

Basic Equipment for the Christian Life

(Routines that Lead to Risking More for Christ)

“Is Scripture Memory Superseding My Own Foolish & Fearful Thinking?”

Slowing Down to Get More from God’s Word

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Today we’re not going to look at HOW to memorize the Bible, but instead we’re going to look at WHY we should memorize Scripture.

I. **It’s one of the Best Ways to Keep God’s Word from becoming Spiritual ‘Fast Food’ in Your life**

We’ve become a generation that has no patience for deeper, reflective, reading and thinking. You can skim and browse your way through all kinds of information in your life, but if you want to see real transformation in your life, you’re going to have to slow down and chew your food.

You can memorize Scripture! It starts by being convinced that it’s important! Work hard to make time to slow down, repeat it over and over, and even repeat it out loud.

Job 37:14 “... Stand still and consider the wondrous works of God...”

Psalms 46:10 “Be still and know that I am God.”

II. **It’s one of the Best Ways to Stop Feeling Like a Stranger in the Presence of God and to Start Building Intimacy with Him**

Some of you say you know Jesus, but do you know Him well? Some struggle to have the courage to speak up for Him or sacrifice in any way.

Don’t just pray for courage to do those things. Start memorizing big chunks of Scripture that move you from feeling like a stranger to being intimate with the God of the universe!

Psalms 63:6-8 “When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me.”

1 Samuel 3:21 “... For the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.”

If you really want to know God, you’ve got to listen carefully to His Word and all that He says about Himself!

III. **It’s one of the Best Ways to Feed Your Courage to Obey God Regardless of the Suffering or Trials You’re Facing**

There’s a huge connection between God’s Word and courage all throughout the Bible! We’re not the first Christians to struggle with fear! Joshua did.

Joshua 1:8-9 “Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

We’re not the first Christians being called to speak up in a time when our culture is far from God! John, Jeremiah and Ezekiel all lived in times where people were intensely opposed to God. Check out **Ezekiel 2:6 – 3:10, Jeremiah 15:16, and Revelation 10:9-11.**

If you want to have more courage to stand for the cause of Christ and to speak up for Jesus, memorize God’s Word!

Psalms 138:2-3 “... for You have magnified Your word above all Your name. In the day when I cried out, You answered me and made me bold with strength in my soul.”

IV. **It’s one of the Best Ways to Sharpen Your Mind to Think Biblically so that You Don’t Get Sucked into the World’s Lies**

We're in a real battle against the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh! Fuzzy, general biblical principles aren't enough to fight against the level of deception we face every day. We need God's specific and very great promises burned into our memory if we're going to battle against discouragement, anger, lust, and fear. Look at **2 Peter 1:4**.

Become extremely familiar with God's Word so that you can quickly spot a lie.

Psalm 119:9-11 ⁹ How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. ¹⁰ With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! ¹¹ I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."

V. It's one of the Best Ways to Settle Yourself Down and to Re-Direct Your Emotions

Psalm 143:3-6 ³ For the enemy has persecuted my soul; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me dwell in darkness, like those who have long been dead. ⁴ Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is distressed. ⁵ I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands. ⁶ I spread out my hands to You; my soul longs for You like a thirsty land."

Philippians 4:8-9 ⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

VI. It's one of the Best Ways to Develop a Spiritual Root System and to Really Get Traction in Your Christian Life – Becoming More Like Christ

I Timothy 4:13, 15 ¹³ Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine... ¹⁵ Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all."

Psalm 1:1-3 "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; ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. ³ 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."

VII. It's one of the Best Ways to Keep this Life in Perspective and to Live for What Matters Most

Psalm 39:3-7 ³ My heart grew hot within me, and as I meditated, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue: ⁴ 'Show me, O LORD, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life. ⁵ You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man's life is but a breath.' *Selah* ⁶ Man is a mere phantom as he goes to and fro: He bustles about, but only in vain; he heaps up wealth, not knowing who will get it. ⁷ But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in you."

If you want to live with an eternal perspective and see through all the smoke and mirrors of what this world says is important, you need to memorize and mediate on Scripture!

VIII. It's one of the Best Ways to Get Greater Insights into the Scripture and to Feel More Personal Conviction about How to Apply it in Your Own Life

Psalm 119:97-99 ⁹⁷ Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. ⁹⁸ Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me. ⁹⁹ I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes."

Meditation will lead to greater insights in understanding God's Word and will stab you with greater conviction and application in your life.

Examples of this in my own life:

- **I Peter 5:2-11**
- **Philippians 4:4-13**
- **Acts 20:18-31**
- **Joshua 1:7-9**
- **2 Timothy 4:1-8**
- **1 Timothy 1:12-19**
- **Philippians 3:7-14**
- **Ephesians 6:10-20**
- **1 Corinthians 15:50-58**
- **2 Corinthians 3:1-4:18**
- **Romans 8:13-28-39**
- **1 Timothy 6:6-19**