

## Hiding God's Word in Our Hearts

I would like to ask you to consider Scripture Memorization. I know we have many young mothers, we have many not so young mothers, and we have many many just plain busy ladies reading this. I know many of us are saying, Really? You REALLY want me to add something else to my schedule? Now before I lose you, let's take a quick look at what **God** says about memorizing His Word or what I like to call it....Hiding God's Word In My Heart.

Psalm 119: 9-11- I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. It helps us to overcome sin in our lives. The one piece of armor used to kill sin is The Sword of The Spirit which is the Word of God.

Mathew 4: 1-11- Jesus overcame Satan's temptation by reciting scripture. It will help us to overcome temptations in our lives.

Proverb 7: 2-3- Keep my commandments and live, keep my teaching as the apple of your eye, bind them on your fingers and *write them deep within your heart*. Oh yes!!! Deep in our hearts!!!

Now, let's take a glance at what some of our respected leaders in the church say about memorization.

John Piper- He paraphrased a statement of Dr. Howard Hendricks of Dallas Seminary.....if it were his decision, every student graduating from Dallas Seminary would be required to learn 1000 verses word perfect before they graduated.

Chuck Swindoll- "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. Your attitude and outlook will change. Your mind will become alert and observant. Your confidence and assurance will be enhanced. Your faith will be solidified."

Martin Luther knew so much of the Bible from memory that when the Lord opened his eyes to see the truth of justification in Romans 1:17, he said, "Therefore I ran through the Scriptures from memory," in order to confirm what he had found. (Richard Bucher, Martin Luther's Love for the Bible).

Now, if you will let me share my experience with scripture memory with you. I love memorizing God's Word. Is it easy? Sometimes....sometimes not. It is challenging and it will look different for all of us. How we do it will look different. What scripture we memorize will be different. I love the Psalms. My friend told me just this week that the book of Psalms was hard for her so don't get caught up in what others might be doing. Pray and see what God has for you. One thing for sure is, if you seek the Holy Spirit's help, you will be able to do it. It has been a blessing and a comfort for me.

I can do it anywhere!! That's probably one of the best things for me. I can be anywhere and do it. I can be awake at night and recite a promise from God to comfort me. I can be on an airplane, out in the middle of the ocean or be out shopping....ANYWHERE....I remember one time I was out of town, just browsing in a small shop. I received a phone call that was not good. I was far away and not able to do anything about the situation, but I remembered: God can. God had made me a promise in His Word. One of the chapters I had memorized told me that God would send His love and His faithfulness. I remember walking down a street in Florida, going through the motions of shopping, and quoting in my mind Psalm 57 and 138, reminding myself over and over that God has a purpose for me and He will send His love and His faithfulness to me. That is the only way I made it through that week! If I had not had God's Word hidden in my heart, I'm not sure I would have made it. That's why I want to encourage you to at least give it a try.

Holding God's Word in my heart gives me constant and immediate access to God's promises and His guidance.

-Rosalene Black