

## Marking the Moments

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## Creating Your Spiritual Monuments

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Spiritual monuments. Touch stones. Tangible testimonies. Whatever you call them, marking God's victories in your life matters! They become your personal faith story, your life's testimony of how God has been faithful to YOU. Plus, when another challenge comes your way, they serve as important reminders of how God *does* have your back and His timing really is perfect.

But be careful! It's all too easy to decide to claim those victories only to get side-tracked and forget to start. Make a simple, practical plan of how to intentionally implement this important tool. That way, your spiritual arsenal will grow! You will notice both "In" and "Up" ideas are included so you can do something special *with* God and *on behalf* of God.

### Suggestions

- Start a gratitude journal & write about how God showed up for you and what you're grateful for every night before you go to bed. The journal itself becomes a touch stone.
- Create a prayer journal to either write out your prayers, answers to your prayers, or both!
- Create celebration check points. For example, it might at the start, the midpoint and the completion of an intentional action list. Or when you hear that first nudge from God, and then when you act on it. Whatever makes sense to you.
- Try something outside of your comfort zone to connect with God. It could be dancing, singing, or praying out loud. Invite God into the activity and pray about it together afterwards.
- Give God a praise trophy. An example would be when I buried something special out in the desert that only God and I knew about. Make it meaningful.
- Take God out to dinner, or invite Him to a dinner in His honor (whether others know or not).
- Buy an emblem, something tangible that reminds you God is there for you.

- Write out or draw your personal God story, adding something in each time He is faithful to you. Include the dates if that seems helpful. If you've been a believer for a while, go back and add in times from your past where God protected you and guided you forward.
- Take a physical reminder from a place where you've spent special time with God.
- Draw or create an image, sculpture or poem of how you're experiencing God's joy and grace, then display it.
- Add an index card of praises to your scripture collection on ways God has displayed that scripture in your life, both past and present. Or add it on the back of each scripture or scripture topic card. You could also include the dates the scripture was answered.
- Write God a Thank You card. Or start a collection of them.
- Keep a record of your "line in the sand" moments along with details of why you were motivated to draw the line. Add scriptures underneath the date. Then if you struggle, you can be reminded of why that line matters.
- Write an original praise song to the Lord and record it for yourself. Listen to it when you need to be encouraged.
- Write down or draw ways God has used past failure and mistakes for your blessing. Do the same for unanswered prayers that you're now grateful *weren't* answered!
- Create a playlist of praise songs that lift your spirit. Play them when you need encouragement, or when you want to celebrate God.
- Give money to someone you know who is struggling financially.
- Mow your neighbor's lawn or bring them a meal as a thank you to God for providing for you.
- Volunteer in some capacity.
- Visit or write someone who shaped your life spiritually and thank them.
- Start an encouragement folder where you collect encouraging notes, emails, texts and cards you've received.
- List out everything you're grateful for.
- Write an encouraging letter to a missionary or ministry leader you admire and mail it.
- Buy a gift card for someone on behalf of God (but keep it just between the two of you).
- Make a list of 10 ways God has blessed you. Then, pick 2-3 and make them a blessing in someone else's life.
- Take a Jesus break by stopping what you're doing in the afternoon and thinking about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
- Go on a mission trip instead of a vacation.
- Plan a service project in your community and get teenagers involved in it.
- Go to a sporting event for youngsters and buy the losing team something.
- Set up special time to pray and read the Bible for longer than usual.
- Take a personal retreat with God. Make the focus of your time together all about your connection with Him.
- Babysit a friend's kiddo(s) for free.
- Write a list of the things you aren't proud of and then burn them before the Lord, thanking Him for His grace and freedom.
- Buy or create a picture of your favorite Bible verse.
- Make this list your own. Be creative and build your faith story with God consistently!