

# Memorize Scripture

HIDING GOD'S WORD IN OUR HEARTS

## THE NEED TO MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE

### ***We have an enemy***

Satan does everything in his power to destroy, discourage, deceive, and decommission as many of God's children as possible. 1 Peter 5:8 says, "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." And Ephesians 6:10-12 says, "<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." We have an enemy that would destroy us if God would let him.

### ***But we have a powerful weapon***

But God tells us how we can face our enemy and "stand strong" in the process. Ephesians 6:13-17 goes on to explain how to "put on the armor of God" and that the only offensive weapon is the "sword of the Spirit." The sword is the Word of God. The Word is the only weapon that we can use *against* Satan. James 4:7 reminds us, "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." When we dive into God's Word and memorize it, the Holy Spirit can use it in the time of need.

### ***Importance of Scripture***

1. The Word is the only offensive weapon against the world, the flesh, and the Devil. (Eph. 6)
2. The Word is the Christians only guidebook, revealing God's will for our lives. (Psalm 119)
3. The Word is the Christians only source of spiritual food. (Matthew 4:4)
4. The Word is the Christian's main tool for ministering and witnessing to others. (2 Tim. 3:15-17)

## WAYS TO TAKE IN THE WORD

There are five ways that we absorb the Word of God: Hearing, reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating. All five ways are commanded and recommended in scripture.

**Hear** - **Matthew 13:9**: "He who has ears, let him hear."

**Read** - **Revelation 1:3**: "Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near."

**Study** - **2 Timothy 2:15**: "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."

**Memorize** - **Psalms 119:11**: "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

**Meditate** - **Joshua 1:8**: "Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."

**We remember: about 15% of what we hear,  
about 30% of what read,  
about 60% of what we study,  
and 100% of what we memorize and meditate on.**

**Knowing this, we can see the importance of *memorizing* scripture.**

**SCRIPTURE SAYS TO MEMORIZE**

**Scripture Memorization is commanded by God. Consider the following verses:**

- Deut. 6:6            These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.
- Job 22:22          Accept instruction from his mouth and lay up his words in your heart.
- Prov. 3:1            My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart,
- Prov. 4:20-21      My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart;
- Prov. 6:21          My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you. Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.

**Scripture memorization is also taught by implication:**

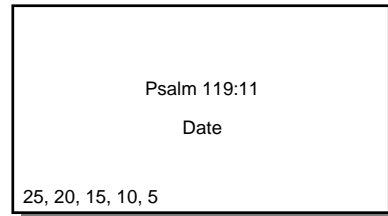
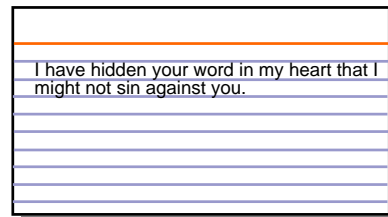
- Joshua 1:8          Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; **meditate on it day and night**, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.
- Psalms 1:2          But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he **meditates day and night**.
- Jeremiah 15:16    When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty.
- Ezekiel 2:3          Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.
- Col. 3:16a          Let the word of Christ **dwelt in you** richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom
- John 15:7           If you remain in me and my words **remain in you**, ask whatever you wish

**Scripture memorization is taught by example:**

- Job            Job 23:12            I have not departed from the commands of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread.
- Israelite    Psalm 119:11       I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.
- Apollos     Acts 18:24           Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures.
- Jesus        Matt. 4:4, 7, 10    Three times Jesus quoted Scripture when being tempted by Satan.

**HOW TO MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE**

1. Make up your mind to do it!
2. Choose your own verses and memorize 1 a day or 1 a week.
3. Use a card system:
  - Write the verse on an index card with the reference.
  - On the back, write the reference and date you started memorizing that verse.
  - On the first day, say the verse out loud from memory as much as possible 25 times, and write "25" on it.
  - The next day, say the verse from memory 20 times and write "20" on the card. Do this for 5 days until done.
  - Review each verse once a week for a month.
  - Review each card every few months after that.



**Resources:**

Danny Lovett, *Jesus Is Awesome*

