

BIBLE MEMORIZATION

A Study of the Importance and Methods of Scripture Memorization

Lesson Seven

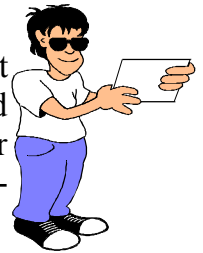
Memory Verse: *Hebrews 10:25*

Lesson Verse: *Psalms 119:11*

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."
Psalm 119:11

I. Introduction

- A. It is important for Christians to read and study the word of God daily. But study of the Bible is incomplete if what the Christian reads never takes hold and never manifests itself by a changed life (*James 1:22*). The only way for the word of God to effectively take hold on your life is by learning to memorize both its *promises* and *commands*.
- B. This lesson provides the reasons for Scripture memorization, and the methods that can work best for you.



II. The Importance of Right Thoughts in Life of the Believer

- A. Four big truths about *our thinking*:
 1. **You are what you _____!** (*Proverbs 23:7*)
 2. **Your thoughts come from your _____!** (*Luke 6:45*)
 3. **Your heart is messed up bad!** (*Jeremiah 17:9*)
 4. **But we can be fixed!** (*Ezekiel 36:26 2Corinthians 5:17*)
- B. Even after getting saved, our biggest battle will always be with our “_____” - see *2Corinthians 10:5*. Why would the battle be in there?
 1. Because Satan used to own that area of our lives.
 2. Because Satan knows every back door into it.
 3. Because our heart and mind is USED to being run by wrong ideas and feelings, and so, the new thoughts and truths from the Bible are often a whole lot harder to follow!
- C. What are some wrong thoughts that we think all too often?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
 6. _____
- D. How does the devil take control of our thoughts?
 1. **He uses troubles!** The devil uses troubles to get you to think wrong thoughts, and even wicked thoughts – *1Peter 4:12*
 2. **He uses re-occurring circumstances** – things that seem to constantly happen in our lives take our attention off of God, and the devil takes charge and often gets us very discouraged!

3. **He uses verbal suggestions** from other people (including the TV, radio, music) – all of them speak half truths and even lies that we often believe!
 4. **He uses spiritual influencing** – putting ideas in your heart (Luke 9:55; Ephesians 6:12) – just as God speaks to your heart at times, so also does the devil if we are not vigilant!
- E. So, how do we fight against and defeat such attacks? **Only Through...**
1. **Scripture Memorization** – the storing away in our hearts and minds the words of God so that we can meditate on them for strength, wisdom, direction, and comfort.
 2. **Scripture Meditation** – the thinking-through the meaning of every word of a Scripture so that we understand it, and so that we can obey it.
 3. **Scripture Activation** – acting in obedience to what God says to think and do, instead of what we think and want to do.

I. The Way to Change Your Mind

- A. **Salvation** – a complete starting over – a once in a lifetime event! Matthew 18:3 How does a person do that?
1. By _____ **your heart**, facing and accepting your own guilt and shame towards God (2Corinthians 13:5)
 2. By _____ **with all your heart** in Jesus Christ - allowing the blood of Jesus Christ, shed in your place, be the power that cleanses away all your guilt and shame – simply by trusting Jesus to save your soul (Romans 10:9,10)
 3. By _____ **your heart** with a Person by yielding to His work in you (Ephesians 5:18)
 4. By _____ **from your heart** every word God says in His word - living under HIS influence on your life AND thoughts (Romans 6:17)

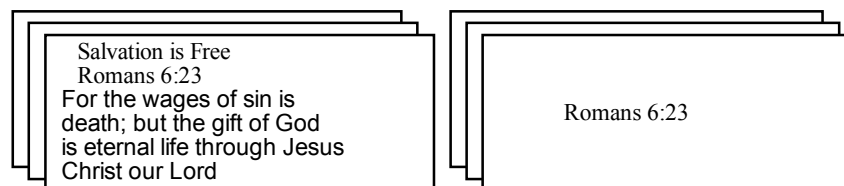
Don't be like so many people that only "take" the gift of salvation without grasping the fullness of grace and God's forgiveness! If we only knew just how forgiven we are in Christ, we would never condemn another person! And the only way we are going to grasp just how great God's work is in our life is if we start meditating on His truths!

- B. **Meditation** – "...**and in his law doth he** _____ **day and night**" (Psalm 1:2)
1. God blesses Scripture meditation! This is not just some "duty" for a Christian to do, but it is the key to God's greatest blessings in every believer's life!
 - a. You will prosper! (Psalm 1:2,3)!
 - b. You will get answers to prayer! John 15:7 You will then *know* what to ask.
 - c. You will become wiser than your _____, and stronger than your troubles (Psalm 119:97-100).
 - d. You will be able to defeat sinful temptations! (Psalm 119:11)
 2. God commands his children to, "_____ **on these things...**" (Philippians 4:8) – what things? List them:
 - a. _____ - it is more than just "facts" – it is something that is real, not imagined, or felt, or supposed, or guessed at, but absolute!

