

A GUIDE TO
MEMORIZING
SCRIPTURE

THE PURPOSE OF MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE

Water baptism is one of the first steps of obedience for someone who has put their trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord, Savior and King. (Read Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:37-38.) Water baptism is the outward sign of the inward work of new birth in Jesus through the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit. And while water baptism does not save you, it is the fullest public profession of saving faith in Jesus Christ. It depicts the spiritual reality of identifying with and entering into the death, burial and resurrection of Christ Jesus. (Read Romans 6:3-4; Titus 3:3-6.) If you have been born again, water baptism is one of your primary steps into kingdom fullness. (Read Acts 2:41.)

Perhaps you were baptized in water when you were younger but have come to realize you were not born again at the time. You might wonder then if you should be re-baptized. The answer is no. Instead, you need to be truly and genuinely baptized. Water baptism without new birth is an empty exercise linked to an empty experience. Water baptism following new birth is a real response to a righteous reality. Only after new birth is water baptism a dynamic declaration of devotion to the Savior.

THE PATTERN OF MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE

Water baptism is meant to be a Christian community event that should take place within the context of a local church that one is committed to. Water baptism is a rite of fully embracing and entering the family of God and the Body of Christ. As one follower of Jesus baptizes another, there is a witness to saving faith and a welcome into kingdom fellowship, where the one who has believed now belongs to the people of God. If you need to be baptized in water, find a pastor or leader and ask when the earliest opportunity to be baptized would be.

Water baptism is one of three main rites of the Church, which also includes the regular partaking of communion, or the Lord's Supper (which celebrates the Lord's body and blood broken and offered to all) and the laying on of hands (which serves to confer blessing, share authority and impart spiritual power). (Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Mark 16:18; Hebrews 6:2; Acts 19:5.) The pattern of water baptism consists of a declaration of faith and devotion to Jesus, being fully immersed in water by a designated minister as a sign of identifying with and entering into the death and burial of Christ, and coming up out of the water identifying with and entering into the resurrection of Christ and new spiritual life in Him.

THE PROCESS OF MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE

1 STEP #1: SEE IT

- **READ THE WORD** | Seeing the Word through careful reading and study enables you to understand what the words in each verse 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 2 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 eight words or less per line. This way, you can see the line at a glance, with the phrase being short enough to keep in your short-term memory.

2 STEP #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. (Read Deuteronomy 6:4.)

3 STEP #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 using additional words and phrases to describe the existing text in order to amplify more fully what each verse means. This will help you 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 STEP #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 as you put 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 STEP #4: 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, this all leads to you committing to obey it. (Read Matthew 4:1-11.)