterate what Jesus had promised (Mark 16:7). "Just as he said." **They needed to be reminded.**

I've learned through this issue that the reason why the disciples seemed to constantly forget the miracles of Christ, the reason why we forget the good and great and glorious things we've seen God do in our lives and the lives of those around us, isn't the point. Sin has affected each and every human being born from Adam and Eve, and it's the reason why we forget. But sin has been forever forgiven, and the penalty for it forever paid. The bigger lesson here is that there's a reason for the constant reiterations in the Word of human flaws with regard to faith and belief. God, in His

perfect wisdom and unfathomable compassion, knew that we, in our imperfect, sin-infected and finite state of being, would need to be reminded continually that He will do what He says He is going to do. He frequently responds to our unbelief with confirmation of His grace. After all, it is not because of sin that people go to hell. Jesus paid for ALL sin for ALL people when he died on the cross. No, it's because of unbelief that people find themselves in the deepest, darkest pit, separated from God forever. And it's because of unbelief, and its implications, that we need to see the examples of faith that is time and time again wavering, repenting, forgiven and rejuvenated. We need to see the examples of those that have messed it all up in really just the worst ways possible be brought through the loving arms of His forgiveness and then fashioned into miracle-facilitating spearheads of the Gospel message. We need to be reminded over and over again that we are chosen, that we have been forgiven, that we, even as we face the trials of our life, stumble and in our marred-by-sin messes get off course, are still His unconditionally loved children, still going to be welcomed back into His loving arms, and still be used by Him to show others His grace.

The examples are there in the Word for you and me as we endeavor to work out our salvation (Phil. 2:12) and radiate the light that is the grace of God. They're here in my life. They're there in yours. The purpose? For others to see, know, and believe! 🌀

**So then, my dear ones, just as you have always obeyed [my instructions with enthusiasm], not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence, continue to work out your salvation [that is, cultivate it, bring it to full effect, actively pursue spiritual maturity] with awe-inspired fear and trembling [using serious caution and critical self-evaluation to avoid anything that might offend God or discredit the name of Christ].**  
Philippians 2:12 AMP

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **OUR PHONE NUMBER HAS CHANGED: (888) 580-7701**

**We are blessing Beloveds in 4 states and 22 locations, now including Mineral County Jail in Superior, MT!**

**It is always an honor to receive your artwork—send in your pieces with permission to use, and it may be published in an upcoming newsletter!**

#### **Please note:**

- **We supply only one Bible per person.**
- **We ship Bibles 2x/month, on or about the 15th and last day.**
- **We are no longer providing devotional books.**
- **Remember: an annual reading plan can be found on the inside cover of every Bible we ship.**
- **If you have recently been transferred to a State prison, remember to send a letter requesting our services, so that you can continue receiving our monthly devo packets!**


## GIVING


Glorify God with all your wealth, honoring him with your firstfruits, with every increase that comes to you. Proverbs 3:9

*All giving is wrapped in love!*

## CONNECT WITH US

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