

A GUIDE TO
MEMORIZING
SCRIPTURE

THE PURPOSE OF MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE

The purpose of memorizing Scripture is to deposit the dynamic precepts, practices and promises of God's word deep within our hearts unto our lives being transformed by applying its truth. (Read Psalm 119:11.) In memorizing Scripture, we deepen our understanding of the word, will and ways of God, having its commands and concepts as a ready resource that can be accessed and applied moment-by-moment and day-by-day. The ultimate purpose of memorizing Scripture is that it helps us to find the ultimate purpose for our lives, which is living for the glory of God and the good of others. It is in this, that we find life's deepest fulfillment and greatest success.

THE PATTERN OF MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE

When we talk about memorizing Scripture, we are talking about truly knowing the word of God through research, revelation and repetition, not merely knowing the words found in the verses of Scripture by mere rote and routine. Memorization should go hand-in-hand with meditation, as we think and pray thoroughly about what we are reading and studying, always with an eye toward applying the word in loving obedience. (Read Joshua 1:8.) The Scriptures we memorize should be consistent with what the Lord is speaking to us in the season we are in. This has to do with what the Lord is emphasizing to us individually, as well as what He is saying to the church community we are a part of, and the body of Christ at large. What is in His heart and on His lips, should be in our hearts and on our lips as well.

THE PROCESS OF MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE

1 SEE IT

Read the Word: Seeing the word through careful reading and study enables you to understand what the words really mean. Through thorough investigation and interpretation, you are able to truly see what's there in the text and why its truth is well-worth committing to memory. Using a reliable study bible and online study resources are extremely helpful in this part of the process. (Read II Timothy 2:15.)

Write the Word: Writing the word is very helpful in connecting your head, hand and heart. Write the verse or verses you are committing to memory on a journal page, index card, etc. Count the number of words in each line and write the number in the margin as a memory aid. People in the past found this technique helpful, being careful to not write any more than 8 words or less on a line. This way, they could see the line at glance, with the phrase being short enough to keep in your short-term memory.

2 HEAR IT

In the Secret Place: Hearing the Scriptures read on podcasts, CDs and Bible reading apps in the Secret Place is very helpful in the process of memorizing them. Also, listening to Scripture songs (Scripture direct from the text set to music) is a beautiful and effective way to commit God's word to memory. (Read Romans 10:17.)

In the Gathering Place: Hearing the Scriptures read to and by a church congregation in the Gathering Place is both personally edifying and a powerful tool for memorizing Scripture. Scripture songs for kids and adults as well are also an edifying and effective way to get the Word deep into your mind and heart. (Deuteronomy 6:4.)

3 SAY IT

Repeat the Word: Looking at the verse or verses you've written down, say the words and phrases and repeat them over and over again, as you see them and reinforce them with your mind's eye. Pay careful attention to each line, memorizing how many words make up the phrase and the thought.

Restate the Word: In this, you are amplifying more fully what each verse means in order to better assimilate its truth into your attitudes and actions—beliefs and behaviors. This is a big part of what biblical meditation unto transformation and application is all about. (Read Joshua 1:8.)

4 PRAY IT

Declare the Word: Pray into the Scriptures you are memorizing as you declare and describe to God the truth and transformational beauty and power of His word.

Depend on the Word: Pray in faith and total confidence in the precepts and promises of God's word that you have memorized to have power to impact, shape and grow. (Read Acts 4:23-31.)

5 OBEY IT

Acknowledge the Word: As you commit to memory each verse or set of verses, confess your commitment to follow and obey the Scriptures principles and practices thoroughly and completely. (Read James 1:22.)

Apply the Word: Immediately act on the Scriptures you have memorized in loving obedience. This is the end goal and purpose of the word of God—to be believed and to be obeyed. As you read it, hear it, say it and pray it, it all leads to you committing to obey it! (Read Matthew 4:1-11.)