



Es Ist Lange Her

The German phrase, “es ist lange her” means, “it’s been a long time,” and it is usually followed with the word “that.” It’s been a long time that <or since>... Now, isn’t that a powerful statement? I’d like to ask you this in a question right now, but you need to fill in the part after “that.” “How long has it been that you...? Of course, you’re wondering where this is leading. Well, here’s the point. *God’s Word is so full of promises and hopes and dreams, but all too often we become disconnected from them because of our own priorities.*

For instance, “how long has it



been that you spoke in tongues over 15 minutes in one day,” or “how long has it been that you were truly happy?”

If you find your answers lying somewhere in the past, then it has been too long and you should do something about it. Let’s let the light of God’s Word introduce a new and profound way of thinking and living, starting today!

(Phil 3:13-14) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one

thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, {14} I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

I recently taught this in an Artios Letter, but I find myself wanting to come back to it time and time again. For me, it hasn’t been a long time since thinking about the importance of leaving the past behind and pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. I really want to remember my high calling and all the wonderful things God did for me in Christ Jesus. Don’t you? How long has it been since you thought on

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these things? Do you remember that you were called out?

(Rom 1:6) Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:

To be “called” by God is a most amazing thing! In this crazy world, this highly significant calling is often lost in the mazes of productivity and creativity of mankind. But, we must remember that we were called by God. God shouted out to us in His wonderful and quiet way, asking us to join His family. We answered with a resounding “YES!” Do you remember when you said “yes?” I do. It was such an exciting day. As a child, I was in church and the minister was performing his usual altar call after his teaching. I had seen and heard this a hundred times before, but on that day, something stirred in me and I choose to become born again. Maybe you can tell me your story someday?

Take time to remember that you were called by God and, to this day, are still in His family, something that can never change!

How long as it been that you stopped thinking about your past?

(Eph 2:2-3) Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: {3} Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

I love to propose to others that they stop living in the past and

start living for God today! Most people are literally chained to their past lives, unable to free themselves from all of those stains and things that did them absolutely no good. But God has given us a reason to no longer dwell on the dead and gone past. He has filled us with His spirit and His hope. He really wants us to forget the past. He really wants us to sever the ties with those things that bind, that enslave, and that impede future mental, spiritual and physical development. *Are you tied to your past? Do you feel “stuck” in a rut of nothingness?* God wants you to feel free and flexible enough that you would want to change and grow and experience a newness of life.

(Rom 6:4) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead

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by the glory of the Father,
even so we also should
walk in newness of life.

This means that we need to develop a totally new quality of life. Well, for this to happen, we must make some tough choices. We will need to make some changes. For one, stop thinking about past experiences. They aren't doing you any good, are they? Why bother with them anymore? And for another, start thinking about new experiences that you could be having. For this to happen, you will need to start dreaming again. *Has the world taken the "dream" right out of you?* Do you feel that you can't dream any longer, that your "dream-maker" is dead or dying? Let me be the first to break it to you. It isn't dead, and it isn't dying, but it might be inactive and unused. Start dreaming about what you'd like to do and who you'd like

to become. Surround yourself with people of similar goals and dreams and accomplish them together. Change your quality of life now by changing your "now" dreams.

Do you want to sparkle up your future and leap far away from your past? Try God's Word. Think on these things and tell me that it doesn't make a difference.

(Psa 34:5) They looked
unto him, and were
lightened [radiant]: and their
faces were not ashamed.

If you stop looking at yourself, and start looking unto God to meet your every need, your face will change and start radiating His presence. That's better than any beautician could do for you!

(Psa 32:11) Be glad in the
LORD, and rejoice, ye
righteous: and shout for joy,

all ye that are upright in heart.

If you keep your focus and dreams on the things of God, you will experience a renewed gladness and rejoicing. *You'll become so happy that you will want to shout for joy. And, no, it is not too late!* You can become this way if you choose. Just make the choice and start dreaming about it more.

Let me share a very special Psalm with you, Psalm 126. As you read this, put your name in there; especially in verse one, "when the Lord turned again the captivity of <your name.>

(Psa 126) A Song of degrees.
When the LORD turned
again the captivity of Zion
<your name>, we were like
them that dream. {2} Then
was our mouth filled with
laughter, and our tongue with

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singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them. {3} The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad. {4} Turn again our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the south. {5} They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. {6} He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Look unto God to turn your captivity from whatever it is that is binding you. Become free, maybe for the first time in your life. Become happy with a mouth filled with laughter. Start singing again in your new found freedom. You can become anything you want to become. You can do anything you dream to do. You can accomplish any task set before you. Just let the Lord do great things for you. If

you are truly keen on raising your quality of life, and on dreaming again, you must remember one thing: ***FORGET YOUR PAST now and forever.***

Press forward with the powerful and most awesome things of God.

How long has it been?

Much love in Christ!

Jerry D. Brown