

Introduction

“I want to memorize Scripture, but I don’t know how.”

This book will introduce a method for memorizing Scripture—and lots of it. But unlike other methods you might have heard about, this book will explain the methods that the Bible itself presents regarding how to memorize Scripture. It isn’t a single method, and all aspects of the process aren’t found in any one passage of Scripture. But the Bible encourages and illustrates a combination of habits that will get Scripture into your mind, help you hold it over a long period of time, and allow it space to transform your thinking, actions, and heart.

That’s what makes this book different. Other books and articles on Scripture memory either focus on challenging you to memorize, or they unpack a particular method that the author has discovered works well for memorizing. Such books are admirable, and I want to

affirm any approach that encourages people to memorize the Bible and aids them in doing so.

However, I want to make the claim that the Bible itself positively highlights a combination of activities that, when taken together, constitute a method for how to memorize the Bible. Thus, this book is about how to memorize the Bible *according to the Bible*. Or, said differently, this is *the Bible way* to memorize the Bible.

New is not always better. An online search will direct you to dozens of electronic resources to help you memorize Scripture. Once again, I want to applaud anything that helps people learn God's Word. But during Bible times, more people knew greater amounts of Scripture and retained it for longer periods of time than is common among most modern Christians. Actually, *far* more people knew *far* more Scripture than is common during our modern period of rapidly decreasing Bible literacy. How did they do it? What can we learn from those who lived during Bible times about how to memorize Scripture? That is the question I've set out to answer in this book.

Each chapter begins with a short introduction followed by two sections: first, an explanation of the part of the method being encouraged or illustrated in the Bible; second, advice for working it out in practice.

Every chapter is short. The whole book is short, too, so you can quickly learn what you need to know and get started with memorizing. (Actually, you can start memorizing after reading the first two chapters.)

I started memorizing longer passages of Scripture in high school. I didn't know *how* to do it, so I grunted and groaned and ground my way toward my goals (and

sometimes griped and grumbled as well!). If only someone had pointed out how people in Bible times memorized such large portions of Scripture, I would have benefitted immensely!

Corrie ten Boom, who suffered imprisonment for living out her Christian faith, once wrote: “Gather the riches of God’s promises. Nobody can take away from you those texts from the Bible which you have learned by heart.”¹ We live in a generation when Scripture memory is far less valued than at most times in Christian history. My prayer is that this book will play an important role in turning the tide toward Bible memorization for those who recognize how critical it is to know God’s Word *by heart*.

To that end, let me begin this book by praying for you.

Heavenly Father, I ask for grace upon each of your children reading right now. Instill in them a deep desire to know your Word—not just general principles, but the very words you revealed to your prophets and apostles. May they come to learn it, love it, and live it out. Grant them grace as they spend time filling their hearts and minds with your life-changing words. In the name of Jesus. Amen

1 Quoted in Asheritah Ciuciu, “The Persecuted Church Teaches Us to Cherish God’s Word by Hiding It in Our Hearts” in *Eternal Perspectives* (Fall/Winter 2024): 21.