

Why make time to Memorize God's Word?

In the age of Google, who makes time to still memorize God? Past generations made it a priority to memorize God's Word. Are we now losing a way of life... *and losing our way?*

In our making to-do lists to run our lives, why not make time to let *God's Word revolutionize* our lives?

Because making time to memorize His Word is putting first things first. **If we fail to keep His Word in mind, we may simply fail.**

"**What a heart knows by heart is what a heart really knows,**" urges Dennis Lennon. *And what the heart knows by heart is all that can calm the heart. And direct the heart. And strengthen the heart.*

What do our hearts really know? Will we who claim to be believers of the Word commit to shaping our lives with His Letters? Committing the Holy to heart is the way we commune with the *Holy Himself*.

Scripture repetition is the way we daily revive our faith, the slow pumping of the Word of Life into the lungs with the breath of His Words. And for the disciples of Christ, this Scripture Memorization isn't a one-time hurdle – **but a life-long habit.** A way of living to live the Way of Christ.

We want this to be a discipline we practice for the rest of our lives. **Think marathon, not sprint.**" writes Beth Moore. She encourages, "**Never – NOT ONCE – have I ever known anyone to get to the end of a Scripture memory commitment and say that it didn't make any real difference. Not a single time.**" So this Commitment Booklet: **committing our hearts to Him and His Words to heart.**

Learning the ART of Memorizing

Attend : Attend to the verse. Do whatever it takes to attend to the verse and work those brain muscles. If you have to **act** it out, **draw** it up, **write** it down, or **tape** it everywhere. Make up **actions** and **sign-language** to correspond with the verse. **Listen it a recording** of the book of Colossians on CD/MP3. Listen in the car, while doing dishes, going for a walk. For children: Draw the verse in pictures. Fill in the blank. Write it down several times. Close your eyes and see the words. **Do whatever it takes to Attend.**

Review to Renew: Repeat. Recite. Recap. Reiterate. And then.... Recite to an accountability partner weekly. Each day, **first thing**, take just five minutes to **review verses** learned last week. Learning is important...**but reviewing is paramount to retention.** *Repeating God's Word renews.*

Tie: Tie Daily Memorizing to Daily Duties. *Knot reciting to routines:* when you brush teeth, comb hair, make the bed, use the time to savor His Sweet Word. Tie memorizing to meal times. **Bind Scripture learning to laundry, labor and living.** Tying daily memorizing to daily duties is the living of Deuteronomy 6:7: "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." Tie His Word to your life. **Tie.**

So goes the **ART** of **Memorizing.** *And our motivation to keep memorizing?*

"Guard my words as your most precious possession..." Pr. 7:2 (LB)

Lord, "Your promises to me are my hope. They give me strength in all my troubles; how they refresh and revive me!" (Ps. 119:49 LB)

Seven Ways of Highly Effective Bible Memorization*

1. **Old before New:** Always take the old paths. Begin each day by reviewing the memorized verses first before learning the next verse. The goal is retention not accumulation.

2. **Rinse and Repeat:** And again. The only way to retain learned verses is to review them again and again over an extended period of time. Everyday's memorization rhythm: Rinse and repeat.

3. **Location, Location, Location:** Like the mantra in real estate is location, location, location, so it is for really remembering: memorize the location of each verse. Memorize each verse number and don't skip it. This is paramount and makes it much easier to memorize long passages and not inadvertently skip verses when reciting whole chapters. Location!

4. **Take a Mental Screen Shot:** Use your mental point and shoot and take a brain "photograph" of the verse. Read each new verse several times, hiding one word at a time, burning each word into your mind like light onto film.

5. **Preach it:** to yourself. Speak your memory verses to yourself aloud. Preach it aloud to the soul that needs it the most – our own – and say each verse with emotion and feeling. Whispering it while driving, walking, working not only is an easy way of reviewing and memorizing, it's fulfilling God's call to meditate on His Word day and night. And saying each verse aloud is a way to work the words deep into our memory: His Words never return void.

