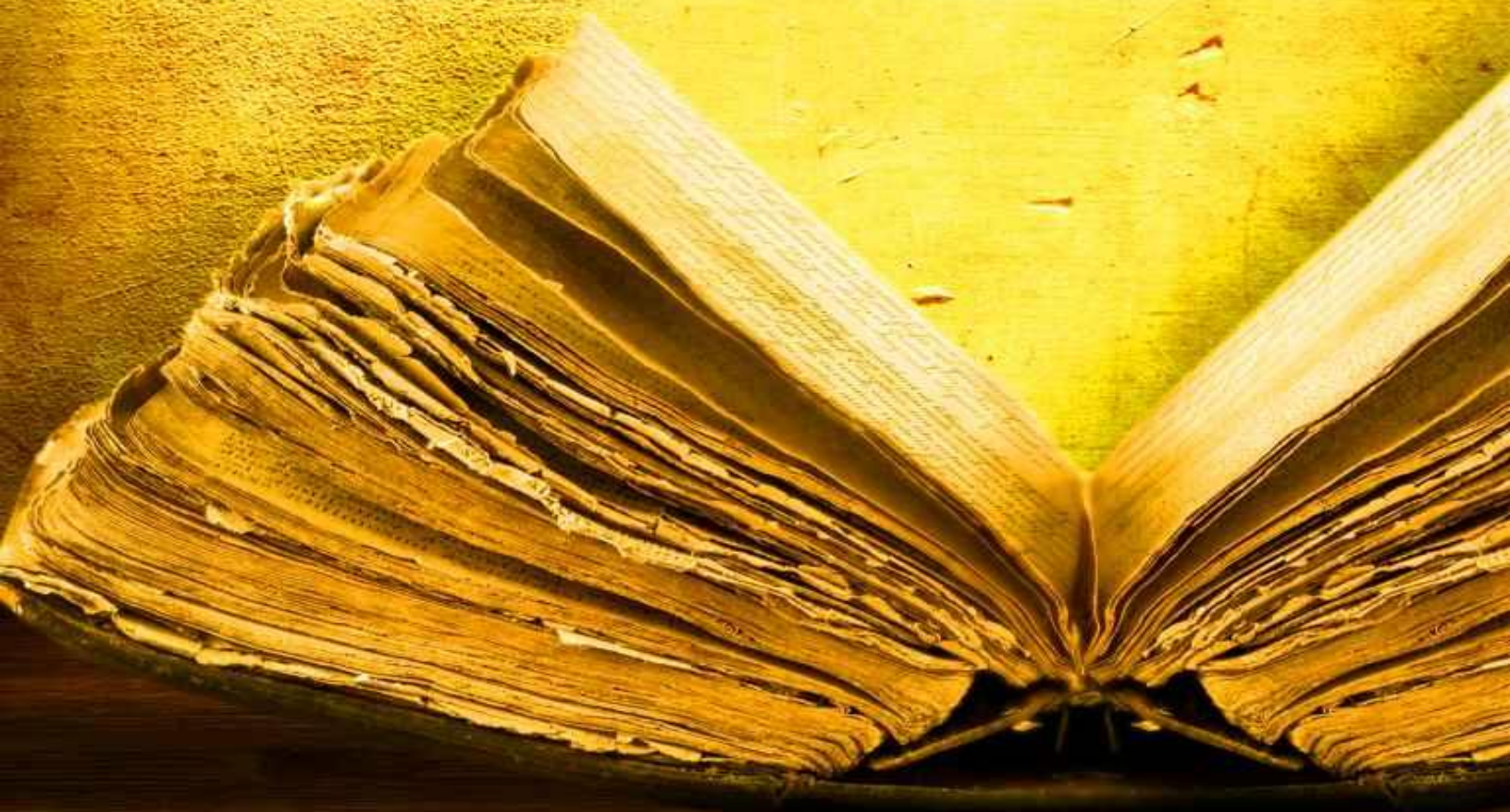


HOW TO
MEMORIZE
THE BIBLE
FAST & EASY



A D A M H O U G E

How To Memorize The Bible Fast And Easy™

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Introduction

Welcome to the life changing rewards of Scripture memorization! After this challenging course, you'll be changed down to the core because you will understand your Bible like never before. When you increase your understanding of God's word, it changes how you think, act, walk, and breathe. His word dictates how He wants us to live, and the more we understand how to apply our Bibles, the more like Jesus we become. But prepare yourself for the work that lies ahead. There is always work associated with memorizing, but the rewards of knowing God's word are infinite.

I believe that every Christian should know the word of God by heart. How can you practice the word unless it's locked in your heart? How can you lock the Scriptures in your heart unless you memorize them? This is not a call to be vainly religious by impressing people with a bunch of Scriptures. This is a call to know your Bible for your own personal walk.

I have personally memorized many books in the Bible word for word. I am convinced that any Christian can memorize dozens of books and recall them word for word flawlessly, just as I have. In this book, I will be teaching you the method that I have used to memorize so much Scripture.

It is an easy-to-follow formula that does require a little elbow grease. But after you're done, your sword will be sharper than you ever thought possible.

