

Thinking Aloud . . .

I think of my Dad often.

When a small airplane flies overhead. When I hear a country gospel song. When I find crumbs on the front of my shirt. When I see a baby and especially when I feel my face forming a big, broad smile.

Of course, I have pictures of him around me. Dad and Mom smile at me from their 50th wedding anniversary in my office. Another on my desk is of Dad wearing a ball cap and one of Dad and me together sits on the ledge.

Remembering him stretches his influence into my life today. I find myself repeating phrases that reflect his faith in God. I find myself responding with his grace and forgiveness. I am likely to stop and pray for someone by name and not just say, “you are in my thoughts and prayers.”

I think I work just as hard as ever, but I feel a little more patience having done what I can to allow the results to rest in the hand of God. I find myself more than ever committed to building people rather than organizations. I still wish I could more often evaluate myself based on who I am than what I have done.

I remember his propensity to love, and determine to act with love toward others myself.

This is David Thomas thinking aloud that the Psalmist says, “*I will remember your deeds, O Lord, I will meditate on your works and consider your mighty deeds*” (77.11). Many times Moses and the apostles call on us to remember the God “*of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.*” We are exhorted to “*remember your Creator*” (Eccl. 12.1) and the things we learned of God (Isa. 46.9); Jeremiah calls us to remember God especially when we are in a distant land (51.50).

Given how our culture has largely forgotten God . . . we need more than ever to stop and remember.

Remembering Dad is not depressing for me. Indeed, quite the opposite. When I remember Dad a smile comes to my face; I gain courage; I refocus my attention; I tend to relax.

This is the very reason for worship on a Sunday: in the midst of stressful circumstances, temptations to compromise, or disorientation in the face of confusion, focusing again on Him fills us with peace, joy, and hope.

And when we remember His love for us, we are empowered to love others all the more.