

## THE WHERE - JOHN 15:7 | PSALMS 119:111 | 2 TIMOTHY 3:16 | COLOSSIANS 3:16

## THE WHAT - ABIDE

Imagine, while on a hike with friends, you stumble across an ancient treasure - filled with a massive amount of gold and diamonds worth many millions (maybe billions) of dollars.

Knowing it was yours for the taking, would you pass it by? Probably not, right? Chances are, you'd fill up your pockets, backpack, and anything else with the capacity to hold as much as you could carry. Once you'd stored away all that you could hold, you'd likely formulate a plan to come back and take the rest of the treasure.

If finding this treasure sounds like a dream come true, then consider this: the Word of God is the treasure of who God is, what He can do, and the message hope for what He will do. The Bible is described as being 'more desirable than gold' and 'sweeter than honey' (Psalm 19:10). Every page of the Bible is filled with eternal truth about the universe and wisdom for every aspect of life.

Unfortunately, many believers leave their 'treasure of spiritual riches' collecting dust on the bookshelf instead of learning it and sowing it deep into their hearts through scripture memorization.

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## THE HOW - ABIDE

I want to encourage you to make the Word of God your foundation. Let it become your supreme treasure. Whether it's memorizing a few short verses, memorizing longer passages, or memorizing complete books - there is no better investment of your time than hiding God's Word in your heart.

Several times in the Bible, God connects his blessing with a *continual meditation* on his Word. Consider **Joshua 1:8** - "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

**What if you adopted a goal of memorizing scripture?** This could be learning one verse a week or one a month. Take your scripture of the week/month and post it on your mirror, in your car, at your desk, on your refrigerator and say it out loud each time you see it. You'll be surprised just how quickly you'll begin to recall it!

## ABIDING DAILY

- **MEDITATE ON THE WORD - WHEN WE READ SCRIPTURE, WE ARE READING THE WORDS OF GOD. BUT IN ORDER TO DEEPEN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM, WE NEED TO MEDITATE ON THE WORDS WE'VE READ.**
- **MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE - USE THE ONES LISTED BELOW TO HELP YOU GET STARTED.**

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

ISAIAH 53:5

1 JOHN 1:9

ACTS 4:12

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

DEUTERONOMY 8:3

PSALMS 73:25-26

MARK 8:35-36

ROMANS 8:31-32

1 PETER 1:13

EZEKIEL 36:26

1 THESSALONIANS 5:9-10

HEBREWS 4:15-16

JOHN 1:1-2

PSALMS 27:4

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

CCC WORSHIP PLAYLIST



SCAN ME

**WE ARE CALLED TO MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE**

*Colossians 3:16* tells us to "let the word of Christ dwell in us richly." *Deuteronomy 6:4-9* tells us to "bind God's law on our foreheads, teach it to our children, talk about it wherever we go, and make it an integral part of our lives." We must know Scripture first before we can teach it or apply it to our lives as God desires. The command to know scripture is not burdensome, but life-giving.

**JESUS MEMORIZED SCRIPTURE**

Jesus, the Word incarnate, knew the written Word and quoted it all the time. He quoted nearly 180 times in the New Testament, 24 different books from the Old Testament. Clearly, Jesus thought of the scriptures as the ultimate authority in life and a way to understand the heart and desires of God.

**IT HELPS US LIVE IN OBEDIENCE**

*Psalms 119:9* says, "How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word." Memorizing and meditating on scripture is a preventative method for avoiding temptation. When God's Word is fresh in your mind, you will more easily avoid temptation.

**IT MAKES US WISE**

The Bible is a book of tremendous wisdom that can have an impact on every area of our life. By memorizing scripture, we are able to have wisdom within us at all times.

**IT HELPS US FIGHT TEMPTATION**

The armor of God in *Ephesians 6* only mentions one offensive weapon: "the sword of the Spirit, which is the *Word of God*." Scripture is a powerful weapon for combating deceitful words and reminding us of God's precious and powerful promises to us. *Matthew 4:1-11* says when the devil tempted Jesus in the wilderness, "Jesus wielded the sword of the Spirit and the devil fled." The Word has power! If you are fighting against a specific sin, hide God's Word in your heart to help you overcome temptation (*Psalms 119:11*).

**IT PREPARES US TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS MORE**

One of Scripture's stated purposes is to encourage and give us hope (*Romans 15:4*). For this reason, Paul exhorts in *1 Thessalonians 4:18* to be ready to encourage other believers with the truth. When we have verses and passages ready, we can more easily build up other believers in the truth.

**BIBLICAL REASONS TO MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE**

**GIVES A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF GOD/HIS WILL**

When we know God's Word and obey it, we are able to experience God on a deeper level while experiencing the freedom that comes only through obedience (*John 8:31-32, 14:21*). The more we know God, the greater we know his will for us. *Romans 12:2* says that when we renew our minds and are transformed, we will be able to "discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

**IT HELPS US TO BE A BETTER WITNESS**

*1 Peter 3:15* says to "always be ready to give a defense for our hope in Christ." We should memorize scripture so we can defend our faith to unbelievers through the salvation message and help them understand their need for a Savior. Speaking God's words instead of our own will give our message more authority and the power that is in the Word of God (*Isaiah 55:11; Hebrews 4:12; Jeremiah 23:29*).

**IT WILL BRING GOD'S BLESSING TO OUR LIFE**

The blessing that comes is not just prosperity or having more stuff, but rather something far greater: spiritually thriving, boldness in having hope, and abiding in greater communion with the Lord. *Psalms 1* describes a man who "delights in the Law of the Lord" (the Word of God) as blessed. It follows that if you truly delight in the Word, you will think about it so much that it will control your thought life.

**IT RENEWS OUR MIND & TRANSFORMS OUR LIFE**

*Do you have to write everything down in order to not forget?* God knows that we cannot remember or keep His commands without being reminded of them frequently. This is one reason He told us to renew our minds with the scriptures daily. He has already written down what we need to know! Letting scripture be the lens we look through and be the forethoughts of our minds helps us receive spiritual transformation from Almighty God. "*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind...*" (*Romans 12:2*)