

Chapter 07

Why Learn Bible Verses

It was easier to learn Bible verses in biblical times, before TV, hectic family schedules, FaceBook, or smart phones!

To Learn Bible Verses is to think Thoughts from the Mind of God!

God has commanded us -- not just once, but thousands of times -- to know His Word "by heart"!

“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up.” (Deuteronomy 6:6~7)

What I'm proposing here is not effortless.

But I've found that the technique I am about to describe is much easier than any other way to learn Bible verses that I have tried. Here's what I do: I have discovered that by reading the same Scripture passages aloud just once a day, eventually I find that I have committed them to memory!

By the way, to learn Bible verses is nothing like how your teachers made you memorize things when you were in school. There is a supernatural element to this. I'm serious. You gotta see this. Everyone's lifestyle is unique. I'm not suggesting that what I'm doing is the only way. All I'm saying is, here's what I'm doing, and it works! Ok?

I have adopted a discipline of going to bed early so that I can rise early. I go to a place where I can talk to God out loud without disturbing others, and I read aloud several sets of Scripture passages. I read the same Scriptures every morning. One morning, as I was speaking the Word of God out loud, a thought came to me: (I'm certain it was a "nudge" from the Holy Spirit.)

I knew: I was speaking Words that originated as Thoughts in the Mind of the infinite God in eternity past!

Now, here is the part I really want you to take hold of: Speaking God's words leads to thinking God's thoughts!

By reading these same Scriptures just once each day, eventually I am able to recite them from memory.

Thus I learn Bible verses without actually working at it!

Anyone can do this. You're reading these words, therefore you can learn bible verses.

Let me just ask you: can you remember your phone number, your address, the birthdays of people you know, details of how to do your job, etc.?

If you can do those things, you can learn Bible verses!

Do not let the devil tell you that you can't learn Bible verses! God never asks you to do something without equipping you to do it. God's Word says you have a sound mind!

"God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

(2 Timothy 1:7)

He has given you a sound mind, and He says you can. The devil will work overtime to try to talk you out of it and convince you to the contrary.

Here's where God's heart is: He wants us to know His Word. If we would read and meditate on these Words, He promises to reveal Himself to us. And that leads to what He really wants--the one thing we can give Him--an intimate relationship with Him.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

(John 1:1)

The Word was and IS God. His Word is literally a part of who He is. When we internalize His Word, we allow God Himself to come into our minds. In the vernacular of the Bible, this is called the "manifest presence" of God. Here's how Jesus gave that concept to us:

“Whoever has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” (John 14:21)

manifest: to show or demonstrate plainly; to reveal

What is Jesus saying? He's promising that He will draw near to and reveal Himself in a personal way to whomever makes the commitment to know His Word.

But He cannot draw near to you in this way until you choose by faith to obey Him. The moment you do, He witnesses to His Spirit in you, and bam! You know in your spirit, He's right there!

That's His "manifest presence"

We know that God is everywhere. He's bigger than everything. Said another way, God "transcends" everything. That's His "transcendent presence". Indeed, He's holding together every atom in the universe -- including those of your body -- moment-by-moment throughout time. But there's no intimate personal relationship there.

In contrast to how I used to be, let me share a "thought from the Mind of God" that reflects how I feel toward His Thoughts now. (I truly believe that God had me in His mind when He moved David to write these Words from Psalm 139):

“How precious to me are Your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. I awake and I am still with You.”

(Psalm 139:17-18)

And that's how I begin every day. I don't even set an alarm clock. As I go to bed, I just ask God to wake me at the appointed time.

The next verse describes how my mornings begin.

“The Lord God has given me the tongue of a disciple and of one who is taught, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He wakens me morning by morning, He wakens my ear to hear as a disciple [as one who is taught]” (Isaiah 50:4 AMP)

And so before breakfast, before my daily cardio workout, while it's still dark outside and there are no worldly demands upon my time, I begin to feast on His Words:

“Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.” (Jeremiah 15:16)

Dedicating the first portion of each day to God is a form of stewardship and tithing. Would you agree? God has graciously given me another day to live for Him. So I choose to give the "first-fruits" of the day to Him. It does, however, mean I have to go to bed earlier.

To summarize, here are the main points I hope I made:

God has commanded us to memorize Bible verses, and thus know His Word by heart.

Scripture memory is equivalent to thinking God's thoughts.

Reading passages just once each day is an easy way to memorize Bible verses.

I also shared a few details of how I memorize Bible verses each day.

I haven't said a word yet about the benefits of memorizing Bible verses.

But I've written plenty on that subject. The thing is, there are so many benefits, it's impossible to list them all. So I picked a few that have been helpful to me, and written a separate article about each one.

Here's a preview: Perfect peace; Perfect!

“You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You because he trusts in You”

(Isaiah 26:3)

Given who God is, do you think His benefits will be trivial? Get ready to be amazed! I'm talking about: practical, life-transforming, benefits!