

Navigator History and the Word

Jerry Bridges

I. Introduction.

II. The Word of God has played a big role in the development of the Navigators.

A. Dawson Trottman, the founder of the Navigators, placed priority on the Word of God in his life.

III. The Navigators have historically emphasized three areas of the Word: memory, application, and sharing.

A. Dawson came to Christ through memorized scripture. The Word of God has power for evangelism. (Romans 10:17)

1. We can get non-Christians to study the Word of God.
2. Bible study and scripture memorization is one of the most sustainable and “staying” ways to evangelize non-believers and grow Christians.
3. The Bible teaches us to memorize scripture so that we can meditate on the Word of God. (Deuteronomy 6:6; Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2; Isaiah 1:18)
 - a) Scripture memory will give you victory in temptation. (Romans 6:12; Isaiah 41:10)

B. The Navigators emphasize the application of scripture to their lives. (Joshua 1:8; James 1:22; John 14:21)

1. The Bible is not given to increase our knowledge, but to guide our conduct.
2. Seeing the character of Jesus in the Bible should change our lives.
3. Dawson applied scripture to his life and claimed its promises for the Navigators. (Isaiah 45:14, 43:2)

C. The Navigators have historically emphasized sharing the scripture.

1. The Navigators believe that it is more important to teach others how to study the bible and memorize scripture than it is to teach them what the Bible says. (2 Timothy 2:2)

Application questions:

1. Why do we memorize scripture?

2. What are some of the promises of God that you find it difficult to remember and find hope in for your life? How can you make claiming those promises over your life a habit?

3. Why might the Navigators emphasize teach people how to study the scriptures over teaching people what scripture says? What are some of the advantages and disadvantages to this approach?
