



Probably one of the most important aspects of being a follower of Jesus Christ, yet most overlooked, is Scripture Memory. The importance of God's Word can be seen in verses like the following:

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. -2 Timothy 3:16-17

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints

and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. -Hebrews 4:12

God's Word is such a powerful influential part of the Follower's life it makes sense that we should embed it deep within our heart and mind. To name just a few, Scripture Memory will provide:

- A deterrent to sin (*Psalm 119:11*)
- Power to resist the enemy (*Matthew 4*)
- Help with your prayer life
- Verses ready for use in sharing Christ with others

So how and where does a person begin with memorization? There are many memorization options to be looked at. You can choose a portion of Scripture (i.e. Psalm 119:9-16, the Beatitudes, the Fruit of the Spirit), or a portion that pertains to something in life that is important to you, or a system of verses.

As far as a "system of verses", a good suggestion might be the NAVIGATORS TOPICAL MEMORY SYSTEM.

Whatever verses you select to memorize, here are some guidelines:

1. Choose a version of the Bible that makes sense to you and those around you.
2. Pray before you memorize.
3. Read the verse(s) aloud several times.
4. Learn the reference first.
5. Always say the reference before you say the verse and then repeat the reference after you say the verse.
6. Work on the verse(s) audibly whenever possible.
7. Add the first phrase of verse.
8. After you have reviewed the reference, repeat the first phrase a few times, then add the second phrase. Gradually add phrases until you know the whole verse.
9. As you memorize and review the verse, think about how it applies to your own life.
10. REMEMBER: Always review the verse(s) in this sequence: For example if you were memorizing Psalm 119:11 you would say:
 - a. Reference: Psalm 119:11
 - b. Verse(s): I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.
 - c. Reference: Psalm 119:11
11. Do not settle for anything less than word perfect!
12. REVIEW... REVIEW... REVIEW.

Our prayer is that as you begin to make this a part of your life, you will find your heart and mind filled with God's Word which will have not only a positive impact on your life, but also the lives of those around you!

If you are looking for a place to start, here are a few suggestions: I John 5:11,12; John 16:24; I Corinthians 10:13; I John 1:9; Proverbs 3:5,6; Psalm 119:9-16; Joshua 1:8; Matthew 5:3-12 (Beatitudes); Galatians 5:22-26 (Fruit of the Spirit); Ephesians 6:10-18 (Spiritual Armor of God). Have fun!