

HIDE THE WORD OF GOD IN YOUR HEART

As you read your Bible, we encourage you to identify Scripture that is especially helpful and to memorize it. You might select verses or passages that address an area or areas you are working to improve, like sharing the gospel with others or relying on God's truth. Consider the main reasons for memorizing Scripture.

To Resist Temptation (Psalm 119:9-11; 29-31)

Jesus, the Son of God, used Scripture He had previously memorized when He was attacked by Satan (Matthew 4:1-11). As we interact with others and in different places, we will encounter all kinds of temptations. When the Scripture is in our hearts, we are in a better position to resist. If we have memorized Scripture and placed it in prominent places—computer screen, dash of our car or on the refrigerator—we are better able to stay on track (Psalm 119:30). Memorized Scripture empowers us.

To Remember the Characteristics of God (Psalm 119:15-16)

Throughout the day, as our mind prompts us about what God is like, and we delight in Him, we are much stronger no matter what we encounter. The Word in our heart impacts how we live our lives and equips us.

To Make Wise Decisions (Psalm 119:24; 105)

Scripture we have memorized helps us to take the proper actions in the various situations in which we find ourselves at home, school, or work. When we are weak, memorized Scripture gives us strength.

To Receive Real Hope, Comfort and Strength (Psalm 119:28; 43-44; 49-50; 52; 93; 153)

Nothing comforts like the Scripture. During the immediate aftermath of a loss, many have had Psalm 46 flood into their mind. Others, under duress, have been reminded of passages like Matthew 10:28: "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul." The Word comforts us.

To Live a Godly Life (Psalm 119:37-38; 66-67; 73; 78; 101-102; 109-110; 173-176)

Scripture helps us avoid what is worthless and keeps us from going astray. God made us and speaks to us and our specific needs as we meditate on the Word. Even though we encounter various snares, the Word helps us.

To Worship (Psalm 119:54-56; 61-62; 164-165)

If you have hidden the Word in your heart, you can be driving down the road or walking down a sidewalk thinking about God and worshiping Him. This can even take place in the middle of the night, and it results in peace. But isn't memorizing Scripture hard? Here are some suggestions that may help:

Tips for Memorizing Scripture

It helps to say the reference before and after the Scripture, and to memorize the Scripture word-for-word. It is fine to paraphrase the passage to meditate upon it, but for memorization, every word counts. As you say the verse, emphasize various words. Think about John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Let's review this again, emphasizing certain words.

*For **God** so **loved** the world, that he gave his only begotten **Son**, that whosoever **believeth** in him should not **perish**, but have **everlasting** life.*

Emphasizing key words can provide cues to help you remember the entire verse.

You might also use a technique called chunking, which involved breaking the verse down by phrases, something like this:

For God so loved the world...

Get that down and then add,

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son.

Then try:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth...

Then:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish...

Finally, put it all together:

John 3:16: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16).

A last tip is to work on the verse before you go to bed. Read and remember Psalm 63:6, and then look at it when you get up the next morning.

Also, I personally like to keep the verses I learn in a journal. I pull the journal out from time to time when I am stuck somewhere, and as I review I'm helping hide the Word in my heart.

Those are just some tips I have found helpful. I'm sure you have your own. Share those with us on our social media sites. What has helped you will probably help others as well.

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