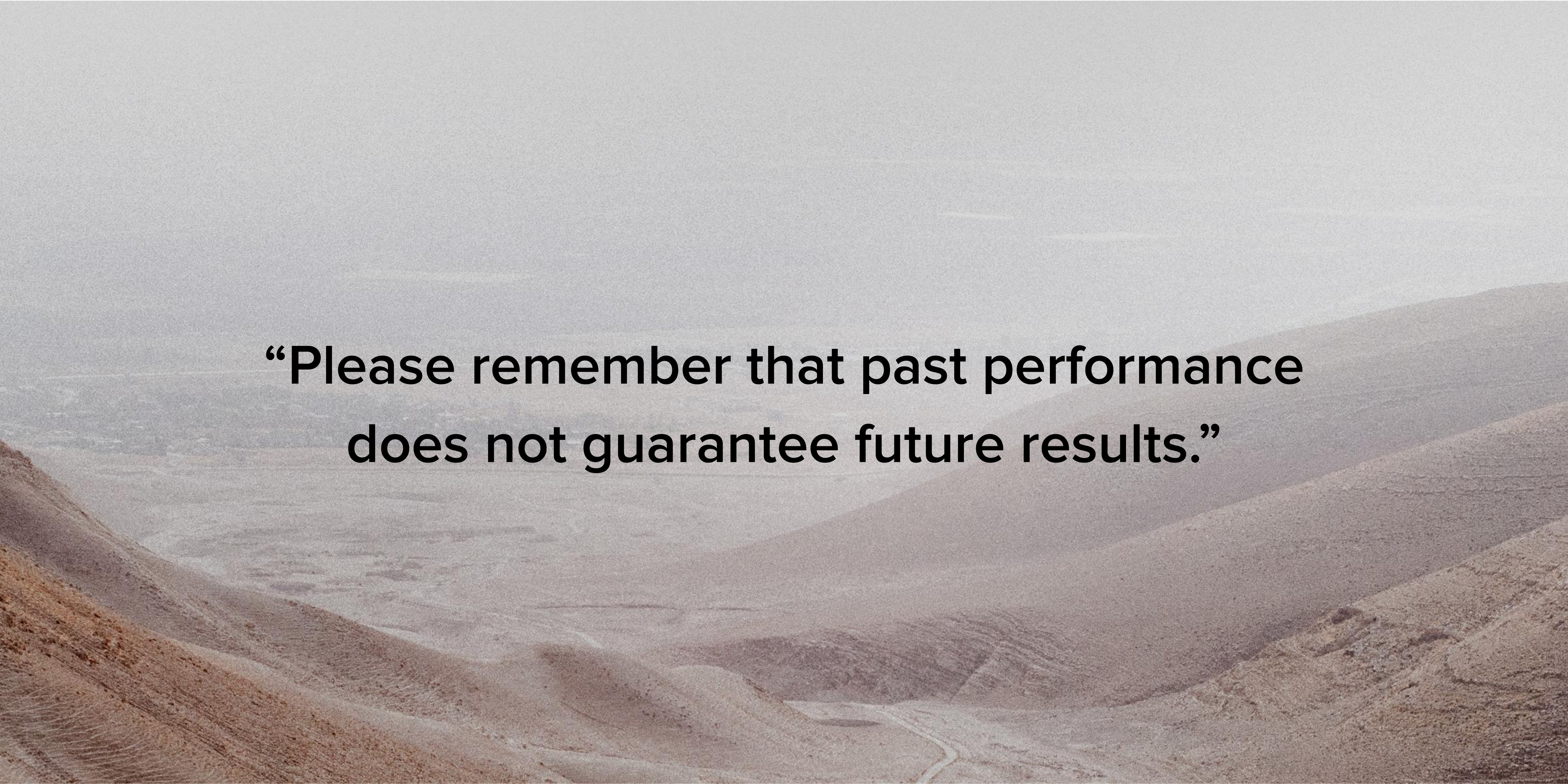




Learning to Remember

JOSHUA 4:1 - 5:12

A vast, hazy desert landscape with rolling sand dunes and a winding road in the distance. The scene is captured in a soft, muted color palette, emphasizing the textures of the sand and the atmospheric perspective of the dunes.

**“Please remember that past performance
does not guarantee future results.”**

The background of the image is a vast, hazy desert landscape. It features rolling sand dunes in shades of brown and tan, stretching towards a distant, misty horizon. A thin, winding road or path is visible in the lower part of the frame, leading the eye into the distance. The overall atmosphere is one of solitude and vastness, with soft, diffused lighting that creates a sense of depth and mystery.

The basic challenge of faith:
How can I know that God can be counted on?

Joshua 4:1-3 NIV

When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, ² “Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, ³ and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight.”

Joshua 4:4-7 NIV

So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, ⁵ and said to them, “Go over before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, ⁶ to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ ⁷ tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.”

Joshua 4:8-9 NIV

So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the LORD had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down.
⁹ Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day.

