

Why Memorize Scripture?

"Bible memorization is absolutely fundamental to spiritual formation. If I had to choose between all the disciplines of the spiritual life, I would choose Bible memorization, because it is a fundamental way of filling our minds with what it needs. This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth. That's where you need it! How does it get in your mouth? Memorization!"

~Dallas Willard, professor of Philosophy
University of Southern California
("Spiritual Formation in Christ for the Whole Life and Whole Person" in *Vocatio*, Vol. 12, no. 2, Spring, 2001, p. 7)

"I know of no other single practice in the Christian life more rewarding, practically speaking, than memorizing Scripture...No other single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends! Your prayer life will be strengthened. Your witnessing will be sharper and much more effective. Your attitudes and outlook will begin to change. Your mind will become alert and observant. Your confidence and assurance will be enhanced. Your faith will be solidified."

~Chuck Swindoll
(*Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life* [Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994], p. 61)

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.
~1 Peter 3:15

"Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads"
Deuteronomy 11:18

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.
Colossians 3:16

Result of Memorizing Scripture:

- ~Erase the bad programming in our heads
- ~Distinguish good from evil (Heb 5:14)
- ~Be prosperous and successful (Josh 1:8)
- ~Keep from sinning against God (Ps 119:11)