

# **Taking The Sword**

## **STUDY GUIDE**

### **12-Week Course**

**Know the joy, experience the power  
of memorizing Scripture  
by Chapter and by Book!**

by

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# Taking the Sword

## Introduction

Scripture memorization!! Just mention the words in some circles and you'll be hit with a barrage of resistance designed to cut you off at the pass. The very suggestion seems to threaten the comfort zone of many Christians. Why? Perhaps it's because no one knows better than the evil one what will happen in the lives of God's people if they start taking God's Word seriously. This is why he works hard to convince us that we need to defend ourselves against the very suggestion.

But, praise the Lord, you have not been taken in by his ploy. You have not been blinded to the awesome privilege we have of actually memorizing the very Words of the very God of creation. This class will encourage and assist you in memorizing Scripture in its full context, that is, not just a verse here and there, but building verses into chapters and chapters into books.

If you have never memorized chapters before, you are about to start on a wonderful adventure that has been life changing for many. As you memorize and meditate on the Scripture in its full context, you'll find it penetrating the very essence of your being. It will feed your soul and bathe your spirit as nothing else will. You'll find yourself experiencing the Author in new and intimate ways. You will hear God speaking to you.

Books and sermons, Bible studies and tapes, conferences and retreats can point you along the way, but their effect tends to fade with time. It is the impact of God's Eternal Truth filling your mind and massaging your thinking process that stimulates and sustains consistent growth. When you memorize Scripture in its full context it accesses your subconscious and your decision making process in powerful ways. And it greatly enhances the Holy Spirit's ability to accomplish His purpose in your life.

Chuck Swindoll wrote in his book, *Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life*:

*I know of no other single practice in the Christian life more rewarding, practically speaking, than memorizing Scripture. That's right. No other single discipline is more useful and rewarding than this. No other single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends . . . Your prayer life will be strengthened. Your attitudes and outlook will begin to change. Your mind will become alert and observant. Your confidence and assurance will be enhanced. Your faith will be solidified.*

And don't let Satan make you think you need some special talent or ability in order to memorize Scripture or to memorize it in its full context. All that's needed is a longing to know the Lord more intimately and a desire to follow more closely in His footsteps. Your Lord will take care of the rest. There is an old hymn that says: "Not to the strong is the battle, not to the swift is the race, but to the true and the faithful victory is promised through grace." Victory doesn't come with talent or man's natural ability to accomplish it, it comes through God's grace and His ability to accomplish His will in us.

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This Study Guide is designed to help you explore and expand your thinking. Be sure to answer the questions in each lesson as honestly as you can. Your thoughts need never be shared with anyone else, only as you yourself choose to include them in class discussion. But if you are transparent in class, it will help others to risk being honest about where they are coming from. You will, also, undoubtedly learn that your problems and fears are part of a much bigger picture.

It is best to answer the questions in succession without reviewing the entire lesson before you start. The questions in many of the lessons are consecutive and the anticipated suggestions for answers are sometimes incorporated in later questions.

If you find your notes require more space than that given, use the back of your page and insert the reference number for identification.

Now,

*I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for us who believe. (Ephesians 1:17-19)*

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## First Week

### Get Ready! Prepare Your Mind for Action:

1. When you prepare for a vacation or fun trip, what emotions and expectations usually surge to the surface?

2. Why? Assuming excitement and anticipation are somewhere in your list, what exactly are you excited about, and what anticipation sparks your enthusiasm?

3. As you are now about to embark on a spiritual journey of significance, what emotions are rising to the surface and what do you anticipate? (pro and con)

4. Compare the similarities and contrasts in your approach to the two situations and explore the reasons.

5. If you were planning the same physical trip in trepidation, expecting it to be sheer drudgery, how do you think this might change the outcome? Again, compare the impact such thoughts could have on your anticipated spiritual journey.

6. Look up Psalm 119 and note the word used repeatedly by the psalmist to describe his attitude toward Scripture :

vs. 16 _____	vs. 24 _____	vs. 35 _____
vs. 47 _____	vs. 70 _____	vs. 77 _____
vs. 174 _____		

7. Why do you think the psalmist repeatedly emphasized the aspect of *delight* in his approach to Scripture?

8. As you are now approaching what has been the most exciting and meaningful journey of a lifetime for many, why do you think it is important for you to reject any negative thinking the devil may have planted in your mind to cloud your path? Why is it important for you to proceed as the psalmist with anticipated joy and delight?