6. **Repeat it for 100:** For 100 consecutive days repeat aloud your memory work – all the verses, or the chapter, or the whole book. This is painless and demands no extra time: do it first thing every morning while getting ready for the day – in the shower, getting dressed, making the bed etc. Repeat it for 100!

7. **Sabbath Sanctuary** to see the weeds: After your Repeat it for 100, take the last Sunday of every month and make a sabbath sanctuary to read through your memory work. This will help you to “see the weeds” — any mistakes that have crept into your recitation of longer projects, chapters, books. Soak in His Word on a Sabbath — pluck out some weeds. Commit your heart — and mind — to Him again.

(* Ideas adapted from Dr. Andrew Davis)

“I know of no other single practice in the Christian life more rewarding... than memorizing Scripture... No other single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends...”

~ Charles Swindoll

online helps:

<http://www.mcscott.org/> **Verse Card Maker** "The Verse Card Maker is a simple and efficient way to create customized business sized verse cards for scripture memory." Print out verses in the ESV and slip business-sized cards into pockets, tape on mirror, etc.

<http://www.biblegateway.com> **Biblegateway** Search for the verses in your preferred version and print out as many copies as necessary.

<http://www.downes.ca/memorization.htm> First Letter of the words Memorization. Type in verse, click convert, then copy and print the text of just the first letters of each verse. Read several times. The brain works hard to fill in the blanks!

Colossians in a Year: Just 2 verses a Week

Week	New	Review	Recite	Week	New	Review	Recite
1	Col 1: 1-2			27	Review Colossians 1 & 2		
2	Col 1:3-4	Col 1:1-2		28	Col 3:1-2	Col 2	
3	Col 1: 5-6	Col 1:1-4		29	Col 3:3-4	Col 3:1-2	
4	Col 1:7-8	Col 1:1-6		30	Col 3:5-6	Col 3:1-4	
5	Col 1:9-10	Col 1:1-8		31	Col 3:7-8	Col 3:1-6	
6	Col 1:11-12	Col 1:1-10		32	Col 3:9-10	Col 3:1-8	
7	Col 1:13-14	Col 1:1 – 12		33	Col 3:11-12	Col 3:1-10	
8	Col 1:15-16	Col 1:1-14		34	Col 3:13-14	Col 3:1-12	
9	Col 1:17-18	Col 1:1-16		35	Col 3:15-16	Col 3:1-14	
10	Col 1:19-20	Col 1:1-18		36	Col 3:17-18	Col 3:1-16	
11	Col 1:21-22	Col 1:1-20		37	Col 3:19-20	Col 3:1-18	
12	Col 1:23-24	Col 1:1-22		38	Col 3:21-22	Col 3:1-20	
13	Col 1:25-26	Col 1:1-24		39	Col 3:23-25	Col 3:1-22	
14	Col 1:27-29	Col 1:1-26		40	Review Colossians 3		
15	Review Colossians 1			41	Review Colossians 1,2,3		
16	Col 2:1-2	Col 1		42	Col 4:1-2	Col 3	
17	Col 2:3-4	Col 2:1-2		43	Col 4:3-4	Col 4:1-2	
18	Col 2:5-6	Col 2:1-4		44	Col 4:5-6	Col 4:1-4	
19	Col 2:7-8	Col 2:1-6		45	Col 4:7-8	Col 4:1-6	
20	Col 2:9-10	Col 2:1-8		46	Col 4:9-10	Col 4:1-8	
21	Col 2:11-12	Col 2:1-10		47	Col 4:11-12	Col 4:1-10	
22	Col 2:13-14	Col 2:1-12		48	Col 4:13-14	Col 4:1-12	
23	Col 2:15-16	Col 2:1-14		49	Col 4:15-16	Col 4:1-14	
24	Col 2:17-18	Col 2:1-16		50	Col 4:17-18	Col 4:1-16	
25	Col 2:19-20	Col 2:1-18		51	Review Colossians 4		
26	Col 2:21-23	Col 2:1-20		52	Review Colossians 1,2,3,4		