

Scripture Memory (Workshop)

Why Memorize Scripture?

Have you sometimes hesitated to give a positive witness for Christ simply because you were afraid you would be unable to answer from the Scriptures the questions which might be asked?

"Oh, that you and I might get into the very heart of the Word of God, and get that Word into ourselves! As I have seen the silkworm eat into the leaf, and consume it, so ought we to do with the Word of the Lord-not crawl over its surface, but eat right into it till we have taken it into our inmost parts. It is idle merely to let the eye glance over the words, or to recollect the poetical expressions, or the historic facts; but it is blessed to eat into the very soul of the Bible until, at last, you come to talk in Scriptural language, and your very style is fashioned upon Scripture models, and, what is better still, your spirit is flavored with the words of the Lord." (Charles Surgeon)

Spurgeon also said it would be wonderful if people would say of us: "Why, this man is a living Bible!" Prick him anywhere-his blood is Bibline, the very essence of the Bible flows from him."

In what ways does God's Word apply to us? Just how can the Bible help us personally? Here are a few ways:

1. We are _____ to memorize Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Proverbs 4:20-21
2. God's Word is the means of our _____. I Peter 1:23
3. It provides food for spiritual _____. I Peter 2:2-3
Hunger is the sign of a healthy baby!
4. It is our source of _____. Jeremiah 15:16
5. It is our weapon against _____. Ephesians 6:16-17
Psalms 119:9,11; Matthew 4:4
A sword in the hand is worth ten thousand in the armory!

6. It is the main key to finding the _____ of God. Psalms 40:8
7. It is the means of an effective _____ for Jesus Christ. II Peter 1:16
II Corinthians 10:3-5 LB; Isaiah 55:11
8. It equips us to _____ others. Isaiah 50:4
Contrast with Proverbs 25:20
9. Once the Word is in your heart, you can't run from it! Jeremiah 20:9

How May I Get To Know The Bible?

1. _____ it preached. (Romans 10:17)
2. _____ it for ourselves. (Revelations 1:3)
3. _____ it. (II Timothy 2:15)
4. _____ it. (Psalm 119:9,11)
5. _____ it! (Psalm 1:2,3)

Thousands of people testify that memorizing Scripture pays the greatest dividends, for the time invested, of anything they have ever done. It is the fastest and most effective way to become equipped for instant use of the Word of God.

One of the greatest benefits of Scripture Memory is the impact that the Word of God will have on your heart. In commenting on Colossians 3:16 in his study Bible, John MacArthur says that allowing the Word of Christ to "dwell in you richly" is tantamount to being filled with the Spirit. Consequently, the impact of Scripture Memory is not from being able to quote verses on every possible subject but having the Word become an integral part of your life through meditating upon it carefully with the intent to obey and make application. It is interesting to notice that the Pharisees could quote much Scripture but their problem was application. Some have said that it was a problem of about fifteen inches, that is, the Scriptures were in their heads but not in their hearts! The key to getting the Word from your head to your heart is through meditation with the intent to obey: Psalms 1:2-3; Joshua 1:8; James 1:25 (JB Phillips)

Can I Memorize?

There are Three Secrets to successfully memorizing Scripture:

1. _____!
2. _____!!
3. _____!!!

If you understand from the beginning that memorization is essentially review, the battle is half won!

A verse of Scripture is not fixed in your memory until it has been periodically and regularly reviewed over an extended period.

Scripture Memory will also be a spiritual battle. Satan will see to that! He will do everything in his power to keep you from hiding God's Word in your heart. Remember, God's Word will keep you from sin and sin will keep you from God's Word!

How to begin:

1. Purpose in your heart to do it! Ezra 7:10
2. Establish accountability.
3. Review verses every day for twelve weeks then start a weekly review file, then monthly, then quarterly, etc. Make it a life time discipline! Illustration: 1 verse per week and in one year 52 verses are in your heart! In twenty years....over 1000 verses!
4. Various Scripture Memory tools are available from the Navigators such as *Beginning with Christ*, *Going on With Christ*, and the *Topical Memory System* to name a few. You can also collect verses from Pastor's sermons, Quiet Time, and from other Christians.
5. You can memorize Scripture! Start now and continue for a lifetime!

