

Becoming a Memorizing Leader

Detailed Outline
Part 2 of 2

IV. Suggestions for the Discipline of Memorizing Scripture

A. Keep in mind, memorization is simply a vehicle. The goal is meditation. Meditation happens while we are working on memorizing Scripture.

B. Take it with you when you go.

1. Deuteronomy 6:7 speaks about keeping the Word of God in our hearts and teaching it to our children, when we sit in the house, walk in the way, rise up, and lie down.
2. Jews wore phylacteries on their foreheads and wrists, little leather boxes containing portions of Scripture, symbolic of keeping the Word of God close.
3. I find index cards are handy and can be found in any office supply store.
4. Handwrite the verse on the card or use a computer.
5. Find a Bible app for your smartphone.

C. Select appropriate Scripture.

1. Topical memorization has the advantage of relevance to current interests. These are inherently easier to retain and use.
2. We have included in our notes for this lesson suggestions of ministries that provide topical lists for memorization.
3. But, overall, one of the best practices is memorizing extended passages/Bible books.
 - a. That may seem impossible to you or the realm of those with photographic memory.
 - b. That is what I used to think. But I have been able to do it with a number of the books of the Bible. And if I can do it, so can you. I started with smaller books.
 - c. I have a number of stacks of index cards I've printed from my computer of 1 Peter, 2 Peter, Galatians, and other NT books.

D. Review passages until you can remember them by heart. Don't give up.

1. It is the constant reviewing process and trying to recite it back to yourself that is the trick.
2. It's not a competition to see how much you can memorize. In fact, it is the process that you are after. Remember, memorization is simply a means to meditation.
3. I have found through the exercise of memorization, I am in reality meditating on Scripture. As I roll the verses over and over in my mind, trying to get them right, I find myself scrutinizing details and noticing things I have never seen before.
4. The old illustration is that of a cow chewing its cud—keep reviewing it over and over.

5. Eventually, you don't need the cards or the phone app; you are reviewing it simply from memory, and you can now do that as you drive your car (normally idle mind time), lying in bed trying to sleep, standing in line.

E. Set up accountability.

1. For many it can be helpful to do this with a partner, and at regular times recite your verses together.
2. But, at the heart of it all, you need an inner conviction to do it.

V. Road Blocks to Overcome

I have some barriers that hinder my efforts, and I have to continually overcome them. You may relate to some of these:

A. I'm too old.

1. This is all the more reason to work the memory muscle. We all know our home addresses through constant use. We can learn Scripture by memory through constant use.
2. Is your memory fading, or you worry about the possibility of Alzheimer's disease? All the more reason to make the Word of God among the last memories to go.
3. Research shows that mental stimulus and mental exercise can delay memory loss.

B. It requires too much discipline.

One of the qualifications for elders is self-control.

C. No time to fit in memorization.

You have lots of idle time during the day: driving, standing in line, lying in bed at night.

D. I forget what I memorize after a while.

That will happen. Review is the key to retention. But even if you forget, the process is still beneficial because you have been meditating on God's Word. It has become part of your life. If after a while you can no longer quote it by memory, you will still remember the sense of the verse and where to find it. You add it to the index of your memory into Scripture.

E. Sounds like a lot of work.

1. Begin small, with one verse. It is like lifting weights: start light and work your way up.
2. Remember, the goal is not to compete with others but to enrich your soul! To know God!

VI. Conclusion

A. I would encourage you to take on this discipline as you grow in shepherding God's people.

B. On our Biblical Eldership website are some sample verses for getting started.

- C. Also you will see links to resources to help you further develop in this area.**
- D. I invite you to begin the great spiritually enriching, ministry-enhancing, memory-strengthening discipline of memorizing and meditating on the Word of God.**