



PREACH THE  
**WORD**  
It's Still All About  
**Jesus**

# Memorizing Scripture

Psalm 119:1-12 2 Tim 3:10-16 Luke 11:27-28

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What is your first thought when you hear the words “**Memorizing Scripture**”? Did any of you have an adverse or negative feeling towards that? Did it make you cringe? If so, have you ever wondered why that is? I think Satan is at work when it comes to the Word of God -- making us think that memorizing Scripture is a *chore*; it's a *burden*, an *inconvenience*; memorizing is *hard* and *tedious*; *but meanwhile*, we have no problem memorizing lyrics to songs or quotes from movies or sports statistics or any number of other things!

*Memorizing Scripture* keeps God's Word and Promises front and center in your life so that God's Word and Promises are always with you.

**I'll never forget a man named Rudolph.** I was just out of Seminary, and placed in a Church in rural Nebraska. While I was there, I trained to be a fireman and an EMT for the town's volunteer fire and rescue squad. One night I was on duty and a call came in in the middle of the night: it was from one of my neighbors. His name is Rudolph; he was well into his 80's, and I knew him because he was also a member of my congregation. When we arrived at his house, he was in some distress, still laying in his bed. His daughter was there, pretty worked up, and answering our questions. Rudolph, however, just kept saying “*The Lord is my light and my salvation who shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?*” I recognized it as Psalm 27:1.

Over and over again He kept saying that. Even as we loaded him up in the ambulance, and drove the 30 miles to the hospital, he just kept repeating, “*The Lord is my light and my salvation who shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?*”

The next day, I went back to the hospital, this time as Rudolph's pastor, and as we were talking, I asked him about Psalm 27. He told me that it was his Confirmation verse; and that it had always comforted him throughout his life!

I had always known the **importance** of memory work: but that night I learned the power and the peace of memorizing Scripture! I will never forget Rudolph and the comfort and strength he found in Psalm 27!

*Memorizing Scripture* is a tool for you to use in your spiritual life; it is part of your Sanctification. Like *solitude and prayer, quiet time and meditation*, *Memorizing Scripture* is a Godly habit and practice that you do in response to God's grace in Jesus and it is motivated by the Holy Spirit. It is part of your Sanctification and Spirituality! *Memorizing Scripture* keeps God's Word and Promises front and center in your life!

When we **memorize Scripture**, we make it instantly accessible in every situation and for

Jesus leads the way for modeling *memorization of Scripture* for us. He too, according to His Human Nature, had to *Memorize Scripture*<sup>1</sup>. Jesus quoted the Old Testament frequently in His life and ministry. Someone did the math, and says that Jesus quoted from 24 different Old Testament books roughly 180 times in the Gospels! **That's all from memory!** Jesus leads the way for us to *Memorize Scripture*: so that we too can know and trust Scripture like He did. *Memorizing Scripture* keeps God's Word and Promises front and center in your life!

*Memorizing Scripture* is part of your sanctification and spirituality. It is the prime way for you to *speak the truth in love* to yourself and to others. By *Memorizing Scripture*, you have God's Word in your heart and mind --> it forms your attitudes, shapes your will, guides your thoughts, and influences your words.

By *Memorizing Scripture*, you can *speak the truth* to yourself. This is where it the benefit of *Memorizing Scripture* is most clearly seen. The Holy Spirit works through the Word of God to both **confront** you and to **comfort** you.

Sometimes, the Word that you know and have *memorized* will **confront** you of your sin. The Law of God exposes your sin and creates guilt within you. For instance, the *Ten Commandments* that you have *memorized* will do this for you. When God's Word of Law confronts you with your sin, it is meant to lead you to repentance: to turn away from the sin and confess it to God.

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<sup>1</sup> The key passage that teaches that to us is Luke 2:52, where it describes the 12 year old boy Jesus this way: "Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man." As the Perfect Man, and the New Adam, He perfectly obeys passages like Psalm 119:11: "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."

