

Pastor-Teacher | Chris Regas | 1.21.2024

Why Hide the Word? Part 1

Lesson 2

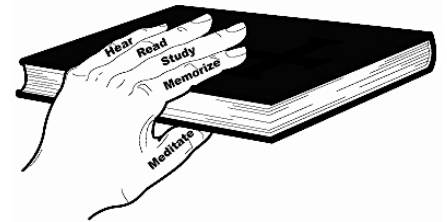
Review: What is the Hidden Word?

- The Hidden Word Is the **spiritual discipline** of Bible Memorization.
- The **most important** spiritual disciplines: *Congregational Worship, Scripture Intake, and Prayer.*
- Scripture Intake and Prayer are the **lifetime priority** of spiritual influencers and warriors.

Scripture Intake Takes Place Five Ways

“No Spiritual Discipline is more important than the intake of God’s Word. Nothing can substitute for it.” – Don Whitney

Prayer Flows from and Fuels All Five Ways



What Is the Hidden Word?

*A Christlike discipline **empowered** by the Spirit and **encouraged** with accountability that **equips** us to **retain** God’s Word in our hearts to **recall, reflect, and recite** it in the future as a mean of **promoting growth, guarding our hearts, and imparting grace** to ourselves and others!*

Why Hide the Word?

“You do not need to memorize Scripture unless you clearly recognize the need.” – N. A. Woychuk

Struggle: Why Don’t We Hide the Word?

“There are few disciplines Christians want to do more but actually do less than memorizing Scripture.” – Tim Challies

“Many Christians consider the Spiritual Discipline of memorizing God’s Word as something tantamount to modern-day martyrdom.” – Don Whitney

- Issue of **PERCEPTION.**
- Issue of **EXERTION.**
- Issue of **UTILIZATION.**
- Issue of **MOTIVATION.**

*“Memorizing is generally not a question of ability but of interest and desire. If you are truly interested and desire to do it, then you have already ‘stepped on the starter,’ and the engine of your brain is already running. **Motive in memorizing is basic. Intention predisposes the memory for retention. Motive is that which induces you to act.** You are interested, and you seize upon a particular portion of Scripture and purpose to spend time and mental resources in assimilating it. **Your persistence in memorizing it will depend almost entirely upon the extent of your interest.** – N. A. Woychuk, *You Need to Memorize Scripture**

Stimulus: **Four Ways the Hidden Word Will Benefit Our Lives!**

1. The Hidden Word Will **CLEANSE** Us. *Psalm 119:9-11*

...Where We Need It Most and Only God Can Reach!

The Hidden Word Will Cleanse You for **PURIFICATION!**

Memorizing God’s Word is not just for the pure of heart – it’s for those who want a pure heart!

*"I considered my ways And turned my feet to Your testimonies." Ps 119:59
"I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, For I do not forget Your commandments." Ps 119:176
You have rejected all those who wander from Your statutes, For their deceitfulness is useless.
You have removed all the wicked of the earth like dross; Therefore I love Your testimonies." Ps 119:118-119*

2. The Hidden Word Will ARM Us. *Ephesians 6:17-18; Matthew 4:4, 7, 10-11*

...for Spiritual Warfare Whenever Temptation Strikes!

- The Hidden Word is **EXPLAINED** as the Spirit's weapon! *Ephesians 6:17*
- The Hidden Word is **APPLIED** by the Son in warfare! *Matthew 4:1-11*

The Hidden Word Will Arm You for *PROTECTION!*

*"Establish my footsteps in Your word, And do not let any iniquity have dominion over me." Ps 119:133
"Therefore I esteem right all Your precepts concerning everything, I hate every false way." Ps 119:128*

Flee Temptation & Resist the Devil : *Ps 119:36-37, 101-102, 104, 113-117, 126-128, 155, 163*

Pursue Godliness : *Ps 119:2-3, 9, 63, 80, 133, 140, 168*

3. The Hidden Word Will READY Us. *Proverbs 22:17-19; 3:5-6*

...to Trust in the Lord When Our Faith Is Weak!

- To endure **SUFFERING**. *119:25, 28, 49-52, 54-55, 69, 75-76, 107, 114, 143, 145-152, 156-159, 161, 169-170, 173*
- To remain **STEADFAST**. *119:5, 23, 33, 40, 51, 61, 67, 69-71, 83-84, 92-93, 109-110, 149, 154, 156, 165*
- To wait for **VINDICATION**. *119:21-23, 31-32, 39, 51, 82-88, 94-95, 121-122, 134, 153-154*

The Hidden Word Will Ready You for *PERSEVERANCE!*

4. The Hidden Word Will FILL Us. *Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 3:16*

...to Impart Grace When Encouraging, Exhorting, and Evangelizing Others!

Until the Word is hidden in our heart, it is not available for use with our mouth!

"Blessed are You, O LORD; Teach me Your statutes. With my lips I have told of All the ordinances of Your mouth." Ps 119:12-13

"And do not take the word of truth utterly out of my mouth" Ps 119:43

"I will also speak of Your testimonies before kings And shall not be ashamed." Ps 119:46

The Hidden Word Will Fill You for *PROCLAIMING!*

Proclaiming by Lips and Life with Zeal and Brokenness : 119:53, 74, 78-79, 136, 139

The Best Way to "Start" Memorizing Scripture Is Asking for God's Help:

"Father, I believe Your Word is more powerful than any weapon known to mankind! I want to hide it in my heart as You have commanded. I want to reap the blessings as You have promised. By faith I will depend on Your Spirit to enable me. I want to model this discipline like Jesus did for my children and/or others, so they might be impacted. Help me to find a memorization plan that works for me and will encourage me to pursue it diligently over the long haul. I rely on and pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Hidden Word Application • Lesson 2



1. What made the biggest impact on you from today's lesson? What is the Holy Spirit leading you to apply in your life?

2. Which of the following are your greatest needs right now? Check all that apply.

- I have some sinful habits and/or guilt from my past that continue to defeat and discourage me.
- When temptation strikes, I am often powerless to flee it and resist the devil.
- I know what God wants me to do, but I often fail to follow through on it.
- I am frequently at a loss for words when I talk to people who need to hear God's perspective on their problems.

Review the first four reasons for hiding God's Word in your heart that match and meet the need you checked above. You may even want to begin to memorize some of the verses that go with it.

3. What is the biggest "giant" that continues to stand in your way of hiding God's Word in your heart?

4. By God's grace what next step will you take to slay your "giant," so you can begin to enjoy the blessings and benefits of the Hidden Word in your life?

5. Continue praying about asking someone to be your "Memorization Partner." _____

The Hidden Word for This Week

Review and recite **Psalm 119:11** once a day for five days this week.

Read **Psalm 119:10** aloud **5 times** in the **morning** and **5 times** in the **evening** every day this week!

(Use whatever translation you prefer to memorize, which may or may not be the one you prefer to read the most.)