Joshua 4:10-13 NIV

Now the priests who carried the ark remained standing in the middle of the Jordan until everything the LORD had commanded Joshua was done by the people, just as Moses had directed Joshua. The people hurried over,¹¹ and as soon as all of them had crossed, the ark of the LORD and the priests came to the other side while the people watched.¹² The men of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh crossed over, ready for battle, in front of the Israelites, as Moses had directed them.¹³ About forty thousand armed for battle crossed over before the LORD to the plains of Jericho for war.

A misty, mountainous landscape with a winding road in the foreground. The scene is hazy, with soft, muted colors of brown, tan, and grey. The road curves through the valley, leading the eye into the distance. The mountains are layered, creating a sense of depth. The overall atmosphere is quiet and contemplative.

Joshua 4:14 NIV

That day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel;
and they stood in awe of him all the days of his life, just as
they had stood in awe of Moses.

Joshua 4:15-18 NIV

Then the LORD said to Joshua, ¹⁶ “Command the priests carrying the ark of the covenant law to come up out of the Jordan.” ¹⁷ So Joshua commanded the priests, “Come up out of the Jordan.” ¹⁸ And the priests came up out of the river carrying the ark of the covenant of the LORD. No sooner had they set their feet on the dry ground than the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and ran at flood stage as before.

Joshua 4:19-22 NIV

On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. ²⁰ And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. ²¹ He said to the Israelites, “In the future when your descendants ask their parents, ‘What do these stones mean?’ ²² tell them, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’ ”



Joshua 4:23-24 NIV

“For the LORD your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The LORD your God did to the Jordan what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. ²⁴ He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God.”



Joshua 5:1 NIV

Now when all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the coast heard how the LORD had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until they had crossed over, their hearts melted in fear and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites.

A misty, mountainous landscape with a winding road in the foreground. The scene is hazy, with rolling hills and a narrow path leading into the distance. The colors are muted, with shades of brown, tan, and grey dominating the palette.

Joshua 5:2-3 NIV

At that time the LORD said to Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again.” ³ So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath Haaraloth.



Joshua 5:4-5 NIV

Now this is why he did so: All those who came out of Egypt—all the men of military age—died in the wilderness on the way after leaving Egypt. ⁵ All the people that came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness during the journey from Egypt had not.

Joshua 5:6-8 NIV

The Israelites had moved about in the wilderness forty years until all the men who were of military age when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the LORD. For the LORD had sworn to them that they would not see the land he had solemnly promised their ancestors to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. ⁷ So he raised up their sons in their place, and these were the ones Joshua circumcised. They were still uncircumcised because they had not been circumcised on the way. ⁸ And after the whole nation had been circumcised, they remained where they were in camp until they were healed.



Joshua 5:9 NIV

Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” So the place has been called Gilgal to this day.

Joshua 5:10-12 NIV

On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. ¹¹ The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. ¹² The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate the produce of Canaan.



3 Memorials

Circumcision- Promise to Abraham

Passover- Freedom from Egypt

12 Stones- Crossing the Jordan

A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there are rolling sand dunes with visible wind patterns. A winding road or path leads from the bottom center towards the horizon. The background shows more distant dunes and a hazy, overcast sky. The overall color palette is muted, with various shades of brown, tan, and grey.

The Tendency to Forget


The Obstacle	The Panic	The Deliverance
Slavery Exodus 5	“You... put a sword in their hand to kill us.”	10 Plagues
The Red Sea Exodus 14	“...you brought us to the desert to die?”	Parting the sea
Hunger Exodus 16	“...you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.”	Manna
Thirst Exodus 17	“Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?”	Water from a rock
God’s Glory Exodus 20	“But do not have God speak to us or we will die.”	The Prophet & The Tabernacle
Canaanites Numbers 14	“Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword?”	Wandering

A background image of a vast desert landscape with rolling sand dunes. The dunes are in shades of tan and brown, and the sky is a pale, hazy blue. The overall mood is serene and expansive.

“

What God has done in the past is both a pattern and a promise for what he will do in the future. But he's too creative to do the same thing the same way twice.

- Dr. James Allman

A vast, hazy desert landscape with rolling sand dunes and a winding path in the distance. The scene is captured in a soft, muted color palette, with the sand dunes appearing in shades of light brown and beige. The sky is a pale, hazy blue, and the overall atmosphere is one of quiet solitude and expansive space. The text is overlaid in the center, in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

Faith for our present challenge
comes from remembering God's
past faithfulness.

Psalm 114:1-4 NIV

When Israel came out of Egypt,
Jacob from a people of foreign tongue,
² Judah became God's sanctuary,
Israel his dominion.

³ The sea looked and fled,
the Jordan turned back;
⁴ the mountains leaped like rams,
the hills like lambs.


Psalm 114:5-8 NIV

Why was it, sea, that you fled?

Why, Jordan, did you turn back?

⁶ Why, mountains, did you leap like rams,
you hills, like lambs?

⁷ Tremble, earth, at the presence of the
Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob,
⁸ who turned the rock into a pool,
the hard rock into springs of water.

A vast, hazy desert landscape with rolling sand dunes and a winding path in the distance. The scene is captured in a soft, muted color palette, with the sand dunes in the foreground and middle ground leading the eye towards a distant, hazy horizon. The overall atmosphere is one of solitude and contemplation.

Faith for our present challenge
comes from remembering God's
past faithfulness.