

Scripture Memory

Let's start by reading a few verses.

"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." -Psalm 119:11

"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." -Joshua 1:8

"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night." -Psalm 1:1-2

What do these verses say about having the word of God in your heart and mind?

Here are four reasons to memorize Scripture:

1. It helps give victory over sin. When Jesus is tempted by Satan in Matthew 4, he responds by quoting Scripture. *"And the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.'* But he answered, *'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."* There are many times when we are put in situations where we are tempted to sin, but if we have verses we have memorized for those specific occasions, God will use those verses to help us resist temptation.
2. It helps us minister to others. Throughout the course of daily life, we'll have opportunities to share the gospel, encourage others, and help people grow. God commands us to be ready for those times: *"But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect."* (1 Peter 3:15) When we have Scripture memorized, we'll have those answers already in our hearts so that we can share them.
3. God uses it to guide us. All of us have been in situations where we're not sure what to do. The good news is that the Bible provides answers for how to make good decisions. Psalm 119:105 says, *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."* Having God's word in our heart will help us make those decisions more easily.
4. It helps your faith grow. Romans 10:17 says, *"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."* When we memorize Scripture, our faith increases because we're putting the word of God inside us.

Getting Started

1. Find a verse to memorize - A good way to find one is choosing a verse that stuck out to you from your time with God or from the latest sermon at church or Challenge. Write the verse on one side of a business card and the verse reference on the other. Review the verse every day for 60 days so that you can quote the reference and the verse word-perfect. That may sound like a long time, but it only requires looking at the verse for 5-10 minutes a day. At the end of two months, you'll know the verse like the back of your hand.
2. Try to memorize one new verse every week. When two months are up on your first verse, you can start reviewing it once a week instead of every day. That way you keep it in your memory. At the end of a year, you'll have 52 verses memorized. After twenty years, that's over 1,000 verses!
3. Be encouraged. You can do it one verse at a time!

Let's find a verse to memorize right now. You can choose one yourself or from this list:

Joshua 1:8-9	Luke 19:10	1 Corinthians 10:13
Psalm 119:11	John 1:12	1 Corinthians 10:31
Psalm 119:105	Acts 1:8	Galatians 2:20
Matthew 5:16	Romans 3:23-24	Galatians 6:9
Matthew 5:48	Romans 5:8	Philippians 4:6-7
Matthew 6:33	Romans 6:23	2 Timothy 2:2
Matthew 28:19-20	Romans 10:9	James 1:22
Mark 10:45	Romans 12:1-2	1 Peter 3:15