And then the Holy Spirit reminds you of the Gospel Good News of Jesus. Perhaps you **remember** a verse like John 3:17: *God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.* Maybe you **memorized** *God so loved the world that He gave is Only Begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but will have everlasting life (John 3:16)!* You remember that Jesus' death and resurrection is what forgives your sins! The Holy Spirit works through the Word you have learned and **memorized** to comfort you and to forgive you!

One extremely important way that the Holy Spirit works through the Word and Promises that you have **memorized** is to **counsel** you in difficult times. The Holy Spirit comes alongside of you through God's Word and promises to strengthen and stabilize you; to uplift you and drive away fear and worry. He is your **Counselor** and **Comforter**!

- ⇒ When you are lying awake in the middle of the night, rehearse God's promises that you have **memorized** to yourself
- ⇒ When you are weak and weary and worried, review God's great love and care for you by **remembering** the wonderful promises God makes to you.
- ⇒ When you are alone in a quiet time, let the Word of God and His Promises that you have **memorized** fill you and overflow from you.

The Holy Spirit works to **counsel, strengthen, and stabilize** you through His Word! When you don't have a Bible next to you; or you don't know where to turn in your Bible -- you can rely on the verses that you have **memorized** -- the wonderful promises of God!

**Memorizing Scripture** is part of your sanctification and spirituality. It is the prime way for you to **speak the truth in love** to yourself and to others. **Memorizing Scripture** keeps God's Word and Promises front and center in your life!

**But there is even more!**

When you **memorize Scripture**, it affects every area of your life!

- ⇒ By Memorizing Scripture . . . Your **prayer life** will be deeper and stronger and focused on God's Word and Promises and not on yourself, your eloquence, nor your zeal

Let the  
Word of Christ  
dwell in you  
richly!  
Colossians 3:16

- ⇒ By Memorizing Scripture . . . Like Jesus in the wilderness, you will be able to *defend yourself* much more effectively against Satan and his depraved demons
- ⇒ By Memorizing Scripture . . . You will be able to *resist temptation* by hiding God's Word deep in your heart
- ⇒ By Memorizing Scripture . . . You will be able to *clearly articulate* God's love and care to others when they are going through difficult times or they ask you about the hope that you have in Christ
- ⇒ By Memorizing Scripture . . . It will help you *raise your children* to know Christ and His love as they too learn the value of memorizing Scripture
- ⇒ By Memorizing Scripture . . . You will be able to *explain sin and grace*, guilt and forgiveness to others as you share the Gospel Good News about Jesus
- ⇒ By Memorizing Scripture . . . You will take another step closer to being a *Biblically literate and doctrinally sound* disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ!
- ⇒ By Memorizing Scripture . . . You will be continuing to form a *Biblical world view* as you live in this increasingly hostile world

*Memorizing Scripture* saturates your heart and mind with Gods Holy Word. What better thing could you do with your mind and intellect?

Today we take the lead from Jesus, who *memorized* Scripture; and we hear the Word that teaches us to *memorize* Scripture, and we realize that *Memorizing Scripture* is a valuable tool that we have as we live each day as God's Baptized and Holy People.

Don't see it as a *chore*; or a *burden*, or an *inconvenience*; *Memorizing Scripture* is a joy, privilege and honor --- it's a valuable tool for you to use in your spiritual life!

*Memorizing Scripture* keeps God's Word and Promises front and center in your life!

Amen!

**Creator God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,**

**we thank you for our bodies and minds;  
we thank you for clear thinking  
and rational thought.**

**Help us to use our minds to glorify you;  
including memorizing  
your Word and promises.**

**Send your Holy Spirit,  
so that we may hide your Word in our hearts,  
and let it permeate our thinking,  
and guide, strengthen and assure us  
throughout our lives.**

**We pray this in Jesus Name,  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
and to the glory of God the Father,  
amen!**

## Psalm 119:1-12

Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD! 2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, 3 who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways! 4 You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. 5 Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! 6 Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. 7 I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules. 8 I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me! 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. 12 Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes!

## 2 Timothy 3:10-16

<sup>10</sup>You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, <sup>11</sup>persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. <sup>12</sup>In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, <sup>13</sup>while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. <sup>14</sup>But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup>and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

# Luke 11:27-28

As Jesus said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!"

28 But Jesus said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"