

Scripture Memorization

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Introduction: Scripture Memorization: A Key to a Spiritual Mindset.

- A. What do you think about the most?
 - 1. God should be front and center, the predominate person that occupies our hearts and minds (**Ps. 145:5; Luke 10:27**).
- B. What we think about is often determined by what we allow to influence us.
 - 1. A steady “diet” of worldly influences can, over time, mold and shape our way of thinking (**Rom. 12:2a; Col. 2:8; 1 John 2:15-16**).
- C. To be a spiritual person, you must have a spiritual mindset.
 - 1. To be spiritual, we must think upon that which is spiritual (**Prov 23:7a**).
- D. To transform our way of thinking, we must renew our minds by God’s word (**Rom. 12:2; cf. Eph. 4:23**).
 - 1. We can forget God’s will, so we need constant reminders (**2 Pet. 1:12**).
 - 2. Scripture memorization is an effective way we can transform our way of thinking and keep ourselves in the will of God each day.

I. The Case for Scripture Memorization

- A. Scripture memorization is not for the “chosen few,” but an important spiritual practice for every Christian to consider.
 - 1. Everyone, when done for the right reasons, will be blessed as a result of Scripture memorization (**Ps. 19:7-8**).
 - 2. We are commanded to let our mind dwell on that which is spiritual (**Phil 4:8; Col. 3:16**). *Yet, how can we, if we can’t remember God’s will?*
- B. Scripture memorization is not a mere hobby, but *a way of life* (**Deut. 6:6-9; 11:18-23; cf. Josh. 1:7-8; Mat. 4:4; 2 Pet. 3:18**).
- C. Going beyond Bible study, we must be able to carry God’s word with us *wherever we go* (**Prov. 7:1-3; Ps. 40:8; 119:105**).

II. Why We Should Want to Memorize Scripture.

- A. Reasons for memorizing Scripture we must *avoid*.

Examples: For pride and boasting (**1 Cor. 8:1**); Self-righteous superiority (**Mat 23:5**).

- B. The number one reason is to draw closer to God! (**John 6:44-45**)

III. Some of the Spiritual Blessings from Scripture Memorization.

- A. A transformed mind and a changed heart.
 - 1. We are memorizing the *powerful* word of God! (**Heb. 4:12; Rom. 1:16**)
 - 2. Over time, your mindset *will* be transformed! (**Rom 12:2; Phil. 4:8**).
 - 3. Memory verses can help lift our spirits and keep us strong (**Ps. 119:52**).
 - 4. More and more we will have the mind or attitude of Christ (**Phil. 2:5**).
- B. An increase in our knowledge of God’s will and our obedience (**Col. 1:9-10**).
 - 1. The more Scripture is *placed in your heart* or kept in memory, the better able you will be to fulfill the will of God in your life! (**Prov. 3:1-6**).
 - 2. To walk in wisdom, we carry God’s word in our hearts (**Eph 5:15-17**).
- C. Spiritual speech (**Luke 6:45; Mat. 12:34**)
 - 1. By filling our heart with Scripture we will be more likely to speak what is good (**Ps. 37:30-31**).
- D. Victory over temptation (**Ps. 119:11**).
 - 1. To quote Scripture is to yield a powerful weapon! (**Eph 6:17; 1 Cor 1:18**)

2. Jesus, our example (**1 Pet. 2:21**), quoted Scripture, not vague “general principles” to defeat the devil (**Mat. 4:1-11**).

E. Able to give a ready answer for what you believe and why (**1 Peter 3:15**).

1. How many times have you wanted to explain your beliefs or teach another the will of God but couldn't remember the Scripture?

2. Our knowing Scripture by heart is a great confidence builder in our ability to speak to a world lost in sin (**Ps. 119:46; Col. 4:6; Ps. 51:10-13**).

IV. How to Memorize Scripture Properly.

A. Believe in the Scriptures

1. You are not memorizing mere words of men, but *the powerful word of God!* (**1 Thes. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Heb. 4:12; Rom. 1:16**)

2. Scripture memorization will not benefit you unless you *believe* in what it says (**Heb. 4:2**), unless you believe it is *the truth* (**Ps. 119:160**).

B. Humble yourself and be taught of God (**Ps. 25:9**).

1. Don't just “hear” or memorize Scripture, apply it personally whenever possible with absolute honesty and humility (**Jas 1:22-25; 2 Cor. 13:5**).

C. Memorize one verse or small passage at a time.

1. Don't attempt to memorize a great number of verses all at once.

2. Break the longer verses down into sections (e.g., **Isa. 41:10**).

3. Start with the ones you are more familiar first to provide needed confidence (e.g., **John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; Mark 16:16**).

D. Select a verse or passage you have *already studied*.

1. What blessing will come by memorizing a verse you don't understand?

2. Study the verse first (**2 Tim. 2:15**), *then* proceed to memorize it.

E. Make certain you memorize each verse *word for word*; don't paraphrase!

1. Every “jot and tittle” is important, for it is the inspired word of God! (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**).

F. Prioritize, discipline yourself, and set goals.

1. Resolve to make Scripture memorization a *priority* (**1 Tim. 4:7-8**); it is an activity more profitable to us than many other activities (e.g., TV).

2. Establish discipline, a routine, and plan (e.g., at morning prayer, flash cards, free memory software <http://www.memoryverses.org/smsw.shtml>).

3. Set memory verse goals (e.g., one or two a week, 50-100 a year).

4. Goals motivate us to accomplish more (**Phil. 3:14; 1 Cor. 9:26**).

G. Frequent *repetition* whenever and wherever you can

1. God's word emphasizes the importance of repetition (**1 Thes. 5:16-18**).

2. The more times you repeat the patterns of thought from Scripture, the more successful you will be to place it in your long-term memory.

H. Don't short change your ability to memorize Scripture!

1. We have a greater ability to remember than we realize! (**2 Pet. 3:1-2**)

J. Get started!

1. Change is hard and we are often too busy to make needed adjustments.

2. We make time for what is important to us. We must redeem the time.

Don't put off for tomorrow what could bless you today! (**Ps. 119:60**).

Conclusion: Scripture Memorization is a Great Way to Treasure God's Word in Your Heart! (**Ps. 119:11**)