The Basics

We know that God commands us to apply His word and be found faithfully walking in it. How can we apply it unless it's locked in our hearts? Thus we know that God also commands us to retain His word in our hearts. It is necessary for each of us to memorize. But how do we know God wants us to memorize His Bible? Does He truly command us to memorize? I believe He does, which is why it is written,

"How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You. Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes. With my lips I have declared All the judgments of Your mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches. I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word." Psalm 119:9-16

It's clear that God calls us not to forget His word. How can we remember unless we memorize? What is sin? To depart from the ways of God. How shall we keep from going off course if His word, which establishes His will, isn't bound in our hearts? Hence we are also called to meditate on the Scriptures always. As it is also written,

"Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper." Psalm 1:1-3

We must meditate day and night on the Lord's word—both what His Holy Spirit speaks into our hearts and the Scriptures. But that God wants us to bind His word in our hearts is evident. For we read,

“My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart;” Proverbs 4:20-21

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.” John 15:7-8

In order to bear the fruit of God, His words must abide in us. How can they abide unless we memorize them and meditate on them continually? The word “abide” in this Scripture is “meno” in the original Greek. Meno means to abide, to dwell, or to continue in the presence or concept of. Thus is it more than obvious that God is calling us to both dwell in and continue in His word daily. But does God really want His word to dwell in us? As it is written,

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” Colossians 3:16

Let His word dwell in you. Be established in it, and meditate upon it that you can rightly apply it. Even as it is also written,

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

We must rightly divide the Scriptures and know His doctrine perfectly so that we will know how to apply it. Yet we could never apply His word unless we remember it for application, which is why it is also written,

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.” James 1:22-25

Don't merely read God's word. Study it, know it, meditate on it, and memorize it so you can practice it. Even as God commanded Joshua, so He commands each of us. As we read,

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” Joshua 1:8

The book of the law was the only written word of God in Joshua's time. Now we have the law of liberty, which is the law of Christ. We know that we fulfill this law through the Holy Spirit as we practice God's love. But we still are required to meditate on and memorize His word that we can know what the love of God looks like. How can we apply something if we don't know how it works? If a person doesn't know how to operate a factory machine, how can they manufacture anything? Likewise, if we don't know the word of God, we cannot produce the fruit of righteousness. Faith may not always require knowledge, but it always requires understanding. We don't always know how a circumstance will turn out when we put our faith in God, but if we understand the character and nature of His love, we will understand that He will work everything together for good.

Now, some may argue that it is not necessary to memorize so much Scripture. But we cannot practice God's will unless

we understand it perfectly. There's nothing wrong with memorizing this amount of Scripture if you intend to use it for your own personal walk. But if anyone wants to use the Scripture to show off and impress others, then they'll vainly puff themselves up. Even as it is written,

"...Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies." 1 Corinthians 8:1

If we love one another, we will edify each other with the word of God. There is nothing wrong with understanding the Scriptures in the deepest sense and using that knowledge to edify the brethren. In the days of Paul, Bibles were not as abundant as they are now. Many Christians had to memorize entire books so that they could carry the words with them in their heart. It began with the oral tradition of the Pharisees, who believed that the fathers before Moses passed down the traditions orally. These were the traditions that Moses wrote about. So it became a part of the Jewish tradition to both read and orally share the word of God. Today Christians have become so dependent on their Bibles that many could not discern Scripture without having a Bible in hand.

Imagine going to a foreign country to share the word of God where a Bible is not permitted. How can you teach anyone from the Scriptures unless you smuggle a Bible in? It sounds noble to smuggle Bibles, but there's nothing wrong with smuggling it in through having it bound in your heart. Those that live in hostile countries tend to memorize more Scripture because a Bible is hard to find. So it means more to them than it does to us. But God's word should mean everything to us!

It is impossible to study a vast amount of Scripture without having the right heart. It is easy to be complacent and ask such questions as "Why do I need to memorize so much? Where can I find time to do that? How is it even possible to memorize so much?"

Now let's answer these questions one by one. We have already addressed why we need to memorize so much. How

can we find time? Simple. If we love the Lord, we will make time to put Him first. Even as it is written,

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Matthew 6:33

Seek God’s kingdom first, and worry about the rest later. Make time for God because He’s more important. If you don’t have time, then make the time and be diligent to study your Bible. Memorize it faithfully. You will never memorize it unless you make a commitment to do it. This commitment requires a disciplined heart. You must be self-disciplined and force yourself to do it. It’s easy to become complacent with all the distractions around us. It’s easy to desire entertainment over education. But let each of us be educated in the things of Christ and simpleminded in the fleshly entertainment and sin of this world.

Yes, there is nothing wrong with being entertained. But if it gets in the way of a relationship with God, then it has to be set aside. If one cannot set it aside, then they have an idol. Most people would have at least an extra hour or two per day if they put aside entertainment. Consider yourself. How much time can you make for God? Doesn’t He deserve the time from you? Be diligent to memorize His word today.

If you need to, make an agreement with yourself and your family. Write it up on a piece of paper and sign it if you need to, but ask your family to keep you accountable. If they see you being idle, they can encourage you to seek the Lord.

I have heard one memory expert tell Christians to make a covenant with God on paper and sign it. In the covenant, they claim that a person should come up with a date on which you guarantee God that you will completely memorize the particular book. This person says that it makes a person very serious about memorizing the word of God and keeping to it. While we must take memorizing His word seriously, I question the expert who said that. This man claimed to have memorized dozens of books from the Bible word for word,

including the book of Matthew. If he truly memorized so much, then how did he miss the scripture that says,

“But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.”
Matthew 5:34-37

God makes it clear to never make an oath. God makes the covenants, and we are called to believe them. Let your yes be yes and no be no. Show your fervent heart by being committed but only within a biblical context. It doesn’t do anyone any good to memorize a mess of scriptures and then end up having no idea how to apply them, which was the case for that memory expert.

