

Study 18

THE

MEMORISING

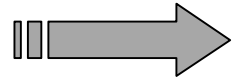
THE NEW TESTAMENT COMMANDS

Most of us make apologies for our memories. We tell people that we're shocking at remembering names, details, or facts. But the evidence says otherwise! We can all remember in fairly precise detail those times we were offended or a momentous event. In fact, we seem to be able to recall the details of such events for years to come. Such offences are often rehearsed, retold, mulled over, and mentally replayed repeatedly. And this is precisely the way our minds choose to memorise. It is also the way we can memorise Scripture: rehearse it, retell it, mull over it, and replay it repeatedly. We commit to memory what we hold important and we share what we have memorised what we consider precious. For the believer, there is nothing more than Scripture worthy of committing to memory.

Dr. Howard Hendricks of Dallas Seminary once said that if it were his decision, every student graduating from Dallas Theological Seminary would be required to learn one thousand verses of Scripture - word perfect - before they graduated!

"Bible memorization is absolutely fundamental to spiritual formation. If I had to choose between all the disciplines of the spiritual life, I would choose Bible memorization, because it is a fundamental way of filling our minds with what it needs. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth. That's where you need it! How does it get in your mouth? Memorization"

Dallas Willard, professor of Philosophy at the University of Southern California, ("Spiritual Formation in Christ for the Whole Life and Whole Person" in *Vocatio*, Vol. 12, no. 2, Spring, 2001, p. 7).



Chuck Swindoll wrote-

“I know of no other single practice in the Christian life more rewarding, practically speaking, than memorizing Scripture...No other single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends! Your prayer life will be strengthened. Your witnessing will be sharper and much more effective. Your attitudes and outlook will begin to change. Your mind will become alert and observant. Your confidence and assurance will be enhanced. Your faith will be solidified.”

(Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life [Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994], p. 61).

1. What did Jesus assume of His audience in Mark 8:18?
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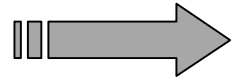
John Piper writes-

One of the reasons Martin Luther came to his great discovery in the Bible of justification by faith alone was that in his early years in the Augustinian monastery he was influenced to love Scripture by Johann Staupitz. Luther devoured the Bible in a day when people earned doctorates in theology without even reading the Bible. Luther said that his fellow professor, Andreas Karlstadt, did not even own a Bible when he earned his doctor of theology degree, nor did he until many years later (Bucher, Richard. [“Martin Luther’s Love for the Bible”](#)). Luther knew so much of the Bible from memory that when the Lord opened his eyes to see the truth of justification in Romans 1:17, he said, “Thereupon I ran through the Scriptures from memory,” in order to confirm what he had found.

2. What is necessary for the promise of John 14:26 to happen?
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3. In John 15:20 what did Jesus tell His disciples to do? Should we do this as well?
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But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you. ¶ “I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.

John 16:4



4. What benefit was Scripture memorisation to the early church based on Acts 11:16?
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that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles,
2Pet. 3:2

5. What did Jude command believers in Jude 17? (Note Jude 5 as well.)
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FELLOWSHIP IS A REMINDER

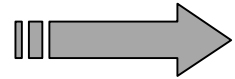
¶ Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand,
1Cor. 15:1

Gathering together in homes or together on a Sunday serves largely to bring things to our remembrance and helps us to memorise God's Word. Paul wrote to Timothy and told him this was one of the main purposes of church fellowship (2Tim. 2:14).

6. According to 2Peter 1:12, what did Peter regard as one of his main responsibilities? How can we do the same?
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7. How could we employ the principle of Deuteronomy 4:9 and 6:7 today?
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he said to them, "Take to heart all the words by which I am warning you today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the words of this law.
Deut. 32:46



John Piper goes on to list 6 reasons why every believer should memorise Scripture-

1. Conformity to Christ

Paul wrote that “we all...beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another” (2 Corinthians 3:18) If we would be changed into Christ likeness we must steadily see him. This happens in the word. “The Lord revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord” (1 Samuel 3:21). Bible memorization has the effect of making our gaze on Jesus steadier and clearer.

2. Daily Triumph over Sin

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word...I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you” (Psalm 119:9, 11). Paul said that we must “by the Spirit...put to death the [sinful] deeds of the body” (Romans 8:13). The one piece of armor used to kill is the “sword of the Spirit” which is the word of God (Ephesians 6:17). As sin lures the body into sinful action, we call to mind a Christ-revealing word of Scripture and slay the temptation with the superior worth and beauty of Christ over what sin offers.

3. Daily Triumph over Satan

When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness he recited Scripture from memory and put Satan to flight (Matthew 4:1-11).

4. Comfort and Counsel for People You Love

The times when people need you to give them comfort and counsel do not always coincide with the times you have your Bible handy. Not only that, the very word of God spoken spontaneously from your heart has unusual power. Proverbs 25:11 says, “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.” That is a beautiful way of saying, When the heart full of God’s love can draw on the mind full of God’s word, timely blessings flow from the mouth.

5. Communicating the Gospel to Unbelievers

Opportunities to share the gospel come when we do not have the Bible in hand. Actual verses of the Bible have their own penetrating power. And when they come from our heart, as well as from the Book, the witness is given that they are precious enough to learn. We should all be able to sum up the gospel under four main headings (1) God’s holiness/law/glory; 2) man’s sin/rebellion/disobedience; 3) Christ’s death for sinners; 4) the free gift of life by faith. Learn a verse or two relating to each of these, and be ready in season and out of season to share them.

6. Communion with God in the Enjoyment of His Person and Ways

The way we commune with (that is, fellowship with) God is by meditating on his attributes and expressing to him our thanks and admiration and love, and seeking his help to live a life that reflects the value of these attributes. Therefore, storing texts in our minds about God helps us relate to him as he really is.

Amen.