

S THE SWORD

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION:
A MUST FOR TODAY

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*This book is lovingly
dedicated to my dear
husband without whose
constant understanding,
encouragement and
support it would not
have been possible.*

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Foreword

Why the Lord would choose a weak, unworthy woman, such as I, to promote such a powerful message is one of the great mysteries of eternity. When I narrowly escaped death at age 29, my doctor gave me a dismal prognosis. He let it be known that although I “could live to be 60” in his opinion, this was about as likely as the sun rising in the west.

I was already several years into borrowed time when the mantle for *Sword of the Spirit Ministries* fell on my shoulders. Although I was a mediocre Christian with mediocre abilities, the Lord has made me a product of the ministry He so lovingly laid in my lap. As I myself began to take the Sword of the Spirit, as I began to memorize Scripture, not just a verse here and there, but in context — by chapter and by book — I began to glimpse the unharnessed power, the overwhelming joy, and the awesome potential of *knowing God* in a way that is unknown to most Christians today.

I pray that the Lord will use this book to propel you into a spiritual adventure more exciting, more wonderful, more dynamic than anything you have yet experienced in your Christian life.

Before You Begin

The Bible is a book of all books and cannot just be read, or memorized, and understood, as other books. There is a prerequisite involved, a bond of fellowship with the Author that must be realized. Do you personally know the Author of the Bible? If not, it will be important for you to read this introduction before delving into the text.

If you know only the English language, it would be impossible for you to read a book written in German, wouldn't it? What would you think about a language that is not even from this world, a language that is, as it were, from *outer space*? Do you think you would be able to understand it without some special insight and discernment?

The Bible is such a book. It is a book written by God, our Creator, to us, His creatures. Because it is God's book, written in His language, it's impossible for us to understand it without insight and discernment that can only be conveyed by His Holy Spirit. Just as it would be foolish for someone who doesn't understand German to try to read a book written in German, the Lord tells us:

...the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (I Corinthians 2:14, NKJV)

The Sword

So, how can we tap into this special language of Scripture? Unlike other books, in order for us to understand this unique Book, we must have a *personal* relationship with the Author so that He might *personally* communicate His truth to us. But how can this be accomplished? God is completely holy and cannot tolerate sin in any form and we are a sinful people. The Bible is careful to point this out. Romans 3:23 tells us: *...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...* We all must admit that we need not look any further than our own mirror to see a sinner. And since our sin has separated us from God, what do we do?

Before the beginning of time, our great and loving God anticipated our dilemma. He loved us and longed to communicate with us. So in His timing, He sent His beloved Son to convey His message of love. Jesus was born as a man. He was tempted in every way, as we are, but did not once digress. He died a horrible, humiliating death on a cruel cross, and when He did, God placed all of our sins and the sins of the whole world on His shoulders. Scripture tells us:

God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. (II Corinthians 5:21)

When we acknowledge Jesus as our God and Savior from sin, we give Him our sin and God places His righteousness on us. God then sees us as righteous, not because we are, but because we have Jesus in our heart and life, and He is righteousness personified. If you have never

Before You Begin

done it before why don't you just bow your head right now, acknowledge your sin and ask Jesus to come into your heart and life to be your very own *personal* Lord and Savior?

With Jesus as your Savior, you become a member of God's family. You then have His Holy Spirit as your teacher to lead you into the wonderful truths of His Word. Now, read on and learn about the blessings of making the powerful Word of God a practical part of your life.