9. Read II Corinthians 3:6(b) and consider why this is a good verse to keep in mind as you now begin this important journey.

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## Second Week

### Get Set: Anticipate the Potential!

1. If the president of the United States or the prime dignitary of any country sent you a personal communication, what would be your reaction?
2. Why do we tend to give diminished significance to **divine** communication written to us from the **God of creation, King of all kings and Lord of all lords**?
3. How do His Words differ from mere "earth" words?
4. Write out the following Scripture verses. (You may enjoy reviewing different versions.)  
Hebrews 4:12 (the first nine words in the NIV)  
Psalm 33:6  
Hebrews 11:3a
5. Read Genesis 1:1-27 and note the cause and effect of specific **words** spoken by the great Creator and what they accomplished.
6. Discuss why you think it seems easy for so many of us to miss the enormous treasure and potential power we hold so casually, and sometimes even carelessly, in our hands?

Jesus taught that God's Words are as vital to our spiritual existence as food is to our physical being: ***Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*** (Matthew 4:4)

Moses cries out through the ages, "***They are not just idle words, they are your life.***" (Deuteronomy 32:47)

7. Look up the following Scriptures and discuss their importance as they relate to our approach of memorizing Scripture.

II Peter 1:20-21

II Samuel 22:31

I Kings 8:56b

II Timothy 3:16a

8. In conclusion, why do you think we should give prime importance to memorizing God's Words to us? (Use the back of this page if necessary.)

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## Third Week

### Go: "Okay, I'm ready! Where Do I Start?"

1. What do you see as the difference between memorizing random verses vs. memorizing Scripture in its full context, by chapter and by book?
2. Discuss the advantages of "full context" memorizing.
3. In light of the first two lessons and in regard to your original expectations regarding this class, what specifically do you anticipate, plan, hope, expect from this study series?

Now, are you thinking, "Okay, I'm ready! Where do I start?"

1. The main thing is to start!
2. What should I memorize?
  - a) Pray and ask the Lord to guide you.
  - b) A favorite chapter He has already impressed on your heart may work well.
  - c) Or a short chapter is always a good choice. (e.g. Psalm 1, 100, 121)
3. Use a valid translation. It is best to avoid paraphrased versions.
4. Build carefully. Go slow. Take small bites. (Remember you can eat an elephant—one bite at a time.) Build one sentence or even one phrase on another. Refer to your text as often as you need to until you have it securely in mind. Don't go on until you have mastered each section without a "hitch". Don't worry about how long it takes.
5. Doing a little each day works better than spurts.
6. It sometimes helps to visualize the words or phrases on the page.
7. Don't look for quick and easy ways. Someone has said, there are tricks but the real trick is consistency. Rote repetition is what will brand the words on your memory and on your soul. What is quickly memorized is often quickly forgotten. Yes, it is work, but it is oh, so rewarding.
8. Some people feel that writing a verse out by hand helps them to remember better. Writing it on a 3X5 card makes it easy to pop into your purse or pocket or post in working areas for easy reference.
9. Take advantage of those available times when you're walking, shaving, putting on make-up, doing yard or household chores, waiting in the doctor's office, on the bus or in the car, (but, alas, don't try to drive and check your text at the same time.)
10. If you are an audio person, try making a recording with a pause between each section of your verse to give you time to repeat it, and then say it over and over on your tape so you can say it many times without rewinding.

Rote repetition and constant review are a dynamic duo when it comes to memorizing and retaining Scripture.

**There is only one measurement of success and failure. If you quit you fail.**

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## Fourth Week

### Commitment and Discipline:

Because we live in a "quick and easy" world, most of us have strayed far from committing to anything that requires discipline or presumed inconvenience. Because of this, it is important for you to have a clear goal of what you want to accomplish and why. "Why bother?" is a frequent reaction to anything that requires effort beyond the daily grind on one hand or personal gratification on the other. So let's face some basics.

1. Are you convinced in your heart that God wants you to memorize His Word? Read these verses, very slowly, before filling in the space below. This is God speaking to you.

Deuteronomy 11:18 - **Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds . . .**

Colossians 3:16 - **Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly . . .**

Job 22:21,22 - **Submit yourself to God and be at peace with Him . . . accept instruction from His mouth and lay up His words in your heart.**

Ephesians 6:17 - **Take . . . the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God**

Joshua 1:8 - **Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it.**

(These are only a few of many exhortations in God's Word to memorize Scripture.)

