

Scripture Memory Secrets

Guidelines from the *Topical Memory System*

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As you start to memorize a verse—

- Read in your Bible the context of the verse.
- Try to gain a clear understanding of what the verse actually means. You may want to read it in other Bible translations or paraphrases to get a better grasp of the meaning.
- Read the verse several times thoughtfully, aloud or in a whisper. This will help you grasp the verse as a whole. Each time you read it, say the reference, then the verse, then the reference again.
- Discuss the verse with God in prayer, and continue to seek his help for success in Scripture memory.

While you are memorizing a verse—

- Say the verse aloud as much as possible.
- Learn the reference first.
- After learning the reference, learn the first phrase of the verse. Once you have learned the reference and first phrase and have repeated them correctly several times, add more phrases one by one.
- Think about how the verse applies to you and your daily circumstances.
- Always include the reference as part of the verse as you learn and review it. Repeat the reference both before and after the verse.

After you can quote the verse correctly—

- You'll find it helpful to write out the verse. This deepens the impression in your mind.
- Review the verse immediately after learning it, and repeat it frequently in the next few days. This is crucial for fixing the verse firmly in mind, because of how quickly we tend to forget something we've recently learned.
- REVIEW! REVIEW! REVIEW! Repetition is the best way to engrave the verses on your memory.

How to review memory verses with someone else

- Follow this procedure: If the memory verses are written on cards, one person holds the other person's verse cards and reads the reference of the first card. (If the verses aren't written out, just use the Bible.) The other person then repeats the reference and goes on to quote the entire verse, with the reference again at the end. Then go on to other verses in the same way.
- First review the memory verses you know best.

- Quote your verses clearly and not too rapidly so you can be easily understood.
- Make it your goal to repeat each verse word-perfectly.
- While the other person is quoting his verses, be helpful and encouraging. Do all you can to ensure his success.
- When the other person makes a mistake, signal this to him by shaking
- Once the other person has realized his mistake, have him repeat the entire verse word-perfectly before going on.

(Memorizing and reviewing Scripture with one or more friends will provide mutual encouragement, as well as opportunities to discuss difficulties in memorization. You will also be helped by having someone with whom to share how God is using the verses in your life.)

Two essentials in Scripture memory

Two rules form the foundation for a successful Scripture memory program:

(1) *Consistently memorize new verses each week.*

(2) *Follow a daily program of reviewing the verses you have already memorized.*

If memorizing Scripture becomes too routine

Don't get discouraged if your Scripture memory work begins to seem too routine. The process of recording Scripture on your mind and heart does have a mechanical aspect. It requires certain methods and a great deal of perseverance. But as long as the process of imprinting God's word on your heart is moving forward, these Scriptures will be continually available for life-giving work.

There are helpful things you can do, however, if your Scripture memory program begins to seem lifeless. Try spending more time going over your verses in prayer and meditation. Also begin using the verses in your conversations or in letters. New freshness can come through sharing the Scriptures with others.

Keep in mind that memorizing and meditating on the Scriptures is a practical way of making them available to the Holy Spirit to use in your life.

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