

Hints for Scripture Memorization

By Derek J. Morris

Current research suggests that individuals memorize in three ways: semantic memory, motoric memory and eidetic memory. Some people memorize more effectively in one way than another. Maximum effects are achieved when all three ways are activated. The process we will suggest for Scripture memorization involves reading it out loud (semantic memory), writing out the text (motoric memory) and seeing the text (eidetic memory). The simple steps are outlined below:

- 1) Begin with prayer, reaffirming your acceptance of Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, and asking for the gift of the Holy Spirit's presence that you might hide God's Word in your heart.
- 2) Read the selected passage out-loud, slowly and carefully. Concentrate on each word as you read, making sure you grasp the meaning of the text. If there is a word that you do not understand, look it up in a dictionary. Listen carefully as you read the text several times.
- 3) Write out the text on a 3x5 card. The verse should be written out with one idea per line since this is how it is stored in your memory. Make sure that you include the reference at the beginning and also at the end of the verse. For example:

Colossians 3:16

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

- 4) Look at the text carefully, as you have structured it on your card. Read it over slowly, listening carefully to each word.
- 5) Now set the 3x5 card aside and write out the text from memory on a new 3x5 card, beginning with the reference. Vocalize the words as you write. Check to ensure that you have rewritten the text with 100% accuracy. If not, focus again on the initial card and repeat.

- 6) Keep one card in your Scripture memory file (a 3x5 card file) and take the other card with you. Recite the text frequently throughout the day. If you have difficulty, pull out the 3x5 card and read the reference and text out-loud. It is much more effective to spend 2 minutes 15 times during the day reciting your passage than to spend 30 minutes all at once. Be sure to review your passage one final time just before going to bed.
- 7) Be open to share the text with someone else, as appropriate. There is no better way to reinforce a text in memory than to share it.
- 8) At the beginning of each week, review all texts memorized from the previous week.
- 9) Periodically review all the verses that you have learned.

Topical Collection of Scripture Passages (NKJV) for Memorization
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WEEK 1

THE BIBLE--OUR SOURCE BOOK

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 (available as a song at www.trilogyscripturesongs.com)

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,
and is profitable for doctrine,
for reproof,
for correction,
for instruction in righteousness,
that the man of God may be complete,
thoroughly equipped for every good work.

JOHN 5:39

You search the Scriptures,
for in them you think you have eternal life;
and these are they which testify of Me.

2 PETER 1:20-21

Knowing this first,
that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,
for prophecy never came by the will of man,
but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

PSALM 33:6

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

HEBREWS 4:12

For the word of God is living and powerful,
and sharper than any two-edged sword,
piercing even to the division of soul and spirit,
and of joints and marrow,
and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

WEEK 2

THE BIBLE--OUR COMFORT

ROMANS 15:4

For whatever things were written before
were written for our learning,
that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures
might have hope.

PSALM 46:1 (available as a song at www.trilogyscripturesongs.com)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

PSALM 19:7-8

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

ISAIAH 55:10-11 (available as a song at www.trilogyscripturesongs.com)

For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven,
and do not return there, but water the earth,
and make it bring forth and bud,
that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;
it shall not return to Me void,
but it shall accomplish what I please,
and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

PROVERBS 30:5

Every word of God is pure;
He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.

WEEK 3

THE BIBLE--OUR GUIDE

JOSHUA 1:8

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.

JOHN 8:31-32

If you abide in My word you are My disciples indeed.
And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

PSALM 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

PROVERBS 3:5-6 (available as a song at www.trilogyscripturesongs.com)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge Him,
and He shall direct your paths.

PSALM 32:8

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will guide you with My eye.

WEEK 4

THE NEED FOR SALVATION

JOHN 3:3

Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again,
he cannot see the kingdom of God.

ROMANS 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

ROMANS 6:23

For the wages of sin is death,
but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

JOHN 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him should not perish
but have everlasting life.
For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world,
but that the world through Him might be saved.

LUKE 19:10

For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

WEEK 5

THE GRACE OF GOD

TITUS 3:5

Not by works of righteousness which we have done,
but according to His mercy He save us,
through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.

EPHESIANS 2:8 (available as a song at www.trilogyscripturesongs.com)

For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.

HEBREWS 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace,
that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

EZEKIEL 11:19-20

Then I will give them one heart,
and I will put a new spirit within them,
and take the stony heart out of their flesh,
and give them a heart of flesh,
that they may walk in My statutes
and keep My judgments and do them;
and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.

ROMANS 5:15

But the free gift is not like the offense.
For if by the one man's offense many died,
much more the grace of God
and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ,
abounded to many.

WEEK 6

FAITH

MARK 16:16

He who believes and is baptized will be saved;
but he who does not believe will be condemned.

