

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."
Psalms 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 and meditate on every word of God!
- 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 the 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 our heart can be fixed** (*Ezekiel 36:26,27; 2Corinthians 5:17*)
- B. Even after getting born again, our biggest battle will always be in our "_____" - see *2Corinthians 10:5*. Why would the battle be in there?
 1. Because Satan used to own that area of our lives – our thoughts.
 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, new thoughts and truths from the Bible are often a lot harder to follow!
- C. What are some wrong thoughts that you think all too often?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
- D. How does the devil take control of our thoughts (referred to as demonic attacks)?
 1. **We usually just LET him have control** without us even thinking about what we are thinking about (*Luke 22:31*)!
 2. **He uses troubles to scare us!** The devil uses problems to scare you and get you to believe his lies, instead of resting in God's care and wisdom (*1Peter 4:12*).
 3. **He uses re-occurring circumstances** – bad things that seem to constantly happen in our lives usually take our attention off of God, so that the devil takes charge !
 4. **He uses verbal suggestions** from people (including the TV, radio, music) – all of them usually speak half-truths and even lies that we often believe without question!
 5. **He uses spiritual influencing** – Satan especially puts ideas in your heart (*Luke 9:54,55; Ephesians 6:12*) – just as God speaks to your heart at times, so also does the devil if we are not careful about what we end up thinking about!
- E. Everyone battles with many of the following wrong thoughts: suicide, lust, hatred of other people, envy, worry (fretting), depression, hatred of themselves, covetousness, constant fears, and even apathy. Do you think about any of those things a lot? _____

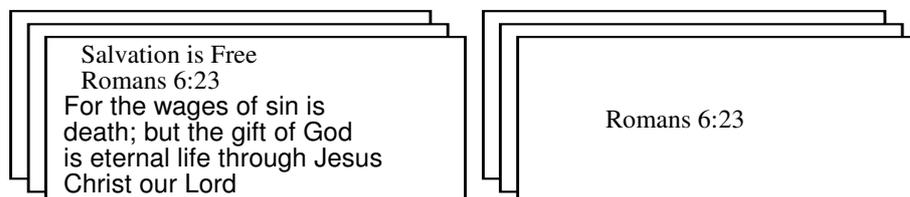
- F. So, how do we fight against and defeat such demonic attacks? *Only through...*
1. **Regular Scripture Reading** – it helps wash and cleanse our habitual thoughts that often defile us and defeat us (Eph 5:26).
 2. **Scripture Memorization** – the storing away in our hearts and minds the words of God so that we can meditate on them for strength, wisdom, direction, and comfort.
 3. **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.
 4. **Scripture Activation** – acting in obedience to what God says to think and do, instead of what we think and want to do (James 1:22).
- G. The truth is, we can never change how we *feel*, but we can change *the way we think*. That's why the Bible constantly refers more to our *mind* instead of our emotions.
1. Computer programmers refer to something called G.I.G.O. which stands for *Garbage In Garbage Out*. What we have put into our thinking affects what comes out of our lives by our words, and especially our actions.
 2. The opposite is true as well. G.I.G.O. could become, *Good In Good Out*. The key is to find what is truly Good and wholesome and clean, and think on that!

III. Here is The Way to CHANGE Your Mind – change what you think about...

- A. **Through Repentance** – You have to start with this! Repentance is a regular effort of submitting your life and feelings to the Lordship of Jesus Christ over you. Allow God to show you where you are wrong, and allow Him to change. You won't be changed until you WANT Him to change you.
1. By _____ *your heart*, facing and accepting your own guilt and shame towards God (2Cor 13:5). Sorrow is good when it brings us to God for forgiveness!
 2. By _____ *with all your heart* in Jesus Christ - allowing His blood, shed in your place, be the power that constantly cleanses away all your guilt and shame.
 - a. Have you simply trusted Jesus to save your soul? (Romans 10:9,10) **Yes, No?**
 - b. Well, keep trusting His blood to cleanse and protect your soul (Heb 9:14)!
 3. By _____ *your heart* with a Person - yielding to *His work* in you (Eph 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)
 5. Many people only “receive” the gift of salvation without ever wanting to enjoy the fullness of God's grace and forgiveness for the rest of their lives! The only way that happens is if we start memorizing and meditating on Bible truths!

B. God Changes Our Thinking Through Scripture Memorization

1. God calls memorizing Scripture “_____” *Scripture away in our heart* (Psalm 119:11). That means storing away the words of Scripture in your mind and heart in an organised way so that you can call it to mind whenever you need it.
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 just **5** times and then put it away.
 - b. Do this at least once a day 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 new 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 **Pr 4:4**)
- C. Through Scripture 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 by it! (**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**) – best reason!
 2. God commands us to, "_____ on these things..." (**Philippians 4:8**):
 - a. _____ - think about more than just "facts" – true things are real and not imagined, or felt, or supposed, or guessed at, but absolute and unchanging!
 - b. _____ - think on things that are in the open, not on things that are evil or hidden or dark.
 - c. _____ - think on things that are right, 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 describe just one Person you should think about all the time – who is that? _____ (**Isaiah 26:3**).
 3. Meditating on the things as listed above will be the first way God helps you replace wrong and sinful thoughts with the following RIGHT kind of thoughts:
 - a. Pondering God's goodness – You will need to learn to limit your mind to just dwelling on the goodness of God for a while at first – "*rejoice in the Lord*" is a command (**Philp 4:4**). Make a list of things that you can be thankful to God for, and then praise your way through it!

- b. Scripture meditation will help you connect God's promises, words and warnings with your everyday life.
 - c. Through simple Scriptures, God will speak to you and direct your thoughts in a new and better way!
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).

D. God Changes Our Thinking Through Belief!

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 how much God thinks about each of us, and loves us (Jer 29:11; Ps 40:5).
3. Believe that you are probably WRONG about how you view things (Isaiah 55:8,9; 2Corinthians 3:5)! Start to believe that God's word, works
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. Finally, Through Obedience! This is 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're commanded to *not* think "_____"; hurtful, revengeful thoughts in 1Cor 13:5
4. So, will you start obeying what God says to think about, and rejecting the thoughts that He says NOT to think? **Yes, No.** If not, you are wasting your time!
5. By **Thinking** right things, you will start **Doing** right things!

IV. Final Thoughts

A. Some Goals to Set

1. Memorize verses that will help you win people to saving faith in Jesus Christ. Memorize the same verses that *helped you* 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 (1Cor 10:13; John 14:1; Isa 40:31; Philp 1:6; 1Thes 5:24).
3. Memorize verses dealing with current issues facing your co-workers and neighbours (like evolution, eternal life, that the unborn child is human and true life).

B. **A Verse a Day, actually KEEPS the Devil away!** 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!

C. **An Evaluation.** Write out the two verses you have memorized as best as you can:

Matthew 4:4 _____

Hebrews 10:25 _____

Date Lesson Completed _____ *Discipler* _____