Nevertheless, we should be committed to seeking the Lord and understanding His word. God is pleased by those who diligently seek Him. Even as we read,

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6

Knowing this, be found faithfully seeking God. Diligence is best defined as faithfully doing something when it is least convenient. If it is difficult for you to memorize Scripture due to a time constraint, then consider when you are most mentally alert and make time during that part of the day. God deserves our time. So let each of us prioritize accordingly that we can become more intimately attuned with His word.

It is easier to memorize God’s word when you’re mentally prepared for it. This preparation simply comes through being awake to the Holy Spirit. First you need to be alert in your mind but more so in the Spirit. To prepare for

memorization, it is good to worship or pray for a good period of time first. Continue to do so until you feel the Spirit; that way you can memorize through the Spirit—a technique that we will discuss later.

Know Your Bible

It is worthless to memorize something you don't understand. Take the time to study the Scriptures, then memorize the things that the Spirit has explained the context to and the meaning of to you. That way, when you understand the meaning, it will have real life application. It's hard to retain scripture that doesn't have any purpose for your life. This is true to anything. Consider your days in high school. There are many things that you learned that you haven't applied for years, and how much of that has been retained? However, the things you have applied you still remember to this day. But the things you haven't applied, you need to brush up on.

It is the same with the word of God. Whatever Scripture you intend to apply in your life should be memorized. Then as you apply it and meditate on it, your mind will be able to retain it longer.

If you understand something, it is easy to remember it. If it is useless to you, you won't retain it. For example a nonsense phrase is difficult to remember. Try memorizing this: fa na sa pa la na ba da fa pa ga sa ya la da pa na fa.

This may seem ridiculous, but it has a point, so stop reading and try to memorize it. It will be very difficult even though it has fewer letters when compared to most verses. In fact, it's easier to memorize a longer verse such as John 3:16 than that. Anything that has real life application means more to your mind and is retained longer. It is held together by passion, and that passion is centered on your love for Christ. When you intend to fervently apply the word of God through love, you will retain it more effectively. The things that are applied are held onto longer, but you must have the love, the passion, and the zeal to apply what you're going to memorize.

If there is no purpose for the scripture that you're going to memorize, then there is no point to memorize it. It will only be for prideful reasons. But if you have a purpose for it and a use for it, then it will benefit you.

Also, unless you are very serious in your attempt to memorize, it will be very difficult to memorize more than one verse. First you must diligently seek the Lord. Then He blesses those that diligently seek Him. How does He bless them? He helps them retain it. Hence we read,

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” John 14:26

It is more than evident that we can find wisdom through faith in Christ. And we know that God wants us to understand our Bibles. How can we apply His word with an ounce of discernment unless we take the time to know and understand the Scriptures?

We must allow room for critical thinking that life application can take place. If we memorize a vast amount of Scripture without knowing its meaning, then we'll only have useless information. What's the point to remembering something you won't use? It is better to memorize that information only after having gained insight as to how it is practical for your life. Then by using the scripture daily, it will be retained longer. It is more useful for memory to use a scripture once a day for 55 days than it is to repeat it to yourself 55 times a day without knowing how to use it.

There are some Christians that want to memorize Scripture without actually knowing its meaning. They feel it has some sort of underlying purpose that will aid them in the end. Some feel it will make them look good as Christians. But in truth, while such a person may accurately recite the scripture to another, they will wrongly apply it. So the end result makes the person look unwise rather than spiritual or godly.

The Best Method

There is really only one method that has worked for thousands of years. Rote. By this method, billions of people throughout time have memorized whole books, sacred texts, musical symphonies, mathematical laws, and countless documents. Even today it is the preferred method of memorization for children in schools. Children with mental disabilities memorize best through variations of rote. It is and always has been the preferred and perfected method of memorization for every individual on the planet. If a child with a mental disability can use it and remember much, then why can't anyone else? It is the most basic and simplistic method that employs the best method for retaining a memory.

Various methods of rote use all three methods of learning to establish a long-term memory: kinesthetic, auditory, and visual. It does use much repetition, which some people like to avoid. The reason why repetition is superior is that our minds are programmed by God to remember things we encounter frequently. If we frequently encounter a difficult circumstance, for example, God created us to think creatively to overcome it.

But if we experience an obstacle only once, we may not remember how to overcome it. In as much as some would prefer to avoid memorizing by repetition, it is actually better for them. But by and large, it is much easier to remember something we encounter every day for a month than 30 times in a day. It isn't about how much we repeat things to ourselves but how often we use them on a daily basis. Remember the "use it or lose it" mentality? It certainly applies with memory. If we meditate on the word of God daily, we are more likely to retain it for the long term.

There are two things that stick out in the memory: a repeated experience or an extremely emotionally elevated experience. I bet you can remember a terrible nightmare you had as a child but can't remember what you dreamt one month ago today. Extremely heightened states of fear, joy, anger, and all other emotions open the mind to retain a memory. This is why some experts claim you should create strange mental images to remember scripture or other texts—because it incites emotions of intrigue or laughter.

Yet no context can be retained by this method. This is where knowledge deviates from wisdom. Wisdom is the ability to accurately apply knowledge, whereas knowledge is merely stored information. While there are many tactics that can help you store information, relatively few help you to accurately apply what you retained. Rather than using useless methods to retain worthless material, we need to focus on the things that help us to retain the Scriptures for proper application. As we said before, so now I say again: what good is it to remember the Bible if we don't understand how to properly apply it?

