

Discipline #1: BIBLE SATURATION – I am filling myself with God's Word

WEEK #4 – Bible Treasuring – “Memorization” – Saving What the Bible Says in My Heart

1. Memorization is Commanded (God tells us to memorize.)

Prov 7:1 My son, keep my words, And treasure my commands within you.

Col 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.

2. Memorization Requires Placing the Right Value on the Word (The Bible is valuable, and worth our time.)

Ps 19:7-11 ⁷ The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple; ⁸ The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes; ⁹ The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether. ¹⁰ More to be desired *are* they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. ¹¹ Moreover by them Your servant is warned, *And* in keeping them *there is* great reward.

Ps 119:162 I rejoice at Your word As one who finds great treasure.

3. Memorization is Essential to Holiness (We cannot live what we do not have memorized in our hearts.)

Ps 119:11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!

Prov 7:1-5 My son, keep my words, And treasure my commands within you. ² Keep my commands and live, And my law as the apple of your eye. ³ Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴ Say to wisdom, "You *are* my sister," And call understanding *your* nearest kin, ⁵ That they may keep you from the immoral woman, From the seductress *who* flatters with her words.

4. Memorization Is One Step Towards Understanding the Word (We must memorize to fully learn the Word.)

Prov 2:1-5 My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you, ² So that you incline your ear to wisdom, *And* apply your heart to understanding; ³ Yes, if you cry out for discernment, *And* lift up your voice for understanding, ⁴ If you seek her as silver, And search for her as *for* hidden treasures; ⁵ Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God.

5. Memorization Is Required Before One Can Meditate on the Word (We must memorize to meditate.)

Ps 119:9-16 ⁹ How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. ¹⁰ With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! ¹¹ Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You! ¹² Blessed *are* You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes! ¹³ With my lips I have declared All the judgments of Your mouth. ¹⁴ I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As *much as* in all riches. ¹⁵ I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways. ¹⁶ I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word. **MOBILITY!**

6. Memorization is Required for Obedience and Blessing (We can obey and receive the benefits of the Word.)

Prov 3:1-4 My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; ² For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you. ³ Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart, ⁴ And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man.

Prov 4:20-27 ²⁰ My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. ²¹ Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; ²² For they *are* life to those who find them, And **health** to all their flesh. ²³ Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life. ²⁴ Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you. ²⁵ Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you. ²⁶ Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established. ²⁷ Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.

7. Memorization Seeds the Heart with Goodness (We fill our hearts with something. Fill it with the Word!)

Luke 6:43-45 For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. ⁴⁴ For every tree is known by its own fruit. For *men* do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. ⁴⁵ A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. (See also Matt 12:34-35)

8. Memorization Allows the Word to Be Our Treasure (What we focus upon becomes our heart's treasure.)

Matt 6:19-21 ¹⁹ "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

MEMORIZATION ILLUSTRATIONS:

- **Treasure the Word** – Placing it in one's heart as a valuable for safe-keeping. (Favorite possession of the student? How does he/she care for it and protect it?)
- **Write It on the Tablet of Your Heart** – Several times the Bible uses the term "the tablet of your heart." Memorizing is like writing the Word down in your heart's notebook. Why do you write things down in a notebook? How is this similar to memorizing the Word?
- **Computer Hard Drive vs. RAM** – In the computer world, you have to "save" your work to the computer's hard drive. Otherwise, when you shut your computer off (or the power goes off), you lose it. The same is true with reading or teaching. What is read or taught must be memorized to be usable later. Hearing things or reading things puts things in RAM (Random Access Memory = temporary memory). Saving passages to your "heart drive" allows them to be pulled up over and over.
- **The Word is the Spirit's Weapon!** – (Ephesians 6:17) "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" – Have you equipped yourself with the Spirit's Sword? (See also 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 discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.")

MEMORIZATION TECHNIQUES (How To Memorize):

Josh 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.

1. **Speaking repeatedly** – Saying (reading out loud) or hearing a verse over and over.
2. **Writing repeatedly** – Writing a verse over and over.
3. **Breaking up in sections** – Logical segments (How do you eat an elephant?)
4. **Using hand motions & other mnemonics** (memory aids) – Remembering pictures, actions, or patterns, etc. that help.
5. **Putting Scripture to music** – Make up a song, or find one that has been written.
6. **Reviewing** – Continual review is essential to permanent memorization.

MEMORIZATION PASSAGES (What to Memorize):

1. Choose a passage related to what you are studying. (e.g. Gen 1; Josh 1:8; Ps 1:1-3; 1 Pet 2:1-3 etc.)
2. Choose a passage that deals with an area of temptation or challenge. (c.f. Eph 6:17; e.g. 1 Cor 10:13)
3. Choose a passage that encourages your walk with the Lord. (e.g. Col 2:6-7)
4. Choose a passage that is foundational to Christian doctrine (belief) or conduct (behavior). (e.g. Eph 2:8-9)

OVERVIEW: Discipline #1: BIBLE SATURATION (Be a Sponge!) – I am filling myself with God's Word

1. Bible Reading – Familiarization – Knowing What the Bible Says (Public Reading, Personal Reading)
2. Bible Feeding – Instruction – Learning What the Bible Means
3. Bible Treasuring – Memorization – Saving What the Bible Says into My Heart
4. Bible Deepening – Meditation – Thinking About What the Bible Says
5. Bible Keeping – Application – Doing What the Bible Says

BE A SPONGE!

- **Reading** is like a light mist. The more you mist, the more the water enters the sponge.
- **Feeding** is like a direct shot of focused spray which soaks a small area.
- **Memorizing** is like repeatedly spraying a small spot.