

Hiding  
God's  
word in  
our  
hearts

*line*

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**Psalm 119:11**  
***“Your Word I have treasured in my heart,  
That I may not sin against You.”***

*“The more you read the Bible, and the more you meditate upon it, the more you will be astonished with it! He who is but a casual reader of the Bible does not know the height, the depth, the length and the breadth of the mighty meanings contained in its pages.”*  
Charles Spurgeon

**IF YOU WERE NEVER ALLOWED TO SEE A BIBLE AGAIN,  
HOW MUCH OF IT COULD YOU REMEMBER?**

Before we can talk about memorizing the precious Word of God, we must address our desire for the Word. Are we hungering and thirsting after the Word? Do we really crave the Word of God?

Noah Webster Dictionary 1828 definition of “crave”: *To call for gratification; to long for; to require or demand, as a passion or appetite; as, the stomach or appetite craves food.*

Are you desperate and cannot live without the Word?

**1 Peter 2:2-3** describes just that kind of appetite.

***“... like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the Word,  
so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,  
since you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.”***

We need to crave the Word like the desperately hungry newborn baby. Dr. MacArthur once said, if a hungry baby could get the mother’s attention by picking up a brick and throwing it through a window, the baby would. That’s how desperately hungry the baby is.

Our hunger for the Word should be insatiable and ravenous. But HOW do you get to this level of craving? How do we become ravenous for the Word? **1 Peter 2:1** tells us what stands in the way of us having this desperate craving for the Word of God.

***“Therefore, putting aside all malice and deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,  
like newborn babies long for the pure milk of the Word....”***

WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH OUR SIN before we can crave the Word of God. If you are not ravenous for the Word, if you are not craving the Word, there is sin in your life and sin destroys your appetite for the Word. It’s that simple.

**Illustration:** There is a true story about children in Honduras who got hooked on sniffing glue. It was their life. It is what they longed for and craved. They would do anything to get the glue. Food didn't mean anything to them. The glue is all they desired. More than one young boy died from hunger because he wouldn't eat. The glue was much more important to him than life-sustaining food.

Our sinful desires can become so important to us that we spiritually starve to death and give up the blessing of feasting on the Word of God.

WHAT'S YOUR GLUE? What sin is starving you of your spiritual life-sustaining food? Be very honest with yourself.

Start by seriously dealing with your thought life. **Philippians 4:8** tells us to think on things that are ***“true, honorable, right, pure, lovely and of good repute, whatever is excellent, whatever is worthy to be praised.”*** These are the things that Scripture tells us to think about all the time. Every minute of every day, you have a choice as to what you are going to think and remember – Ask the Lord to help you dwell on things in this godly list.

YOU CAN'T HAVE TWO THOUGHTS IN YOUR MIND AT THE SAME TIME.

Ask the Lord to show you how much “mind” time you are wasting.

Keeping your life pure will keep you craving the Word of God like a newborn baby.

**Psalms 119:9a**

***“How can a young man (woman) keep his (her) way PURE?”***

1. **By keeping our lives in line with the Word of God**  
v. 9b “By keeping [your life] according to Thy Word.”
2. **By seeking God with all our hearts**  
v. 10a “With all my heart I have sought you.”
3. **By obedience to His Word**  
v. 10b “Do not let me wander from Your commandments.”
4. **By storing the Word of God in our hearts**  
v. 11 “Your Word I have treasured in my heart; That I may not sin against Thee.”
5. **By having a teachable spirit**  
v. 12 “Blessed are You, O Lord; Teach me Your statutes.”
6. **By sharing our faith**  
v. 13 “With my lips I have told of All the ordinances of Your mouth.”
7. **By rejoicing in God's ways and God's Word**  
v. 14 “I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches.”

8. **By meditating on God's Word**

v. 15 "I will meditate on Your precepts And regard Your ways."

9. **By Delighting in God's Word**

v. 16a "I shall delight in Your statutes,"

10. **By Remembering God's Word**

v. 16b "I shall not forget Your Word."

**PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS AS YOU BEGIN YOUR MEMORIZATION JOURNEY**

The only way that memorizing Scripture is worthwhile is to **completely understand** what you are committing to your memory. Approach Scriptures like a detective, always asking questions and looking for clues to the meaning.

Don't merely read them or memorize them without knowing what the text means.

1. **PRAY**

***Psalm 119:18***

***"Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Thy law."***

Pray about what you would memorize. Choose the translation to use.

Pray and ask God to cleanse your heart from known and unknown sin so that the channel between you and God would be clear. Before you begin to memorize His word, pray that the Holy Spirit would reveal to you His deeper meaning. Let Him be your primary teacher.

***1 John 2:27***

***"As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you and you have no need for anyone to teach you but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him."***

2. **OBSERVE THE TEXT**

How observant are you? The average person takes little time observing what is around her. We read the Bible and are, for the most part, satisfied with a surface knowledge. A good investigator uses: Who? What? When? Why? and How? That is to understand the full picture of the text. The word comes alive to you when you understand the background. Take the Letter to the church in Colossae.

Here is a list of some sample questions:

- a. Who is writing the letter?
- b. When was the letter written?
- c. For whom was the letter written?
- d. Why was the letter written?
- e. Where did these people live?
- f. What was their cultural situation at the time of this letter?
- g. What was their spiritual condition?
- h. How did the letter teach them?
- i. How were they encouraged by the letter?

### 3. **MEDITATE AND VISUALIZE**

- a. **Meditate** on the meaning as you say the verse to yourself over and over. A good example is from *Colossians 3:3*, ***“For you died and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”*** The Bible is telling me that “I died”! Look at things as a dead person. Approach the things that happen to you with that in mind and see the change of attitude that will come about. The more you mediate on this, the more the Scripture will penetrate your heart and even convict you.
- b. **Visualize.** ***“For you died...”*** See the picture! You are dead to material things, to emotions... see yourself giving away your most treasured possessions knowing that you would not see them again. Now, give away the hardest thing... your rights and your selfish nature. ***“Your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”*** It is overwhelming to visualize ourselves hidden **IN** the Almighty Son of God. Think of how different you would think if you truly felt that Christ was enough for you no matter what was happening to you. Who can hurt you there? How can you be lonely or sad in His Presence?

#### **Illustration:**

A friend memorized the third chapter of Colossians and when she received news that her son had suffered a broken neck in a car accident, the first verse of comfort that came into her mind was ***“My life is now Hidden with Christ in God”***. Whether we are going thru a hard trial or just living life, memorizing God’s word to us helps us remember His steadfast love for us.

#### ***Psalm 116:2***

***“I love the Lord, because He bend down to listen, because He has inclined His ear to me, therefore, I shall call upon Him as long as I live.”***

4. **MEMORIZE CHAPTERS OR BIGGER PORTIONS OF SCRIPTURE**

It is true that a chapter is easier to memorize than disconnected verses. One thought builds upon another and you are impacted with the undisturbed flow of the chapter or book.

5. **LOOK UP WORDS YOU DON'T KNOW** – even words you think you know. It will expand your understanding.

6. **WATCH FOR WORDS AND PHRASES THAT ARE REPEATED.** Words and thoughts that are repeated are very important. Every jot and tittle make up the inerrant Word of God and is vital to the complete meaning. Don't skip over the little words: ifs, ands, buts, as, etc. They all have meaning to the sentence.

7. **IDENTIFY THE LISTS IN SCRIPTURE.** In our 1 Peter 2:1 passage, there are 5 things listed that Scripture is commanding us to "Put aside".

- |               |               |              |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| a. All Malice | b. All deceit | c. Hypocrisy |
| d. Envy       | e. Slander    |              |

To put them in a list form will make it easier to identify and memorize.

One way is to take all the beginning letters of the list and make a word or a thought out of them. **All Alligators Have Enough Salt. When memorizing hard phrases or lists, make the "HOOKS" funny, out of place or huge so you can remember the hooks to remember the phrase or word. It sounds like we are making more work, but it does work well to do it this way. We talk a little more about hooks later in the manual.**

8. **USE NOTECARDS**

When you are working on a verse, you can write it out on four 3x5 notecards. Keep one in your purse so that when you are standing in line at the grocery, etc, you can review it and redeem the time while waiting. Keep another in your bathroom. Keep another in your kitchen and keep another one where you watch television and one in your car. That way you are armed and ready to work on your verse at any given moment of the day.

