

GROWING IN THE LORD BY HIDING HIS WORD

No single habit in the Christian life can bring more reward, or great help than the memorization of the Word of God. When you have stored Bible promises in your heart and mind, you will soon notice other changes in your life because the Holy Spirit will use the verses to teach you new things and to help you resist temptation (see Psalm 119:11). Through this discipline God's Word will bring satisfaction, it will lift, strengthen, empower and bring great joy. Having His Word in our hearts makes possible the directing of the Holy Spirit, the insight and wisdom we need, and the immediate answers along life's pathways.

Verses can be burned into your heart so that in times of pressure or difficulty God's Word will bring peace and great joy. Consider some of the benefits of Scripture Memory:

To increase Bible knowledge for study times.

Verses learned cause the Word of God to be an open book as the Holy Spirit brings to mind complementary. It is important to compare Scripture with Scripture and at times a person may be with others and will have the opportunity to share some Bible truth without the Word of God at hand. (Isa. 30:21; Psalms 119:130)

To give flow of the truth while teaching and speaking His Word.

(Isaiah 28:10; 55:11,12; Acts 1:8; Heb. 4:12)

To equip for victory, when battling with Satan and temptation.

As our knowledge of the Lord increases, the Word brings understanding, patience, insight, wisdom and the character of Christ into us. When temptation came Christ answered Satan with the Word of God, shall we do less? It is the Word that gives us spiritual power as we have truth to answer the temptations that come to our hearts. It is the Word memorized that the Holy Spirit can bring to mind when we need it the most. (Psalm 119:9,11; 17:4; 37:31; Colossians 2:3)

To prepare us for times of trial and suffering.

(Philippians 1:29; Isaiah 63:9; Jeremiah 31:3) When trials and suffering is experienced how will you make sense of it all without the "thus saith the Lord?" It is the Word that will give you guidance and wisdom about how to respond and what to accept when others would question the Lord's care, goodness and perfect will in our lives. (Heb. 13:5,6)

What security we build into our kids as they leave home, when they have multiplied verses tucked away in their hearts! What a blessing we can be to others when we memorize God's Word.

Consider Some Suggestions:

Select verses that will mean the most to YOU!

It is better to know 100 key verses, reflecting a broad balance of Bible teaching rather than to memorize two or three entire Bible chapters. Either way, begin this fascinating journey with God, and keep up a steady pace. Consider the joy and blessing it could bring to your life.

Work at memorizing those verses.

But you say, "I can't memorize!" But, we memorize all the time: everything from street addresses to internet sites, from which key unlocks the shed door to which supermarket aisle stocks my favorite cereal or anything else we desire to purchase while there. It is more an attitude of mind or a product of desire than it is ability or non ability. Some could give you the statistics of many a ball player, where they play, what team, what years, etc., and yet excuse themselves about the memorizing of the Word of God.

Your motivation should be built on what glorifies the Lord and why Satan does not want you to know the Word of God.

Without a doubt it is God's will for us to hide His Word in our hearts, and doubtless Satan does all he can to keep us from doing that which could well bring the most growth in our lives. We should desire to "engraft the Word" into our lives. (James 1:19-25)