

## How to Memorize

Whether a memory “system” such as the “Topical Memory System” is utilized, or verses are selected individually, a mental “hook” is key to effective memorization. Assigning topics or titles to passages can aid in retention.

In addition, memorizing the reference for a passage allows them to be located immediately. This will give more credibility to the speaker and force to the message.

Mental imagery has been shown to better retain words and concepts also. In the “Topical Memory System” this is done thru the “Wheel” and the “Bridge” illustrations. Verses are attached to the various parts of the diagrams, which can increase recall thru picturing the components.

When beginning to memorize, it can be helpful to break up the passage into phrases and clauses. In this way, parts may be added gradually. It seems easier to memorize three words at a time than 12 at once!

***Concentration is key! Eliminate ALL distractions.***



## 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.

### Hand Illustration – how we get the Word in our life

- Hear
- Read
- Study
- Memorize
- Meditate



## **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**



## **What Verses Should I Memorize?**

- **Start with something that has a good plan.**  
**TMS – Topical Memory System**  
**60 verses – 12 verses per section**  
**1<sup>st</sup> - Life the New Life - wheel illustration**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> – Proclaim Christ – gospel illustration**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> – Rely on God’s Resources**  
**4<sup>th</sup> – Be Christ’s Disciple**  
**5<sup>th</sup> - 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**

## **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 – Verse minder (Navpress)**

### **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**

### **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. 1<sup>st</sup> phrase "Thy words were found and I ate them"**
- 11. Repeat 10 times (topic, ref, 1<sup>st</sup> phrase) and then add 2<sup>nd</sup> phrase**
- 12. 2<sup>nd</sup> phrase "And Thy words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart"**
- 13. Repeat 10 times with topic, ref, 1<sup>st</sup> phrase, 2<sup>nd</sup> phrase.**
- 14. 3<sup>rd</sup> phrase "For I have been called by Thy name,"**
- 15. Repeat 10 times**
- 16. 4<sup>th</sup> phrase "O Lord God of hosts."**
- 17. Repeat 10 times with reference again at the end**