*"... making the most of your time, for the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:16).*

9. **HIGHLIGHTING THE TEXT**

There are many ways you can implement highlighting the text. What I (Dolores) have done, since being hidden with Christ in God, is to assign meaning to the color that is highlighted, either in actual highlighting or changing the font color, or in the color of my underlining.

For instance:

• **Yellow = God's Attributes**

|            |                                                                                                                                  |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Psalm 62:1 | "My soul waits in silence for God only<br>He only is my rock and my salvation,<br>My stronghold; I shall not be greatly shaken." |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

- **Red = Everything directly related to Salvation**

Ephesians 2:4-5      “But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved...)”

- **Green = All of the Promises**

James 4:8              “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”

- **Purple = All the “Put Ons”**

Colossians 3:12      “.... Put on a **heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another, and forgiving each other...**”

- **Blue = All the “Put Offs”**

Colossians 3:5      “Put to death everything that belongs to the **earthly nature, sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, greed, which is idolatry**

- **Underline in Black = God’s Judgment**

2 Thessalonians 1:7-8      “... when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from Heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of the Lord Jesus.”

### **How do you memorize?**

1. You may be a visual learner.
2. You may learn best by listening to the Scriptures over and over.
3. Writing or printing out the entire chapter is a great tool.

After memorizing the Scripture for a week or so, try writing out the text/s without looking at them in the Bible or on your 3 x5 cards. You can readily see where problems lie. There is a “hook” that can help you. I (Dolores) was memorizing Ephesians 6 and couldn’t remember “in addition to all” which is the beginning of verse 16. I saw in my mind about 20 adding machines that I had to walk thru after I said verse 15. It wasn’t hard to remember “in addition to all” after that. Making the illustrations huge or ridiculous makes it easier to remember.

## **Textual Re-Creation**

Textual re-creation is writing out the entire text or portions of it, either by hand or typed and then printed, on a piece of paper. Write the very important words in large print while the less important words are smaller. It is amazing how much you will discover about the true meaning of the texts by doing this.

For example: Romans 8:5-7

For those who are according to the flesh  
set their minds on the things of the flesh,  
but those who are according to the Spirit,  
the things of the Spirit.  
For the mind set on the flesh is death,  
but the mind set on the Spirit is  
life and peace

## **CONCLUSION**

Learning to memorize is an individual challenge. Pray and ask God to help you find the best way for you to learn and grow in this spiritual discipline. Praying, worshipping, and memorizing are not easy to do. It takes concentration and a specific focus of your will, but your faith will grow stronger as you give your time, energy, and purpose in doing them. God is with you to give you the ability to do what pleases Him.

When trials come (and they do come again and again) you want to have as much of the Word in your heart as possible. In the day you need God's strength and comfort, it is so good to have it stored in our mind. If you are armed with the Word of Truth, you will become a powerful tool for the Lord and against your sin.

Pray, observe, meditate, visualize the text, highlight, write it out, tape yourself saying it, and listen while you're driving, or sing it, shout it, or do whatever you can to get the Word in you. Do it while you're young if you can because it does get more challenging the older you get. My first memorization was James 1. I was 50 years old when someone told me I was too old to memorize. I found out you just have to have the 'Want To'.

**If you decide to take up this challenge, remember:**

You are on the threshold of one of the most fruitful, fulfilling, life-changing adventure you have ever encountered. Countless Scriptures command us to listen, read, and memorize the Word of God. If you endeavor to hide God's Word in your heart, your mind will be saturated with the living Word of God. You will find yourself meditating on the deeper meaning of the Word night and day. Your mind will truly be fixed on things above and on Christ, the object of your faith. You will begin to abide in Him, and you will be walking in the light of His glorious Presence every day.

The words of God that you have hidden in your heart will fly you up to a "High Place" so you will never again be under the circumstances.

"The peace of God that surpasses all comprehension will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7).