- b. _____ - think on things that are in the open, not on things that are evil or hidden.
 - c. _____ - think on things that are right, and moral, and godly – not ungodly
 - d. _____ - think on things that are clean, and innocent
 - e. _____ - think about beautiful, pleasant, wonderful things
 - f. _____ - think about the good things in other people instead of the bad
 - g. _____ - think about good inner qualities of people and God
 - h. _____ - think about ways to praise other people, and especially God!
 - i. All of the above can be wrapped up in just one Person that you should think about all the time – who is that? _____ (Isaiah 26:3)
3. Meditating on such things as listed above will be the way God helps you replace wrong and sinful thoughts:
- a. By enabling you to reflect on God’s goodness – make a list of things that you can be thankful to God for, and then praise your way through it!
 - b. Be helping you connect God’s promises, His words and warnings with everyday life.
 - c. By speaking to and directing your mind! You will need to learn to confine your mind to just dwelling on the goodness of God for a while at first – to “*rejoice in the Lord*” is a command (Philp 4:4)!
4. Meditation simply is you focusing on what God is saying **one word at a time**, asking yourself what it is saying to YOU, and how to obey it. Think about the words of a verse throughout your day, allowing it to be opened up by the teaching power of the _____ (John 16:13).

C. **Memorization** – this is really step TWO! But now you know how important it is!

- 1. You will never be able to meditate on the words of Scripture unless you have memorized it. God calls it “*hiding it away in our heart*” and not losing it in our !
- 2. Start off small. It takes only five minutes in the morning, and five minutes in the evening. Don’t plan on hours of work, just plan on slowly collecting particular Scriptures that speak right to your heart and life so that you can be changed!
- 3. Copy a verse or two to small pocket-sized cards (3"x5" or 4"x6") like below:



- 4. Make sure that you memorize the "address" (or *reference*) of the Scripture along with the verse(s). In the above figure, it is **Romans 6:23**. The important thing is to make the address part of what you are memorizing as well. This way, you will be able to find the verse again in the Bible when you need it for someone else!
- 5. Keep the cards together in a case or pack of some sort, so that they can be carried around easily in your pocket or purse.
- 6. Memorize each verse using the following pattern:

- a. Read the verse out-loud **5** times each time you get a chance to look at it - at least once a day - preferably 2 or 3 times a day.
 - b. Do this for a week.
 - c. At the end of the week, you should be able to recite the verse easily by memory.
 - d. Try to do a different verse each week.
 - e. Make sure that you go back and review each previous verse at least once a week - maybe go back through all the older verses at one time, so to keep them fresh. You will be surprised how much you remember.
7. Soon you will see these verses help you lead someone to salvation in Jesus Christ, or help you through a struggle, or strengthen another Christian!
 8. Review will be the key to retaining what you memorize! Memorization is not just a one-time event, it is repetitive so you can remember what you learn (see **Proverbs 4:4**).

D. **Believe!**

1. You won't always see the results of meditating on Scripture right away. God will only bless your thoughts if you really start believing what you are learning to think from His word! Trust that "...***weeping may endure for a night, but _____ cometh in the morning.***" (**Psalm 30:5**)
2. Realize just how much God thinks about each of US, and loves us (**Jeremiah 29:11**; **Psalm 40:5**)!
3. Believe that you are probably WRONG about how you view things (**Isaiah 55:8,9**; **2Corinthians 3:5**)!
4. You need to especially believe that God REALLY IS working everything out for your good, even when it doesn't make sense, or feels like it (**Romans 8:28**)! God is good; His way of doing things is good; and He only has your good in mind in everything He allows in your life!
5. Just start believing what God says and what God promises. Have you ever started collecting all God's promises to you? They are worth remembering!

E. **Obey!** The final step in *Changing Your mind!*

1. Just knowing God's word will not bring you joy and blessing – DOING God's word will bring you joy (**John 13:17**)
2. **Use what you learn!** Be involved in soul-winning and Church visitation, applying the verses you are memorizing to other people's needs for their salvation, encouragement and spiritual direction (**Proverbs 11:30**)!
3. We are commanded to NOT think evil, hurtful, revengeful thoughts in **1Corinthians 13:5** "... ***thinketh no _____***"
4. So, will you start obeying what God says to think about, and rejecting the thoughts that He says NOT to think?
5. By thinking right things, you will start doing right things!

F. **Some Goals to Set**

1. Memorize verses that will help you win people to saving faith in Jesus Christ. Memorize some of the same verses that *helped you* to see the need to be saved. Write these down and memorize them! (**Heb 9:27**; **John 3:3**; **Rom 3:23**; **6:23**; **10:13**)

2. Memorize verses that will help you in times of trouble, heartache and temptation (1 Cor 10:13; John 14:1; Isa 40:31; Philp 1:6; 1 Thes 5:24)
3. Memorize verses that deal with current issues facing your co-workers and neighbours (relating to evolution, eternal life, that the unborn child is human and therefore true life)

G. **A Verse A Day, Keeps the Devil Away!** Remember, these goals are not obtained in just one month, or even one year. They are obtained one verse at a time. So, at the end of your life, the challenge is to be able to look back and have made it through the trials and troubles because the word of God was faithfully hidden away in your heart!

H. **An Evaluation.** Now, have you memorized the two verses that have been given so far? Let's find out. Write out the verses as best as you can:

Matthew 4:4 _____

Hebrews 10:25 _____

<i>Date Lesson Completed</i> _____	<i>Discipler</i> _____
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