

## HELPFUL HINTS FOR MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE

Memorizing Scripture is not easy. But when we can recall a specific verse to encourage someone else or to cling to in a time of need, it can be very powerful.

When I'm learning Scripture, I think of the verses as meaningful Bible verses for my journey through life. Trying to memorize one prescribed verse per week or per month has not worked for me. What has worked is writing down and memorizing verses as they stand out to me.

For my Scripture memory, I keep spiral bound 3x5 note cards, which I buy at the grocery store in the school supply aisle. You can probably find them in office supply stores as well. For each Scripture I want to memorize, I number a new card and include the Scripture reference, the Scripture text, and the date. For instance, let's assume that I have already written down six Scriptures on note cards. Then, on May 9, the words in Philippians 4:13 resonate with me. I would write this on a note card:

*Philippians 4:13*

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

5/9/\_\_\_

#7

“Philippians 4:13” is the Scripture reference. “I can do all things...” is the Scripture text. “5/9/\_\_\_” is the date, and “#7” is the sequential number of the Scriptures I am memorizing. I can then take my note cards with me and review my new verse throughout the day – getting ready in the morning, during my commute, as I'm cooking dinner, before I go to bed.

Recently, I started putting my verses into an Excel spreadsheet so that I can easily take them with me when I travel. This also allows me to sort them in various ways. Here is a sample of my spreadsheet:

<u>#</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Verse</u>	<u>Key Words</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1	2/1/___	1 Thessalonians 5:16-18	Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.	joyful, pray, give thanks, God's will	
2	2/24/___	Romans 8:28	And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.	God works, purpose	
3	2/28/___	Psalms 56:3	Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.	fear, trust	
4	4/3/___	Galatians 5:22-23	The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.	fruit of the Spirit	
6	4/20/___	Hebrews 13:8	Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever.	Christ is unchanging	
7	5/9/___	Philippians 4:13	I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.	strength	NKJ version
8	5/29/___	Philippians 4:6-7	Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.	anxious, prayer, peace	

As I'm memorizing a new verse, I read it on the note card and then say it back several times until I can recite it without looking at the card. Then I take opportunities throughout the day to recite it. Find what works best for you. Say your new verse out loud as you're walking the dog or pushing the stroller. Sing it in the shower. Recite it to a friend or your fish (who I've found are very good listeners). Write the verse out on a piece of paper every day for a week, each day trying to write it from memory. Think about the individual words used in the verse, the meaning of the verse, and why it stood out to you. These can all help as you memorize and recite verses in the future. And try to begin memorizing the Scripture reference (ie the book,

chapter and verse numbers) along with the verse itself so that you can remember where you found it if you want to go back and read it again, or point it out to someone else.

I've been memorizing Scripture since 2005, and I now have over two hundred verses on my note cards. I don't say this to boast, but to say that if we start with just one Scripture, over time it can grow into something really special. Some verses I've memorized fully, and some I haven't. Some I've memorized and then partially forgotten. But I continue to review and memorize the verses, and as issues arise I have Scripture that I can easily access to help me or someone else in need.

I encourage you to start today. It's never too late to get in the Word and start memorizing, one Scripture at a time.

**For further study.** Another idea for memorizing Scripture is to use ABC's. Write down the alphabet in a column on a piece of paper, and then by each letter write a verse that pertains to that letter. It may be a verse that starts with that letter of the alphabet, or it may be a verse that has a key word that starts with that letter. The important thing is that there is something in the verse that helps you to remember it based on that letter of the alphabet.

For example, the verse I might use for "A" would be:

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28*

The "A" could be for "And" which is the start of the verse, but for me it would actually be for "all things".

For "B" I might use:

*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12*

As you find verses to fill your ABC's and begin to recall them letter by letter, you will soon have 26 verses that you've memorized!