Now, are you convinced in your heart that God wants you to memorize His Word? If so, complete this statement: *Because my Lord clearly admonishes me to memorize His Word so that I might know Him more intimately and learn to walk more carefully in His ways, I will therefore, in faith, commit to:*

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2. To proceed, ask the Lord to help you to set some goals. They should be comfortable for you but challenging enough to keep you learning. It is best not to set a goal of "quantity", as in number of verses, better to determine to set aside a specific period of time, such as 10 minutes a day to start with. A goal might also be one of determination, to persist even if you find it a stiff challenge. State your goals in the space below.

3. Because it takes a certain amount of discipline to get started, you may encounter significant resistance from the old nature as you start breaking away from familiar patterns of behavior. When you have set your goal, don't back off. Ask the Lord to give you the strength and wisdom to proceed and to develop a program that will work for you. Plan a time that you can spend responding to His admonitions not just to read and study Scripture, but also to *memorize it*. (A time when you are most alert is best.)

4. What activities that are part of your normal schedule, such as walking, cleaning, gardening, etc., might accommodate this added benefit. (Use the back of this page to list the possibilities that come to mind.)

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## Fifth Week

### A Clean Heart:

1. Have you ever seen an athlete run a race wearing a heavy overcoat and big lumberjack boots or lugging a bulky suitcase? Why do you suppose this has never happened?
2. Yes, the above illustration is obviously a ridiculous scenario, but the spiritual parallel is every bit as cumbersome, although, perhaps, not quite so obvious. What is it that bogs us down in spiritual progress as surely as excess baggage would in a physical race. (See Hebrews 12:1).
3. Psalm One is the door that opens to the whole Book of Psalms. Write out the first verse of this psalm.
4. Ponder the first three verses of Psalm One. What does the *first* verse, the *first* concept in the *first* chapter, emphasize in regard to our overall approach to Scripture?
5. With this passage in mind, discuss a prime consideration that must be addressed in order for God to freely reveal His precious truths and lavish His blessings on one memorizing His Holy Word.
6. You may know of individuals who are living (or have lived, if they are no longer alive) very sinful lives and yet it is known that they can (or could) quote Scripture, maybe even long portions and quite freely. The Bible says the Word of God is *living and powerful*, yet in some cases it seems to have had little or no effect on the life of the one involved. How do you explain this and what is the solemn warning it bears for us?
7. Find a quiet place in a quiet time and open your Bible to Psalm 139:23-24. Give God's Holy Spirit full access to your life, your mind and your innermost being in the words of David's prayer. Relinquish any impurities or extra baggage He brings to mind that may hinder your progress and your blessing. Conclude your prayer with Psalm 19:14.

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## Sixth Week

### Word Perfect

1. You often hear people say, "Oh, I don't know the verse exactly, but I know the gist of it." What do you see as the difference between having "the gist" or "concept" about what Scripture says and knowing it verbatim? What dangers are inherent in the "gist/concept" approach?

2. Look up the following Scriptures and see if you can find any basis for merely a "gist/concept" of Scripture. Note, instead, the emphasis on **word** or **words**,

Deuteronomy 11:18

Job 22:21,22

Psalms 119:11

Proverbs 2:1,5-6

Jeremiah 15:16

Matthew 4:4

John 15: 7

Romans 10:8

Ephesians 6:17

Colossians 3:16

3. In light of these Scriptures, why would you consider it important for us to memorize Scripture, *word for word*, and guard carefully against any deviation from the literal text?

4. There are also indications in Scripture that we should not only memorize it word perfect but it is also important for us to **speak** it, out loud. Review the following Scriptures and discuss why you think this aspect is significant. (See, also, Romans 10:17)

Joshua 1:8 - *Do not let this book of the law depart **from your mouth**, meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it.*

Deuteronomy 6:6-8 - *These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. **Talk** about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*

Proverbs 22:18 - . . . *apply your heart to what I teach, for it is pleasing when you keep them in your heart and have all of them **ready on your lips**.*

Psalms 15:1-2 - *Lord, who may dwell in Your sanctuary? Who may live on Your holy hill? He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who **speaks the truth** from his heart. (cf with John 17:17 where Jesus is speaking to the Father: Sanctify them by your truth. **Your Word is truth.**)*

Deuteronomy 30:14 - . . . *the word is very near you; **it is in your mouth** and in your heart so you may obey it.*

Say it!

Say it aloud!

Say it word perfect!

Say it again and again!

You will also experience added joy in sharing the Scriptures you have memorized, with others.

