

Got Bible (in your heart) For That? - The Implications of Biblical Authority
The Lost Art of Scripture Memorization
March 22, 2015

1. Biblical Evidence

1.1. The Scriptures have many commands to know the words of God:

- Moses- Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (*The Shema*)
- The Psalms - Psalm 1:1-3; 37:31; 40:8 119:9, 11, 16
- Paul - Colossians 3:16
- Peter - 1 Peter 3:15

1.2. Biblical Examples

- Jesus- Matt 4:4,7,10; 5:27; 15:7-9
- Peter - Acts 2:17
- Steven - Acts 7
- Paul - Acts 23:5

2. Grace Based Motivation

- 2.1. Memorizing Scripture does not make you a Christian. - Matthew 4:1-11
- 2.2. Memorizing Scripture does not make God love you more. - Ephesians 2:4-9
- 2.3. Memorizing Scripture is an act of obedience and love for God. - Psalm 119:11
- 2.4. Memorizing Scripture should be a result of the grace of God in your life. - Ephesians 2
- 2.5. Memorizing Scripture is of GREAT value! - 1 Timothy 4:6-16

3. Practical Means

3.1. Read the Bible

3.2. Music

- Biblical based Songs and Hymns - Colossians 3:16
- Glory Revealed and Glory Revealed II

3.3. Apps

- Fighter Verses - Desiring God - \$2.99

3.4. Note Card Box

- New/Learning Verses - 5 days a week
- Memorized Verses - 1 day a week

3.5. First Letter on Hand - Deuteronomy 6:8

3.6. Memorize Together

- Memorize with your family, small group, ABF for accountability and encouragement.

4. Where Do I start?

- 4.1. Every verse of Scripture is a good verse to memorize. - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- 4.2. Some verse will be more helpful and easier to learn. - Genealogy vs Epistle
- 4.3. Start with verses you already know or kind of know. - John 3:16, Genesis 1:1
- 4.4. Look for the verses you have underlined in your Bible.
- 4.5. Memorize the Old and New Testament.
- 4.6. Memorize IN CONTEXT! - Ex. Phil 4:13, Jer 29:11
- 4.7. Memorize large sections of Scripture.
- 4.8. Memorize verses with specific application for you.
- 4.9. Memorize from the Psalms to help with the highs and lows of life. - Psalm 34:18

4.10. Memorize verses about the gospel to help you share your faith.

- John 3:16; Romans 3:20-25, 6:23, 10:9,13

4.11. Topical Memory System - aka The Nav Packs¹

- Living the New Life
- Proclaiming Christ
- Reliance on God's resources
- Being Christ Disciples
- Growth in Christlikeness

5. Words of Caution

5.1. Do not go too big too soon. This is a marathon, not a sprint.

5.2. Scripture memory can become all about technique, competition, repetition without understanding and life change, and departs from what God wishes for us.

5.3. If you experience success in this discipline, watch out for pride.

5.4. If you experience failure in this discipline, watch out for despair.

6. Do you bleed Bible?

6.1. Charles Spurgeon commenting on John Bunyan:

Oh, that you and I might get into the very heart of the Word of God, and get that Word into ourselves! As I have seen the silkworm eat into the leaf, and consume it, so ought we to do with the Word of the Lord—not crawl over its surface, but eat right into it till we have taken it into our inmost parts. It is idle merely to let the eye glance over the words, or to recollect the poetical expressions, or the historic facts; but it is blessed to eat into the very soul of the Bible until, at last, you come to talk in Scriptural language, and your very style is fashioned upon Scripture models, and, what is better still, your spirit is flavored with the words of the Lord.

I would quote John Bunyan as an instance of what I mean. Read anything of his, and you will see that it is almost like the reading the Bible itself. He had read it till his very soul was saturated with Scripture; and, though his writings are charmingly full of poetry, yet he cannot give us his Pilgrim's Progress—that sweetest of all prose poems — without continually making us feel and say, "Why, this man is a living Bible!" Prick him anywhere—his blood is Bible, the very essence of the Bible flows from him. He cannot speak without quoting a text, for his very soul is full of the Word of God. I commend his example to you, beloved.²

7. Blog Resources

7.1. <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/five-tips-for-bible-memory>

7.2. <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/why-memorize-scripture>

7.3. <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/memorize-the-mind-of-god>

7.4. <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/ten-reasons-to-memorize-big-chunks-of-the-bible>

¹ More info can be found at: <https://www.navigators.org/Tools/Discipleship%20Resources/Tools/Topical%20Memory%20System>

²"Mr. Spurgeon as a Literary Man," in The Autobiography of Charles H. Spurgeon, Compiled from His Letters, Diaries, and Records by His Wife and Private Secretary, vol. 4, 1878-1892 (Curtis & Jennings, 1900), p. 268.