

Okla. City Fall 2013 Navigator Conference

Memorizing Scripture – Why and How

1. Where do disciplines/tools fit into sanctification?
2. Testimonies
3. Hand Illustration
4. Why Memorize
5. What to memorize
6. How to maintain
7. How to keep going for the long haul
8. How to memorize a verse
9. Testimony by John Piper

1. Disciplines/Legalism/Moral Law/Ritualistic Law

Discipline methodologies – 5 minute QT, devotion guides, ScMem the Navigator way, checklists, etc

Moral Law – No idols, no lying, no stealing, no adultery, no murder, etc

We obey the law because it is the nature of God.

God never said to stop/start doing these because they weren't producing the right results.

Ritualistic Law – Sacrifices (OT), disciplines (NT)

We do these because of what they will produce, not because they are right in and of themselves.

God **did** say to stop doing these if they aren't making your heart right.

Isa 1:11-13 "What are your multiplied sacrifices to Me?" Says the Lord. "I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams, And the fat of fed cattle. And I take no pleasure in the blood of bulls, lambs, or goats. "When you come to appear before Me, Who requires of you this trampling of My courts? "Bring your worthless offerings no longer, Incense is an abomination to Me.

Ps 51:16-17 For Thou dost not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; Thou art not pleased with burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.

2. Scripture Memory Testimonies

Chuck Swindoll: I know of no other single practice in the Christian life that's more rewarding, practically speaking, than memorizing Scripture. That's right. No other single discipline is more useful and rewarding than this. No other single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends! Your *prayer life* will be strengthened. Your *witnessing* will be sharper and much more effective. Your *counseling* will be in demand. 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.

John Piper: I wish I could persuade everyone to do this (in his preaching he starts with quoting the passage)

Larry Beard: (quadriplegic from car accident) Without Sc. Memory I would have lost my mind in the hospital when the only thing I could move was my eyeballs. I would constantly review my verses to not dwell on the circumstances.

Lorne Sanny: (past president of the Navigators) Scripture memory has paid greater dividends for the time spent than has any other form of scripture intake.

Jesus quoting of scripture is the supreme example.

Note: The devil misquotes scriptures.

3. Hand Illustration – how we get the Word in our life

- Hear
- Read
- Study
- Memorize
- Meditate

4. Why Memorize:

- **It get's the Word into our lives as no other method can. 100%**
Hearing – 3% Reading – 5 to 10% Study/writing – 75%
- **It gives the HS access to us 24 hours a day**
- **Ps 119:9,11 Keeps us from sin**
- **Rom 12:1,2 Renovate the mind**
- **Eph 5:26 Cleansing**
- **Eph 4:29 Edify others**
- **Eph 5:15,16 Good use of time**
- **Eph 6:17,18 As a weapon**
- **Isa 55:11 Sow the Word**
- **Jer 15:16 Creates Joy**
- **Heb 4:12 Power to pierce the heart**
- **Jn 8:31 Mark of a disciple – abide in the Word**
- **Josh 1:8 More effective meditation**
- **Jn 6:63 Spirit and Life**
- **It will change your life at 1 verse per week**

5. What Verses Should I Memorize?

- **Start with something that has a good plan.**
TMS – Topical Memory System
60 verses – 12 verses per section
1st - Life the New Life - wheel illustration
2nd – Proclaim Christ – gospel illustration
3rd – Rely on God’s Resources
4th – Be Christ’s Disciple
5th - Grow in Christ Likeness
- **Memorizing Books**
Selecting Books – Start with a shorter book, many of the New Testament books are not very long. James - 108 Phil - 104 Col – 95
- **Selecting verses/passages – QT, bible reading, bible study, messages**
My verses are combination of ministry, provoking my heart, remembering lessons learned, as markers or a line in the sand Ps 34:3 Isa 43:4
Write on blank pages in back of bible
- **What Translation – whatever you study in, but some others are fun also**
Living Bible:
Personal purpose statement: Col 1:28,29
Help those suffering, going through hard times: Hab 2:3
Principle for living: Prov 24:3,4

6. How do I maintain my verses?

- **Current review – every day for 8 weeks**
- **Back review – Easy until you get more than 100 verses**
Review verses at least once per month – divide them out by days of the month Day 1 through 30
- **Keep them in a pack that you can take with you**
- **Keep them also in a spreadsheet or something that is backed up – it would be a shame to lose them**
I have packets, spreadsheet and notebook.
- **Apps – VerseReminder (Navpress)**

7. How do I keep going for the long haul?

- **Accountability – you need a buddy to help you Ecc 4:9-12**
- **Always take your verses with you – use those odd moments**
- **Get unsaved people to review you on your verses**
- **The Long Haul - How can we stay motivated? Be around others who do it.**
- **Encourage others to join you.**
- **Use your verses in ministry, ask God for opportunities**

8. How to memorize a verse

- **Getting Started**
Time/Place – quiet helps, right after your QT?
- **Write the verse on a card (verse size, business card size, 3x5)**
- **Topic, Reference, text, then reference again**
The topic is a hook that can bring up the verse for you
Break out each phrase, memorize one, then add next phrase
“Reference fore and aft” – reference is the most difficult to remember
- **Pray through the verse, meditate on it, turn it into your QT**
- **Develop a Visual picture**
- **Use all of your senses – Read, say it, have someone say it to you, draw a picture, write it out, type it**
- **Review, review, review**
Review every day for 8 weeks, then monthly Isa 55:2

Topic: The Word

Jer 15:16

16 Thy words were found and I ate them,

And Thy words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart;

For I have been called by Thy name,

O Lord God of hosts.

NASB

- 1. Repeat it out loud**
- 2. Draw a picture of it**
- 3. Repeat it emphasizing a different word each time**
- 4. Write it out**
- 5. Listen to someone else say it**
- 6. Pray though each phrase**
- 7. How can I apply what is in this verse?**
- 8. Topic: The Word**
- 9. Ref: Jer 15:16**
- 10. 1st phrase "Thy words were found and I ate them"**
- 11. Repeat 10 times (topic, ref, 1st phrase) and then add 2nd phrase**
- 12. 2nd phrase "And Thy words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart"**
- 13. Repeat 10 times with topic, ref, 1st phrase, 2nd phrase.**
- 14. 3rd phrase "For I have been called by Thy name,"**
- 15. Repeat 10 times**
- 16. 4th phrase "O Lord God of hosts."**
- 17. Repeat 10 times with reference again at the end**

Message/testimony on Scripture Memory by John Piper

Youtube – search for “John Piper Scripture Memory”

Memorizing scripture:

1. makes **meditation** possible at times when you can't be reading the Bible and **meditation** is the pathway to deeper understanding. Josh 1:8
2. **strengthens** my faith – this happens when I am hearing the Word in my head. So faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of Christ Rom 10:17
3. **shapes** the way I view the world by conforming my mind to God's viewpoint Rom 12:2
4. makes God's Word more readily accessible in overcoming **temptation** to sin. Ps 119:9,11
5. **guards** my mind making it easier for me to **detect** error and the world is full of error because the god of this world is a liar. Rom 8:6
6. enables me to hit the devil in the face with a force he cannot **resist**. Protect my family and myself. Eph 6:16,17
Satan hates me, my family, my marriage, my church and God.
7. provides the **strongest** and **sweetest** words for ministering to others in need. Always have the word ready to minister. Jer 15:16
8. provides the matrix for **fellowship** with Jesus because He talks to me through the Word and nowhere else. If it is memorized, we can talk with Jesus anywhere. Jn 1:3,4