# Taking the Sword

## Seventh Week

### Meditation/Review - Part I

1. What, specifically, does the word "meditation" mean to you and what effect do you see it having on spiritual growth?

2. Before your next class, set aside 10 minutes of time to meditate on Scripture you have memorized. Don't do it in conjunction with your devotional time or "peek" to refresh your memory. Just "cold turkey", contemplate Scripture you have stored in your memory. Choose a quiet time in a quiet place and set your clock. Comment briefly on your experience. What did you learn?

3. How much time in a day (or week) do you normally spend meditating on Scripture?

A theologian described *meditation* as "a private devotional act, consisting in deliberate reflection upon (Scripture) accompanied by mental prayer and by acts of the affection and of the will, especially formation of resolutions as to future conduct." (Did you get all that? I injected the word "Scripture" to shorten it and apply the meaning more directly.)

The dictionary says meditation is "to engage in contemplation or reflection; to reflect on or ponder over."

In Hebrew it incorporates the meaning of ruminating, brooding, mulling over, saturating your mind.

As you meditate on each word you memorize, the Holy Spirit has opportunity to reveal meanings that are easily overlooked in a cursory reading or perhaps even memorizing. The psalmist said, "*I have more insight than all my teachers, **for I meditate on Your statutes.***" (Ps 119:99)

4. Ponder the verses below. What aspect is common in all of them?

*Joshua 1:8* \_\_\_\_\_

*Psalm 1:2* \_\_\_\_\_

*Psalm 119:97* \_\_\_\_\_

*Psalm 119:148* \_\_\_\_\_

5. Having had a little experience with meditating, what kind of a "repertoire" do you think would be needed to accommodate *all day* and/or *all night* meditation? Do you think a few random verses would be adequate? Do you see how memorizing Scripture in its full context, by chapter and by book, accommodates this scenario?

As you consider and ponder the words of Scripture you have memorized, ask the Lord to reveal what it is He wants to communicate to you and how He wants to use it in your life. Let it sink into the cracks and saturate your being. Let it linger in your thinking so it is there to draw from any and every minute of the day or night.

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## Eighth Week

### Meditation/Review - Part II

I'm sure, by now, you've come to the realization that memorizing is not a goal in itself. It is the first step. It is a beginning but it is not the end. The next step is also vitally important: meditation and the contemplative absorption of divine truth into your mind and life.

1. Now that you have considered the process of "meditation", perhaps in a little more depth, has your conception of it changed in any way? If so, how?

**Review:** Meditation and review go hand in hand. You meditate as you review and review as you meditate. This is why we do not recommend "gimmicks" that are sometimes promoted for memorizing, such as making mental picture associations or creating diagrams. These tend to divert your thinking to the process rather than the content. Using them makes review and meditation two different activities, one to recall the words and the other to focus your thinking on what you have memorized. Rote repetition, on the other hand, focuses your thinking only on the Scripture with nothing to distract from the pure truth that you are planting in your mind and etching on your soul.

Meditation and review are an important part of your overall memorization program. Constant review is the only way to retain what you have learned. You must use it or you will lose it.

2. Read Deuteronomy 6:6-9 and 11:18-21. What practical pointers can you draw from these passages that will assist you in review?

3. Develop creative methods of review, for example:

1. Ask family members or friends to check your quoting for accuracy. This will expose them to your new joy and may even inspire them to join you. Even enlisting unsaved friends to help exposes them to spiritual truth they may not otherwise hear.
2. Record your Scripture on tape and quote with it while commuting or on trips.
3. Make photocopies of your Scripture and post them in working areas to remind you and to serve as handy prompts.
4. Review in bed, before going to sleep or when awakening early.
5. If you memorize from 3X5 cards, arrange them in order for review. You may want to note a key word or two on the reverse side for a quick prompt.

What others can you add?

When you have Scripture branded on your heart and mind, meditation becomes a natural part of your life.

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## Ninth Week

### Renewing the Mind/Food For Thought

1. You often hear, "You are what you eat." Solomon said, in essence, "You are what you think." . . . *as (a man) thinks in his heart, so is he*. (Proverbs 23:7 NKJV) So, what kind of diet are you feeding your mind? How much of your day is filled with the perversion, heartache, distress and frustrations that the world is dishing out? What are you "eating", spiritually, to counter-balance the invasion of secularism that ravages all of our lives?

2. Paul exhorts us in Romans 12:2 - *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind* . . . It is easy for us to get caught up into the world's agenda, so much so, that it becomes just "normal living". Do you see Scripture memorization and meditation as prime factors in breaking this pattern?