ROMANS 10:9-10

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.

For with the heart one believes to righteousness,
and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.

HEBREWS 11:6

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.

ROMANS 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

I JOHN 5:4-5

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world.
And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.
Who is he who overcomes the world,
but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

WEEK 7

DELIVERANCE

PSALM 34:7 (available as a song at www.trilogyscripturesongs.com)

The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him,
and delivers them.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you
except such as is common to man;
but God is faithful,
who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able,
but with the temptation will also make the way of escape,
that you may be able to bear it.

PSALM 27:14 (available as a song at www.trilogyscripturesongs.com)

Wait on the Lord; be of good courage,
and He shall strengthen your heart;
wait, I say, on the Lord!

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you,
for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”
Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities,
that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

1 JOHN 4:4

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them,
because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

WEEK 8

GUIDANCE

JOHN 16:13

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."

PSALM 37:23

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord,
and He delights in his way.

JOHN 14:16, 18

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper,
that He may abide with you forever.
I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

PSALM 73:24

You will guide me with Your counsel,
and afterward receive me to glory.

GALATIANS 5:16

I say then: Walk in the Spirit,
and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

WEEK 9

IN PEACE

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 (available as a song at www.trilogyscripturesongs.com)

Be anxious for nothing,
but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving,
let your requests be made known to God:
and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

ROMANS 5:1

Therefore, having been justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

JOHN 14:27

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you;
not as the world gives do I give to you.
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

ISAIAH 26:3 (available as a song at www.trilogyscripturesongs.com)

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You,
because he trusts in You.

ROMANS 15:13

Now may the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

WEEK 10

VICTORY OVER SIN

1 PETER 5:8-9

Be sober, be vigilant;
because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion,
seeking whom he may devour.
Resist him, steadfast in the faith,
knowing that the same sufferings are experienced
by your brotherhood in the world.

PSALM 119:11

Your word I have hidden in my heart,
that I might not sin against you.

PROVERBS 28:13

He who covers his sins will not prosper,
but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

1 JOHN 1:9 (available as a song at www.trilogyscripturesongs.com)

If we confess our sins,
He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

JAMES 4:7

Therefore submit to God.
Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

WEEK 11

RETURN OF CHRIST

REVELATION 1:7

Behold, He is coming with clouds,
and every eye will see Him,
and they who pierced Him.
And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him.
Even so, Amen.

2 TIMOTHY 4:8 (available as a song at www.trilogyscripturesongs.com)

Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day,
and not to me only
but also to all who have loved His appearing.

MATTHEW 24:27

For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west,
so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

HEBREWS 9:28

So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many.
To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time,
apart from sin, for salvation.

ACTS 1:11 (available as a song at www.trilogyscripturesongs.com)

Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven?
This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven,
will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.

WEEK 12

A GLORIOUS RESURRECTION

JOHN 11:25 (available as a song at www.trilogyscripturesongs.com)

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life,
He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”

JOHN 5:28-29

Do not marvel at this;
for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves
will hear His voice and come forth—
those who have done good, to the resurrection of life,
and those who have done evil,
to the resurrection of condemnation.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:51-52

Behold, I tell you a mystery:
we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—
in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.
For the trumpet will sound,
and the dead will be raised incorruptible,
and we shall be changed.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-15

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren,
concerning those who have fallen asleep,
lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.
For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again,
even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.
For this we say to you by the word of the Lord,
that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord
will by no means precede those who are asleep.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-17

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout,
with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God.
And the dead in Christ will rise first.
Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up
together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.
And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

WEEK 13

ETERNAL LIFE

1 JOHN 2:25

And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life.

JOHN 10:27-28 (available as a song at www.trilogyscripturesongs.com)

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.
And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish;
neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

1 JOHN 5:11-13

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life,
and this life is in His Son.
He who has the Son has life,
he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.
These things I have written to you
who believe in the name of the Son of God,
that you may know that you have eternal life,
and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

GALATIANS 6:8

For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption,
but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

JOHN 5:24

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word
and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life,
and shall not come into judgment,
but has passed from death into life.

WEEK 14

PRAISE

1 PETER 2:9 (available as a song at www.trilogyscripturesongs.com)

But you are a chosen generation,
a royal priesthood,
a holy nation,
His own special people,
that you may proclaim the praises of Him
who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

PSALM 107:8

Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness,
and for His wonderful works to the children of men!

PSALM 147:1

Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful.

PSALM 34:1 (available as a song at www.trilogyscripturesongs.com)

I will bless the Lord at all times;
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

PSALM 92:1-2 (available as a song at www.trilogyscripturesongs.com)

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;
To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning,
and Your faithfulness every night.