We can't retain the word of God unless it is held through daily use. So the best method is to repeat the Scriptures to ourselves and apply them daily. None of us will have heightened states of emotion with each verse, so it is best instead to just be diligent and memorize the Bible through self-discipline and age-old tactics that work.

There are many Bible scholars and memory experts who have memorized entire books of the Bible word for word using the rote method or variations of it—myself included. I teach a variation of rote that is built on the power of faith in the Holy Spirit.

The rote method was developed thousands of years ago before print was known to exist. Seeing that people couldn't write down the information they needed for later reference, they would memorize it. Even the ancient Jews, especially

the Levites and scribes, would memorize whole texts word for word using rote.

Due to the results this method produces, it has been employed by billions of people for thousands of years. This method works so well for any individual that all major religions have employed it. For example, in Buddhism, the Buddhist monks use rote memorization to memorize their sacred texts. They are required to memorize several pages of an entire topic as little children before they can even discuss its meaning. (We as Christian's should meditate on the meaning before we memorize and during memorization.) By the time a monk "graduates," their level of understanding of their faith is about the same as a Christian who has their doctorate. This goes for every Buddhist monk because of the way they go about studying their faith.

It is known that they are a very self-disciplined and determined people. A Buddhist monk is a Kung Fu monk, known to be one of the most self-disciplined people in the world. They have employed rote along with self-discipline to memorize sometimes hundreds if not thousands of pages of religious text word for word. Unlike a Buddhist monk, self-discipline and consistency are the things that many (but not all) Christians lack today. If we employ more self-discipline and remain consistent with it, it doesn't take long to memorize entire books and epistles from the Bible.

But it is true that some Buddhist monks memorize thousands of pages. The Guinness Book of World Records of 1985 had listed a Buddhist monk by the name of Bhaddanta Vicittabi Vumsa as recalling the most text by memory. In one circumstance in 1954 he recited 16,000 pages of their religious text, which he knew by heart, word for word with no errors, in front of an audience. He had memorized all 20,000 pages of their sacred texts and all of their commentaries as well, whereas there are only 1,200 pages in the standard Bible. Yes, there may be different amounts

depending upon the size and translation, but it generally amounts to less than 2,000 total pages. If then a Buddhist can memorize 20,000 pages, why can't we memorize 2,000?

But Buddhists aren't the only ones that use this method. There are some Muslims, for example, who have memorized the entire Koran word for word. Such individuals are called "Hafiz," which literally means "guardian." They are called this because the Muslim faith considers such people as guardians of the faith. So quite literally, there are enough Muslims that memorized the entire Koran word for word that they gave them a name for their achievement. Their Koran has 114 chapters comprised of 6,236 verses. This is over 80,000 words, which they know word for word by heart. Both Muslims and Buddhists use rote memorization to memorize these vast amounts of verses.

If then a Buddhist or Muslim that does not have God can memorize their entire volume of sacred texts, why do so many Christians that have the Holy Spirit struggle with memorizing a few verses of the Bible? For both the Buddhist and the Muslim, it comes down to self-discipline and persistence. But many Christians struggle with understanding how to remember the word of God. If we believe that we are saved through faith and faith comes by the word of God, then why don't we take it more seriously to be self-disciplined to remember the Scriptures word for word? Why don't we become "guardians of the word," so to speak, by guarding the word in our hearts through memorization? If we don't apply self-discipline and persistence to know the Lord more then how can we claim to treasure His word? If we treasure it, our actions will prove it. Let each of us be diligent to memorize His word, taking it to heart and growing in the discernment of it.

But some find it very difficult to memorize a few verses. This doesn't have to be the case seeing that we have God. It is a matter of understanding that God wants to help us at a one-

on-one level and being self-discipline enough to seek it. Other religions memorize what they do through the power of the flesh, so how much more can we do so through the power of the Spirit? But God is always faithful to bless those that seek Him. Remember that it is written,

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6

Knowing this, be firm with yourself and make time for God. Let each of us awake to righteousness and seek Him. Memorize your Bible so you can apply it faithfully. How can you apply something if you don't remember it? Stand firm, and be self-disciplined!

What Is God's Suggestion for Expanding Memory?

What is God's suggested method for expanding our memory? Surely if the Lord has something to say, it would be perfect. So what do we read?

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways." James 1:5-8

"For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;" Proverbs 2:6

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." John 14:26

God shows us through the word that He is the source of wisdom, and the Holy Spirit helps bring it to remembrance. So the secret for a truly deep memory is understanding how to tap into the Spirit. Is God incapable of helping you retain His word? If He expects you to apply it and offers help through the Spirit to assist you in its application, then certainly the Spirit will help you retain His word.

So before we do any memorizing, we need to prepare our hearts in the Spirit. We will discuss this more in depth later.

Applying the Method

Rote memorization is an age old tactic. We often desire to read about new tactics, but sometimes the oldest ones are best. Why? Because they've had thousands of years to be perfected, while the new idea is from the office of a quirky professor's that made a single discovery. Those tricks that professor employed have only been studied by him or a team of his colleagues. What good is it to apply something that hasn't worked for anyone outside of a lab experiment?

How does rote work, and how can it be applied to the Bible? Simple. Pick a chapter in the Bible you'd like to memorize and divide it out by the number of verses it contains by the number of days you'd like to take to memorize it. So for example, let's say you wanted to memorize the book of James in two weeks. There are 108 verses in James and 14 days in two weeks. So $108/14=7.7$

If you memorized eight verses a day it would take you 13.5 days, which is 14 days seeing that the half day would be the fourteenth day.