3. Eastern religions teach their followers to *empty* their minds. On the contrary, our Lord tells us to *fill* our minds with positive, wholesome thinking. And He is very explicit as to what it should be. He admonishes us: *whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue and if there be any praise, think on these things*. (Philippians 4:8 KJV)

Have you ever tried to seriously apply this verse to your thought life? If so, what were your conclusions? If not, take a moment to consider it. What, above all else, fills all the criteria of this verse?

4. Amidst all of this life's temptations and frustrations, Scripture is like a pure river flowing through our mind. Consider this scenario: how does the flow of *reading* or *hearing* Scripture compare with the "river" of *memorizing and meditating* on it?

5. Paul admonished us in Philippians 2:5 - *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus*. (KJV) How can this be accomplished?

Solomon said: *Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life*. (Proverbs 4:23) The word "heart" used here has the meaning of "intellect, the will, understanding" all pertaining to the mind. Above all, God wants us to purify our thinking, to guard our thoughts because they are the door to our life.

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## Tenth Week

### Enhanced Prayer Life:

In order to get the most out of this lesson, it will be especially important for you to answer each question as you go along without reviewing the entire lesson before starting. Your answers will be progressive and the questions following could influence your original thinking, which should be fresh and genuine.

1. You often hear people say, "God answers prayer!" This is a very broad statement. What qualifying factors would you add in order for this promise to be valid?
2. Read John 15:7. What qualifying factors does Jesus add? Why do you think they are important?
3. What do we need to do in order to fulfill the conditions laid down in this verse? Can God's Word "*remain*" in us if we do not memorize it?
4. What importance does praying according to God's will have on the answers we can legitimately claim by faith?
5. What effect can memorizing Scripture have on the way we pray?
6. As you memorize Scripture you will be learning a great deal *about* prayer, but you will also be memorizing actual prayers. Numerous prayers are recorded in the Old Testament of patriarchs, prophets, priests and kings. Many psalms are prayers. Some of Jesus' prayers and some of the apostles' prayers are recorded in the New Testament. The following are references to some of Paul's actual petitions. Review them and compare their content to your prayers. Take one or two passages and list below his specific petitions for believers.  
Ephesians 1:17-19; 3:16-19      Philippians 1:9-11      Colossians 1:9-14; 4:12  
I Thessalonians 3:12-13; 5:23      II Thessalonians 1:11-12
7. Using one of the passages above, pray its exact words for someone on your prayer list. Consider how your prayer life could be enriched if you had this precise wording memorized and ready to incorporate into your personal petitions.

## Taking the Sword Eleventh Week

### Spiritual Maturity:

Scripture can only be living and active when it is lifted off the pages of paper and branded on our hearts and minds. Only by memorizing it can we take it with us in literal form for the Holy Spirit to use on our behalf, to promote spiritual growth and protect us in the constant challenge of our daily existence.

We are told to: ***Take the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. (Ephesians 6:17)***

A soldier does not leave his sword on the coffee table when he goes to battle, he "takes" it with him. And a Bible lying on a shelf does not equip us for spiritual warfare. Potential is in the book, but it is up to us to TAKE IT and apply it. It is only as we memorize the Word of God that it becomes a SWORD for us to use in the daily battles of life.

1. Look up as many of the following passages as you have time for and note how each one includes specifics of how the Lord intends Scripture to impact our lives. Keep in mind that as you memorize it and it becomes part of you, the profound life enhancing properties mentioned in these and other verses can *consistently* influence and bear fruit in your life. (Use the back of the page if needed.)

II Timothy 3:16-17	Psalm 19:7-8	Psalm 37:31	Psalm 119:11
Psalm 119:105	Psalm 119:130	Psalm 119:165	Proverbs 3:1
Jeremiah 15:16	John 17:17	Romans 10:17	Romans 15:4
Ephesians 6:13,17	Colossians 3:16	Titus 1:9	II Peter 1:4
I John 1:4 (KJV)	I John 5:13		

(Forgive me as I take a portion of Scripture completely out of context to make an interesting point?) Speaking about Jesus, the Living Word, John says, ". . . *the Word became flesh . . .*" (John 1:14) It is interesting to consider that Scripture we memorize also becomes flesh and, in essence, takes legs in us as we apply it to our thinking, our prayer life and our daily walk.

