

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE

*“The Bible will keep you from sin, or,
sin will keep you from the Bible” D. L. Moody*

*“Memorization of God’s flawless Word is the greatest and most
eternally productive discipline you can embrace” Andrew Davis*

Why Memorize Scripture?

- Memorizing Scripture strengthens your faith because it repeatedly reinforces the truth, often just when you need to hear it again (Colossians 3:16; John 15:7)
- When Scripture is stored in your mind it is available for the Holy Spirit to bring it to your attention when you need it most so you can resist sin and live wisely (Psalm 119:11; Psalm 119:9)
- To meditate on God’s Word (Psalm 1:1-2; Joshua 1:8; Psalm 119:97)
- To renew your mind and transform your thinking (Romans 12:2; Philippians 4:8).
- To find comfort, strength, peace during hardship, and overcome worry (Psalm 119:50; Psalm 94:19; Psalm 119: 92-93; and, Psalm 119:165)
- To provide a means of God’s guidance [Psalm 119:24, 105)
- To pray in alignment with God's will and spiritual truth (1 John 5:14; Ephesians 6:17).
- To encourage, teach, and help others with wisdom (Psalm 119:24; 2 Timothy 3: 14-17; 1 Peter 3:15)
- To guard against false teaching and deception (Hebrews 4:12; 1 John 2:26)
- To counter Satan’s attacks (Ephesians 6:13-18; Matthew 4:1-11)
- To receive blessing and spiritual fruit (Psalm 1: 1-2; Psalm 19:7-8; John 15:7-8; Romans 15:4; Joshua 1:8)
- Because Jesus Himself memorized and quoted Scripture (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10; Luke 4:4).
- Because God commands His Word to be kept in our hearts (Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Deuteronomy 11:18-19; Proverbs 7:1-3).
- Because God’s Word is a gift to us and is priceless (Psalm 12: 6; Psalm 119:127)

Scripture Memory Techniques

- **Speak it out loud:** reading aloud strengthens memory by engaging hearing and speech
- **Pray to Understand its meaning:** pray Psalm 119:18 *"Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things out of Your law."*
- **Write it by hand:** writing activates muscle memory and deepens recall.
 - write them on 3x5 cards and carry them with you to review
- **Chunk the verse:** break verses into short, meaningful phrases - many times the punctuation in the verse does this for you
- **Look for clues in the verse to help you memorize:** like noticing repeated words or first letters
- **Turn it into a song or rhythm:** melody and rhythm make verses stick.
- **Use visual imagery:** picture the verse vividly in your mind. remembering how it looks on your card
- **Attach emotion or prayer:** connect verses to personal needs or prayers. Pray your Bible verses
- **Try reviewing:** before you go to sleep and as you wake up
- **Make sure you memorize the Bible reference:** that goes with the verse

- **Be positive - You can memorize scripture:** "I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me: (Phil 4:13)
- **Read the verse word by word syllable by syllable:** when a verse seems particularly difficult to learn
- **Speak and/or sing:** the verses into a recorder
 - there is a free app for your phone and then you can play verses back to you and even put them on repeat
- **Strive for 100% accuracy**
- **Add movement:** walk, gesture, or pace while reciting
- **Memorize with a friend for accountability:** walk and memorize together
- **Teach it to someone else:** teaching strengthens understanding and recall
- **It you wake in the night:** repeat verses and feed on its spiritual content (Psalm 16:7)
- **Keep verses visible:** place them where you'll see them daily
- **Perseverance is needed:** but it is a joy and a privilege to draw closer to the Lord in this way
- **Write out your verses:** write out your verses – one good way to check that you memorized with complete accuracy is to write them out, and check carefully to see that they are the same
- **You can also sing or say them from memory back into your recorder:** and then check them for accuracy
- **Start with short verses and passages** but then don't be afraid to memorize chapters or even books of the Bible – blessings abound

Final Thoughts

- Do what the Word says: (James 1:22-24)
- The way to learn and remember is to review what you have learned. This means repeating today, what you learned yesterday. It means repeating, repeating, repeating day after day, after day, after day.
- Read the verses you are learning
- Listen to the verses you are learning by saying and or singing them aloud or listening to a recording
- Speak or sing the Bible verses as you put into practice the verses you are learning, by talking about them with others, or meditating on them in your heart
- It's also been said that, "*the best memory aids are the ones you make up yourselves*" Tony Buzan

Remember your ultimate goal in memorizing Scripture: is to become more and more like Jesus

*"Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees,
 then I will keep them to the end.
 Give me understanding and I will keep your law,
 and obey it with all my heart.
 Direct me in the path of your commands,
 for there I find delight.
 Turn my heart toward your statutes
 and not toward selfish gain.
 Turn my eyes away from worthless things,
 preserve my life according to Your Word."*

Psalm 119:33-37