With the rote method, you would then memorize each verse out loud on the selected days. For example,

1st Day) While speaking out loud and in your mind, memorize the first verse and recite it at least five times. Then move on to verse two; memorize it and recite it from memory five times without flaw. After you have memorized verse two, recite verse one and two together five times without flaw. Move onto three and memorize it, and recite it five times out loud without making a mistake. Then recite all three verses together five times without making a mistake. Continue this process until you have memorized all eight verses. You're done for the day.

2nd Day) First try to recite yesterday's eight verses without flaw once. If you can, then proceed to finish reciting it all five times. If you fail, then memorize the portion you forgot and then recite it all together five times out loud.

Afterward move on to verses 9-16, and memorize verse nine repeating it out loud five times. Then move on to ten, repeating that five times. Now when you have ten down, don't recite 1-8. You did that yesterday and were only brushing up today. Instead, you need to recite 9 and 10 together five times. Then work on 11 and recite five times then 9-11 five times until you've memorized 9-16 and recited that five times without failure as well. After you're finished with 9-16 then, recite 1-8 and 9-16 together, then all 16 verses. When you've done this five times without fail, you're done for the day.

3rd day) Recite 1-16 five times without fail. When accomplished, move on to verses 17-24. Repeat the same method from yesterday and every consecutive day until all 108 verses are memorized in 14 days.

When you're doing this method, you're also supposed to walk back and forth or sit on the edge of your chair for mental alertness. If you recline or sit back, it tells your brain that it's time to shut down and rest. So take it seriously, and sit forward in your chair.

Now, there are some problems with this method, which is why I have personally augmented it. The first is that we are commanded to approach God through faith. We are to surrender to His work that works in us that He may work through us, as we read,

"To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily." Colossians 1:29

Let each of us strive according to His working. It is easy to figure it out in our flesh saying, "If I memorize eight verses per day every day, I'll memorize such and such amount of

books by next year.” It sounds very appealing, but through faith in God, I have personally memorized whole books in one day. God doesn’t need our logic; He can do anything if we have faith. If we strive according to the inner working of the Holy Spirit, the resulting knowledge is greater than using human logic. If we memorize in the power of the flesh, we will retain much but won’t always retain the meaning. When we memorize through the Spirit, we always retain the meaning of the word for daily application.

We are not justified by our works. It is God who is supposed to work in us and through us. Hence we are justified by faith because God operates through our faith. By using rote without augmenting it, such a person is operating in the power of the flesh and not the power of faith. They are memorizing their Bible by their own effort, little by little, rather than through the ability the Spirit supplies. Remember that we established through Jesus that the Spirit will bring to remembrance His words. As it is written,

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” John 14:26

Let the Holy Spirit bring the word of God to your remembrance. Have faith in Him that He intends to do so according to God’s promise. It is the promise of God, and if you’re willing to seek it, you shall obtain it according to the measure of your faith. If you’re passionate about His word, then pursue the help and power of the Holy Spirit to understand and know your Bible. Don’t rely on your own heart or own mental ability. Yes, God gave you a brain to use it, but He also gave you the Holy Spirit, and you should learn to utilize His strength as well.

Now, there are MANY Bible scholars who have memorized whole books of the Bible using the rote method. They swear by it and would teach everyone else to do it as well. But they are doing it in the flesh and not through Christ

according to His method, which we outlined. Yes, they may pray for help before they start, but they don't let God direct and lead the process. Rather, they pick a book they like, divide it out, and apply the rote method.

But God calls us to be led by the Spirit in the things we say and do. As we read,

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” Romans 8:14

How can we be led by God in this? Simple. First we pray and ask the Lord to speak to us through the Scriptures. We need to pray that He would show us the things He wants us to apply and memorize.

After doing this, read the Scriptures, and whatever sticks out to you is the Spirit speaking. So when the words of the Bible jump out at you, memorize them. Find the entire portion that speaks to you, even if it is a whole book, and memorize it.

Now, those Bible scholars who memorize using the rote memorize six to ten verses per day, and it takes them over a month to memorize an entire book. But using the method I'm outlining, I have personally memorized entire books in a day. It's very draining and hard work, but it only takes a few hours.

I don't consider myself to be any more intelligent than the next person; the only difference is that I do it through faith and strive according to God's work in me. I have learned that the more faith I have and the more self-discipline I have, the more I can memorize. Again, I don't consider myself to be any more intelligent than another person. God doesn't operate through my strength. Rather, He operates through my weakness. As it is written,

“And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness...” 2 Corinthians 12:9

Before I memorized through faith, I could hardly memorize a single verse. It was extremely hard for me to even do five verses per day. But as soon as I acknowledged my weakness and handed it over to God, He worked through me to memorize whole books and chapters. I know for a fact that everyone that has the Holy Spirit can memorize as much as I have if they choose faith and apply self-discipline. If God would bless me to do it in a day, why wouldn't He bless you? I'm no better than you in any way! And what do we read?

“But from those who seemed to be something—whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no man—for those who seemed to be something added nothing to me.” Galatians 2:6

God doesn't favor anyone but gives the Spirit without measure. Listen to the voice of the Spirit through the Scriptures, and let Him guide you to the things He wants you to memorize. The scriptures He speaks out to you are the scriptures that He will help you with. As for the others, He won't help you with them until His timing.