Remember: *They are not just idle words for you—they are your life.*" (Deuteronomy 32:47)  
. . . *there hath not failed one word of all his good promise . . .* (I Kings 8:56 KJV)

## Taking the Sword Twelfth Week

### Onward and Forward:

As you are now completing this 12-week course:

1. What aspect of it have you found to be the most helpful?

2. What aspect has been the most difficult for you?

3. In Lesson 3, you were asked what you "anticipated, planned, hoped, expected to gain from this study series"? Was your expectation realized? On a scale of one to ten, one being the least and ten the most, where would you place the fulfillment of your expectations?

Circle one:

1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10

4. Where would you have appreciated more help?

5. Now, you are completing this study series, but you are just beginning your journey of Scripture memorization. It will be important for you to have a continuing plan in place.

**Being accountable is important.** In this class you have been accountable to each other but now this built-in accommodation will be ending. What type of an arrangement do you anticipate will meet this need for you as you continue? Consider the possibilities:

Would you prefer that this group continue meeting to help and encourage as they have during these past weeks? If so, how do you see this being accomplished?

Would a smaller group or a one on one arrangement better suit your situation?

Write out your personal preference.

Paul cautioned us: *Remember that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize. **You also must run in such a way that you will win.** All athletes practice strict self-control. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step. I am not like a boxer who misses his punches. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27 NLT)*

*And now I entrust you to God and the Word of His grace—His message that is able to build you up and give you an inheritance with all those He has set apart for Himself. (Acts 20:32 NLT)*

## Always Remember:

It is not getting to know the words of Scripture that is important, it is getting to know the Author.

In Real Estate, the emphasis is always, "Location! Location! Location!" In retaining Scripture we have memorized it is, Review! Review! Review!

When you train, you don't start off running five miles the first day. You start slow and work up to it. It takes time.

*. . . precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept,  
Line upon line, line upon line,  
Here a little, there a little. (Isaiah 28:10)*

You can't eat an elephant at one sitting. But it can be done, one bite at a time.

*The law of the Lord is perfect, **reviving the soul**  
The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, **making wise the simple.**  
The precepts of the Lord are right, **giving joy to the heart.**  
The commands of the Lord are radiant, **giving light to the eyes.** (Psalm 19:7-8)*

*The Words of the Lord are flawless, like silver refined in a furnace of clay, purified seven times. (Psalm 12:6)*

*They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold:  
They are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. (Psalm 19)*

*I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food. (Job 23:12)*

*They are not just idle words for you—they are your life. (Deuteronomy 32:47)*

*. . . there hath not failed one word of all his good promise.... (Kings 8:56 - KJV)*

*The entrance of (His) words gives light, it gives understanding to the simple.  
(Psalm 119:130)*

*I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. (Psalm 16:7)*

*The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of shekels of gold and silver  
(Psalm 119:72)*

*I run in the path of your commands because you have set my heart free. (Ps 119:32)*

*I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts. (Psalm 119:45)*

*I take joy in doing your will, my God, for your law is written on my heart. (Psalm 40:8)*

*Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. (Psalm 119:105)*

*When your words came I ate them; they were my joy and my hearts' delight . . .  
(Jeremiah 15:16)*

## **Food for Thought:**

(Nuggets gleaned from other memorizers.)

Meditating is having an attitude of submission to God

The Words of God are written in only one place - the Bible.

The person who has trouble memorizing may be the best meditator.

The Bible is the language of heaven and will not pass away. (Matt 24:35)

Think Scripture! Apply it to everyday circumstances.

Meditation helps us think straight in a crooked world.

Memorizing is the best way to get the Bible into your life.

Make it a habit. Good habits are hard to learn but slow and steady wins the race.

Without a commitment the job will never be done.

Memorizing Scripture shows me how to live God's way.

Scripture feeds me; it helps me communicate hope; it strengthens me against the world; it helps me to get rid of my bad habits

Scripture memorization provides messages of hope at critical times in life; it purifies my thoughts; and gives direction in times of confusion.

Memorization is like exercise. The more you do it, the easier it gets; the less you do it, the harder it gets.

Memorized Scripture is of little value unless we determine to obey it.

Growth to spiritual maturity comes only by feeding upon God's Word, and memorization enhances this.

Memorized "words" may be of little value. It is the meditation and absorption into our mind and life that allows Scripture to bear fruit in our lives.

Memorizing Scripture has little value if we do not apply it in real life situations. It is only living and active inasmuch as we allow God's Spirit to use it to change our lives.

So much Scripture! So little time!