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## Luke 9:57–62 (NKJV)

57 Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, “Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.”

58 And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”

59 Then He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.”



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60 Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.”

61 And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.”

62 But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”



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- The third man also volunteered, but he could not follow Christ because he was looking back instead of ahead.
- There is nothing wrong with a loving farewell (*1 Kings 19:19–21*), but if it gets in the way of obedience, it becomes sin.
- Jesus saw that this man's heart was not wholly with Him, but that he would be plowing and looking back.
- You will be moving forward, but always looking back wishing you were somewhere else.



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- Satchel Paige and his Good Rule for Living “Don’t look back, something may be gaining on you”
- The Bible also calls for not looking back.
- Looking back Hinders Forward Progress in the things God has for you now.
- Looking back may be making you depressed.
- Looking back may be bringing you defeat.



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# Don't Look Back At Sins That Have Been Forgiven

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God guarantees forgiveness of all sins.



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# Don't Look Back At Sins That Have Been Forgiven

## 1 John 1:7–9 (NKJV)

7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



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# Don't Look Back At Sins That Have Been Forgiven

**2** God really does put our sins away.

## Psalm 103:10–12 (NKJV)

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities.

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;

12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.



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# Don't Look Back At Sins That Have Been Forgiven

## 3

Perhaps you believe this for others, but not for yourself, but God has put away all sin, even the ones you consider to be the most serious.



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# Don't Look Back At Defeats That Get You Down

**1** All people have some defeats in their past. Only those who never attempt anything are free from past defeats.

## Psalm 37:23–24 (NKJV)

23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way.

24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.



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# Don't Look Back At Defeats That Get You Down

**2** God lifts up those who fall; therefore, don't allow failing to make you feel you are a failure.



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# Don't Look Back At The Past & See It Better Than It Was

**Ecclesiastes 7:10** (NKJV) Do not say, “Why were the former days better than these?” For you do not inquire wisely concerning this.

**Ecclesiastes 7:10** (NLT) Don't long for “the good old days.” This is not wise.

**Ecclesiastes 7:10** (The Message) Don't always be asking, “Where are the good old days?” Wise folks don't ask questions like that.



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# Don't Look Back At The Past & See It Better Than It Was

**1** Israel kept looking back to Egypt lying to themselves.

## Numbers 11:18–20 (NKJV)

18 Then you shall say to the people, ‘Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wept in the hearing of the LORD, saying, “Who will give us meat to eat? For it was well with us in Egypt.” Therefore the LORD will give you meat, and you shall eat.



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# Don't Look Back At The Past & See It Better Than It Was

19 You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days,  
20 but for a whole month, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you have despised the LORD who is among you, and have wept before Him, saying, “Why did we ever come up out of Egypt?” ’ ”



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# Don't Look Back At The Past & See It Better Than It Was

## Ecclesiastes 7:10 (NKJV)

Do not say, “Why were the former days better than these?” For you do not inquire wisely concerning this.

**2** Distance lends enchantment and Nostalgia is never quite honest.



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# Don't Look Back At The Past & See It Better Than It Was

**3** Vance Havner: “The present is never as good as it used to be”.

- We should remember a great future beats a great past every time.



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# Don't Look Back At The Past & See It Better Than It Was

## Genesis 12:1–3 (NKJV)

1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you.

2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”



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# Don't Look Back At Old Conflicts That Make You Bitter

Forget the past and get on with profitable living.

## 1 Peter 2:1–2 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,

2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,



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**Fear**LESS

# Don't Look Back At Old Conflicts That Make You Bitter

**1** If you rehearse old conflicts the hurt returns and continues to rehash old wounds you cannot grow from.

**2** Even those forgiven will become dangerous again if you keep going over them.



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**Fear**LESS

# Don't Look Back At Old Conflicts That Make You Bitter

**3** If you rehearse old conflicts the hurt returns and continues to rehash old wounds you cannot grow from.

## Genesis 13:14–15 (NKJV)

14 And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: “Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward;

15 for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.



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# Don't Look Back At Old Conflicts That Make You Bitter

**1** If you rehearse old conflicts the hurt returns and continues to rehash old wounds you cannot grow from.

## Psalm 7:9 (NKJV)

Oh, let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, But establish the just; For the righteous God tests the hearts and minds.



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# Don't Look Back At Old Conflicts That Make You Bitter

- God needs to know your mind is clear of malice and hatred of the past!
- Abraham had to rescue Lot from Sodom! God will test your heart.



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# Don't Look Back At Old Conflicts That Make You Bitter

**2** Even those forgiven will become dangerous again if you keep going over them.

## Philippians 4:8–9 (NKJV)

8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.



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# Don't Look Back At Old Conflicts That Make You Bitter

9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

- You have to think about good things!



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# Don't Look Back At Old Victories That May Cause You To Think You Have Arrived

## Philippians 3:13–14 (NKJV)

13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,  
14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.



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# Don't Look Back At Old Victories That May Cause You To Think You Have Arrived

- Here is the primary message of the passage don't get hung up on your past accomplishments. Many of us get caught up on our laurels.



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# We Don't Look Back... Look To Jesus!

- Look up! Look to Jesus.

## Hebrews 12:1–2 (NKJV)

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,



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# We Don't Look Back... Look To Jesus!

2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.



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# We Are To Look Up To Jesus!

- We cannot follow the Lord if we are looking behind us. We need to see where the Lord is leading so we must keep our eyes on Him.
- As we keep our eyes on Him, we leave behind the hurt, disappointments, and past accomplishments so He can do more through us.
- We look Ahead because the best is yet to come!



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