While ALL Scripture is profitable, only some directly apply to our current life circumstances. God is our teacher, and He chooses the lessons and leads us through the course book (which is the Bible). So read along with the lesson God has at hand for you, and don't go off on a tangent. Let God teach you and build you in wisdom. For we must all be taught by God and not ourselves. As it is written,

“It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.” John 6:45

By memorizing what He speaks out to you, He will lead you through the Scriptures His way. In a very short time, He will guide you through all Scripture and help you memorize dozens of entire books as He has done for me.

So beginning with the things God wants you to memorize, break them down and memorize and recap similar to before. But first we pray and read to find the verses God wants us to memorize. After reading, let's say God really spoke out to us in the entire book of James. So we would memorize the book like this:

1) Read the book, and make sure you understand it. What good is it to memorize a ton of scriptures that you don't know how to apply? After knowing the meaning and being sure that it is what God wants you to do, pray and ask the Lord to open your mind to help you retain the word and bind it in your heart. Pray for wisdom, and have all faith He will give it to you. Then memorize the first verse.

Don't recite it multiple times. Just move to the next after it is memorized, having faith that God will help you retain it.

2) After finishing the second verse, recite one and two together. After you have done it well, move on to verse three.

3) After three is memorized, recite verse one through three together. Then move on to four.

4) Keep doing this until the chapter is finished. Recite the whole chapter without failure. If you make a mistake, brush up in that one spot then try reciting the chapter again.

5) After you've recited it, you're done with that chapter until the end of the book. Move on to chapter two.

6) Memorize chapter two the same way you did the last chapter then you're done with chapter two until the end.

7) Move on to chapter three, and memorize each chapter individually until all five chapters in the book of James are done.

8) Afterward recite them all together without failure. If you make a mistake, brush up then recite it. After you recite the whole book without looking at the pages, you're done.

I do everything in fives as it makes it easier. Every five verses, recap on all five. With large books, stop every five chapters and recite them all together: chapters 1-5 then 6-10 then 11-15 then recite them all together, 1-15, as a whole. After you've done this, congratulations! You've memorized the entire book. When memorizing, there is nothing wrong with looking at the page. After it's memorized, though, don't try reciting it by peeking at your Bible for a reminder. If you have to look at the page, then it's not memorized.

There are some supposed experts on Scripture memorization who claim that there is no shame in looking at the pages for a reminder. But in truth, if you're looking at the pages, then you don't have it memorized. In the next few weeks, you'll completely lose those scriptures that you had to open your Bible for. But if you can recite it without looking at the page, then you'll retain it longer. Besides, you can't always carry your Bible with you, and it would be good to remember every verse you memorized word for word when you don't have it on your person. Those supposed Bible memory experts who say it's okay to peek claim they memorized many books. But if they are looking at the pages, then the truth is they are reading the Bible and not memorizing it. The books I have memorized I can recite without a Bible in hand. Anyone can do this through the

power of the Spirit. By doing it through the Spirit, it is glory to God and not ourselves. If we do it through our own strength, then we glorify ourselves. While there are many helpful tricks to memorize a verse, nothing could help you more for memorizing entire books than applying the rote method through faith in Christ.

You will no longer need to look at the page, but you will need to brush up. Don't listen to the Bible readers who call themselves memory experts. They need a Bible in hand to teach because they don't have the whole book retained.

I have held scores of Bible studies examining the Scriptures word for word without holding a Bible. I don't do this to impress anyone but to encourage others that it is possible for anyone to memorize the Bible in its entirety. By knowing my Bible, it has also opened the door to have impromptu Bible studies in all kinds of unimaginable places and at unexpected times. I have had them at gas stations when filling up the gas, in hotels, in the lobby, next to the pool, at grocery stores, in aisles, while standing in line, in parking lots, and while walking through city parks. God's word comes up all the time, and it's good to be able to study it with others at irregular times when we normally wouldn't have a Bible handy.

Know your Bible, and it will change your life! Be serious about it. Don't memorize it to impress others, but have a humble heart and you'll become a blessing to those around you.

Now, if you're struggling with putting two verses together, it can be helpful to chunk them. We use the chunk method in many areas of life already. Think of numbers for example. 18165559471 is hard to memorize, but if we break it into chunks like a telephone number, 1(818)555-9471, it is much easier.

When memorizing large portions of Scripture, break each verse into smaller chunks. After memorizing each chunk, put

them together as one full verse. After this, you can go on to memorize the next verse. Try to memorize paragraphs three to five verses at a time. Take each chunk one at a time and each verse one at a time. Work on the first verse then when you have it down, work on the second verse then the third; go back and test yourself by trying to recall all three in order.

Try to say all three verses in order without any mistakes. If you make a mistake, go back and brush up. If you're having a hard time remembering which verse comes next, create a chunk between the two verses.

For example, consider these two verses:

"That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

"For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:10

If you have both of them memorized but can't recall them in order, then take something in between the two verses, such as: "you will be saved. For with the heart one believes."

Then after you have that chunk memorized, go back and recall them both in order. It will be much easier to do so at this point. You can do this at every break in Scripture—anywhere that you're having a hard time remembering what comes next. If you're struggling with a single large verse, then do the same thing.

Also, confidence helps tremendously. Sometimes when we memorize a verse, we have it down correctly but keep questioning ourselves in regard to accuracy. When you have established that it is accurately memorized, be confident, or you'll forget it more quickly. When you question yourself, it's hard to retain because your mind rejects it as bad

information that needs correction. But if you have memorized it well, then have confidence and move on. It may sound overly simple, but it really makes a tremendous difference compared to constantly questioning if you have it right. If you've memorized the verse accurately, then be confident through faith when reciting it. If you're not, you'll feel as if you're going to mess up then want to look at the page. Make sure that you have the verse memorized correctly, though. It is easier to memorize a verse correctly the first time than to try to fix a verse that was memorized incorrectly due to laziness.

