

Day 4 – Memorizing God’s Word

Memorizing God’s Word is hard. Most of us don’t like doing it. (Neither do I, most of the time.) Most of us probably don’t do it. (Neither do I, most of the time.) However, there is tremendous value in memorizing God’s Word. Imagine if someone offered you \$1000 dollars for every verse you memorized. Even if it was only \$10, most of us would eagerly start memorizing as we realized the vast amount of money that could be earned. Yet, there is no financial reward that compares to the value of God’s Word.

When we treasure God’s Word by storing it in our minds, “it is available for the Holy Spirit to bring to [our] attention when [we] need it most” (Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines*, 39). That’s why memorizing God’s Word is not just for kids, and having digital Bibles with us all the time does not make it unnecessary.

Read *Psalms 119:11*.

Why does the psalmist store God’s Word in his heart? *(so he will not sin against God)*

How does memorizing God’s Word strengthen our faith and keep us from sinning?
(the Spirit uses it and brings it to mind)

Read *Proverbs 22:17-19*.

Why does this proverb say we should keep the wisdom and truth of Scripture within us and have it ready on our lips? *(that your trust may be in the Lord; in other words, to strengthen your faith)*

There are many reasons we should memorize God’s Word. It strengthens our faith, as Proverbs tells us; it prepares us to witness to and counsel others rightly; it provides guidance and keeps us from sin; and, it provides us with troves of joyous truths on which to focus our minds (Psalm 119 is full of these joyous meditations on God’s Word).

“But I can’t memorize. I have a bad memory.” No, you don’t. If you remember your birthday, phone number, address, and the names of friends and family, then you can memorize Scripture. We simply have to discipline ourselves to do it.

How do we get started? There are tons of ways; take your pick. Write them on index cards; use an app on your phone; write, listen, repeat back. The important thing is to do it (whatever method works best for you). When you start, be sure to memorize each verse perfectly (no getting the “main idea”), keep yourself accountable (through reminders or a partner), and review daily (or you’ll lose most of it over time).

Ready to get to work disciplining yourself to memorize God's Word? Choose a verse to memorize this week. Use the passages you've been reading and studying this week (Colossians 1:13-14 would be a great place to start). Go around the room, each reading it (in the same translation). Depending on your family size, you may hear it up to seven times! After hearing it that many times, you'll be surprised how close you are already to having it memorized and hidden in your heart for the Holy Spirit to use in your life.

Close your time of family worship in a time of prayer, asking God to help you as you begin (or continue) storing his Word in your heart and mind.