

A sepia-toned photograph of a cluttered antique shop. The shop is filled with various items, including birdhouses, lanterns, metalware, and decorative objects. The items are arranged on shelves, tables, and hanging from the ceiling. The overall atmosphere is one of a well-stocked, somewhat chaotic antique store. The text "Messy Life" is overlaid in the center in a white, serif font.

# Messy Life

Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6 NIV



# Two Ways of Viewing the Past



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The moments I would love to  
*relive*



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Joy  
Peace  
Nostalgia  
Loss and Longing



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The moments I would love to  
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Regret  
Hurt  
Grief  
Anger



<sup>13</sup> No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

Philippians 3:13-14 NLT



<sup>16</sup> So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! <sup>17</sup> This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

2 Corinthians 5:16-17 NLT



The good cannot begin until the bad ends.  
Dr. Henry Cloud

Getting over a painful experience is much like crossing  
monkey bars. You have to let go at some point in order  
to move forward.  
C.S. Lewis.



# Navigating the Past



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- *Challenge* and *reflect* on it.



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- *Entrust* it to *God* - look for signs of God's *grace, presence, and power*.



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- *Challenge* and *reflect* on it.
- *Entrust* it to *God* - look for signs of God's *grace, presence, and power*.
- Build a *resilient faith*.



# Five Potential Mess Makers – Challenging the Past



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## 1. God



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## 1. God

The LORD is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. Psa. 103:8

For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:16-17



# Five Potential Mess Makers – Challenging the Past

1. God
2. *Happiness*



## Five Potential Mess Makers – Challenging the Past

1. God

2. *Happiness*

Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! <sup>2</sup> Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty! Psalm 32:1-2



# Five Potential Mess Makers – Challenging the Past

1. God
2. Happiness
3. *Success*



## Five Potential Mess Makers – Challenging the Past

1. God
2. Happiness
3. *Success*

And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul? Matthew 16:26



# Five Potential Mess Makers – Challenging the Past

1. God
2. Happiness
3. Success
4. *Love*



## Five Potential Mess Makers – Challenging the Past

1. God
2. Happiness
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4. *Love*

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. <sup>6</sup> It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. <sup>7</sup> Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7



# Five Potential Mess Makers – Challenging the Past

1. God
2. Happiness
3. Success
4. Love
5. *Self-Worth*



## Five Potential Mess Makers – Challenging the Past

1. God
2. Happiness
3. Success
4. Love
5. *Self-Worth*

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Eph. 2:10



Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6 NIV



Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

*God* is *greater* than our *past* and the *mess* it *created*!

Philippians 1:6 NIV