Faith is the essence of everything. After having prayed and having asked God to help you memorize and retain the Scriptures, then you need to memorize by faith. When I first started this method nearly a decade ago, I struggled. I read James 1:5-8, which told me that God will grant me wisdom if I had faith.

So I sat down to memorize that verse through faith. It was the first verse that I ever memorized through faith. Later I memorized the entire book and moved on to other books. But when I first started on verse 5, I struggled. I always had a hard time getting a single verse down, and I couldn't handle more than eight verses per day. It took me a couple hours to get those eight verses too!

But as I struggled, I came to the conclusion that I couldn't memorize it. When I was about to give up, the Lord reminded me of two verses:

"Jesus said to him, 'If You can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.'" Mark 9:23

And

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13

Then I realized that I couldn't memorize it, but God can. In fact, He already knows all the Scripture by heart, seeing that it is HIS word after all. So I put my trust in Him that He would give me the wisdom to memorize. I didn't know how He would do it; I just trusted that He would and that it would be His work. Afterward I finished verses 5-8 in two minutes tops.

As time went on, I began to realize that the more faith I had, the more I could memorize. I found it hard to memorize whole paragraphs, but I realized through my journey that it was merely an issue of faith. When I considered memorizing a whole book, I gulped. "How can I possibly do that!?" I thought. But then I remembered not to trust myself. So I put my faith in Christ that He can do anything. Then I stepped out on the water, so to speak, and He blessed it. After that, I memorized around 50 different chapters and nearly a dozen books in about two months.

So I laugh at the teacher that tells you to memorize five to eight verses a day for a month and a half and then you'll have a whole book memorized. I memorized and retained a book per day on several occasions during those two months. I could hardly memorize a single verse then suddenly through the Holy Spirit, by faith in Christ, I memorized a vast amount of Scripture. I have now, over the years, memorized many more books and chapters and have retained much of what I memorized.

Do I forget things through this method? Obviously. I have to go back and brush up like everyone else. But I've found that brushing up is infinitely easier than memorizing, mainly because the scripture is still there in my head. It's just lingering around in a hidden memory bank, and I have to find it again. I retain each book for about a month to two months before I need a brush up. Otherwise, I can recite it word for word without a Bible in hand.

I believe with all my heart that anyone that has received the Spirit of God can do this too. The only thing that you need is faith.

But you have to take it very seriously and be disciplined. As we said before, self-discipline is something lacking in the church today. If your mind drifts off, then wrangle your thought back in and focus hard on what you're memorizing. Be serious, and take it seriously through faith.

God opens your mind for a greater wisdom through faith. It is not obtained through fleshly practice or trial and error but only by faith. While many people have memorized and retained huge portions of text, they did so with a great struggle. I've only needed diligence, and God did the rest. That's all He requires from you. If a person finds it hard to believe that they can memorize more through faith, then that's exactly why they've been struggling in the first place. Remember that we approach God and practice His word through faith. Why wouldn't we retain it that way either? This isn't a method that works for a few people but for everyone that has the Holy Spirit. As it is written,

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." John 14:26

The Holy Spirit will bring to remembrance the word of God to the children of the Lord. All you need to do is believe. God did it for me, and He will do it for you. Take it to heart. Don't try this method; do this method.

We never try to have faith. Anyone who tries to have faith doesn't actually have faith. Anyone who has faith does what they need to and operates in the Spirit of God. There is no "try"; there is only "do." If you "try" this method, it won't work for you. Trying implies a level of uncertainty. You have seen the Scriptures in which God promises to give you wisdom.

God has promised and intends to help those that have His Holy Spirit. The only way it can't work for a person is if they don't have the Spirit of God or don't have faith. Faith is God's method, not mine. His method works for everyone.

Consider the benefits of knowing His word intimately. Have faith in His power to help you then apply this simple but age-old memorization technique. Now, one may ask, "Did anyone from the Apostles' days memorize the word of God in its entirety?" We see that Paul memorized much Scripture. But our greatest evidence is actually Luke. He wrote both the book of Acts and the book of Luke. He never actually walked with Jesus personally, so the book of Luke was the testimony from the apostles he heard. But he remembered it in extremely vivid detail. By this it is obvious that he memorized the entire gospel narrative. Also, we believe that the Holy Spirit wrote the bible. So if the Holy Spirit wrote through Luke, then it is more than obvious that the Spirit helped him retain the memory of the book of Luke so he could write it and it could be added to the Bible.

When Jeremiah had his scrolls destroyed by King Jehoiakim, the Lord commanded him to rewrite them. As we read,

"Now after the king had burned the scroll with the words which Baruch had written at the instruction of Jeremiah, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying: "Take yet another scroll, and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll which Jehoiakim the king of Judah has burned." Jeremiah 36:27-28

Was it a lengthy scroll? Quite obviously. Hence we read,

"And it happened, when Jehudi had read three or four columns, that the king cut it with the scribe's knife and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the scroll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth." Jeremiah 36:23

This scroll had columns of text, and Jeremiah remembered it all. It was obvious that He had them all put to memory since he was told by God to rewrite it. Again, we believe that the Spirit wrote the word of God. So it is evident that the Holy Spirit helped Jeremiah retain that information to write it again. And as we stated before,

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” John 14:26

As the Holy Spirit brought the words of the scroll to Jeremiah’s remembrance, so He will do for you as you memorize the word of God.

God’s method works. Have faith in His power, and be very serious about memorizing His word. He will help you on your journey and make your burden easy and your yoke light.

Final Thoughts

Memorizing God's word is critical for every believer. By locking His word in our hearts, we can carry it with us for daily practice. This is why it is vital to meditate on His word after it has been memorized.

After you have the book or section in question fully memorized, come back to it a few days later to meditate on it. Do not merely recite the scripture to yourself, but slowly mediate verse by verse. Take the time to consider and absorb the meaning of each verse. As you listen to the Spirit, He will give you revelation upon revelation in regard to how each verse fits together with verses from other books to create a bigger picture. Even as we read,

“These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.” 1 Corinthians 2:13

As you meditate on the verses, the Spirit will compare each verse with other verses and teach you the doctrine behind the scripture. You'll begin to realize how the words fit together more appropriately in ways you've never realized before. In some cases, it will be as if the Spirit opened your eyes to a hidden meaning for the first time.

This is why I teach that it is best to meditate on the meaning of the verse as you memorize. That way you can carry the appropriate doctrine with you as well as understand perfectly how to apply it in your life. It is better to know how to apply the scripture personally than to know how to recite it to others. We should sharpen our own swords in Christ before we sharpen another's.

Some get carried away with trying to memorize the reference numbers with the verse. It is better to memorize the passage as a whole in order to meditate on the meaning first rather than to try to memorize the exact numerical

location at the first. After you have meditated on the passage, then consider what verses you'd be mostly likely to use; you can then memorize the corresponding reference numbers. You certainly can memorize all the reference numbers at the first, but I have personally learned that it is difficult to meditate on the meaning of the verse when a person is struggling to retain where it is numerically located. Besides this, if you do not frequently use the verse, the first thing you'll forget is where it is located, leading to an endless cycle of remembering the locations.

It can be difficult to press ahead with new material to meditate on and grow in if you're constantly brushing up and focusing on the old. If you don't intend to recite every little verse according to its number to another person, then it would be best to remember what book and chapter it comes from and focus on the meaning of the scripture to rightly apply it in your own life.

Some try to give an appearance of being spiritual through reciting much Scripture. But it is better to BE spiritual by applying the Scripture personally through understanding how to use it rather than trying to look spiritual without knowing how to properly use it.

Part of learning how to wield a sword requires the fighter to know how to properly use it. There are some that enjoy spouting off scriptures but don't know how to use them. They know where they are located and have them memorized but have no idea what they mean. It is like a man in the market strutting his stuff while showing off his sword: "See, I have a sword!" Or it is like the man that wants to look cool by carrying a gun in a holster but has no idea how to shoot it straight.

Such a person is no intimidation to a thief or murderer. But the swordsman that knows how to fight like a warrior is the dread of any thief. A criminal does not often take a poke at a marksman. Even so, Satan takes advantage of those that

memorize for prideful reasons. For he puffs them up with pride to make them stumble. As it is written,

“...Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.” 1 Corinthians 8:1

And also,

“Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.” Proverbs 16:18

Knowledge is merely stored information, while wisdom is the ability to properly use that information. If you only memorize your Bible to look spiritual and share much information with others rather than edifying yourself, then you’re doing it for prideful reasons. But if you are doing it for edification, then consider the wisdom of meditating on each passage while listening to the Holy Spirit’s explanation. I just cannot emphasize it enough; it is that important! Do not only memorize your Bible but take the time to meditate on its meaning to rightly apply it in your own life. Take it verse by verse to absorb the meaning that you may rightly apply it in your own life!

Do not let the devil take advantage of you. Seek the truth behind the scripture, and take the time to meditate on it for your own personal use. Let each of us memorize our Bibles to grow in understanding and applying them and not to look showy or flashy in what we know.

But one cannot be wise without knowledge. For wisdom determines how we apply knowledge. So if we don’t increase in knowledge, we won’t increase in wisdom. Knowledge stored for love does not puff up but rather edifies. If you memorize to be nearer to the Lord out of love for Him, then you will be edified.

But if we do not listen to the Spirit, we will not be led to truth. For it is written,

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own

authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” John 16:13

The Holy Spirit teaches us as individuals and leads us into all truth. We must be taught by God and take the time to sincerely listen to the Spirit and grow in His word. Be intentional about seeking Him fervently and continually throughout the day, and it will make a dramatic difference in your life. If we don't take the time to bind the truth in our hearts, then how will we remember it later for appropriate use? And it is the Holy Spirit who gives us that truth, so we must be faithful to seek Him for it.

When you come across a situation in life where you need to apply it, He will remind you of the verse that you took the time to memorize. All you need to do is grow in listening to the voice of the Spirit, and then all things will be easier to apply with wisdom.

“For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;” Proverbs 2:6

I'd Love To Hear From You

As an author I regard the feedback of my readers highly. When considering a book many people weigh reviews in the balance.

If you enjoyed this book please consider helping others make an informed decision. Leaving a review can help spread the message of the gospel, increase other's faith through these books, and would be a great way to support this ministry for free!

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(Five easy to practice steps that will help you memorize more scripture than you ever thought possible)

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His loving-kindness is better than life)

About the Author

Adam is a preacher, teacher and Christian author. He is a devoted husband and father of 3 boys. Through his travels he's seen the need for a new awakening and a new revival: A revival of the heart. Come join Adam on this journey of redemption and experience God like never before!

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