

# SCRIPTURE MEMORY

## Discerning God's Will by Knowing His Word

By Laura Schwartz

I love this quote from Charles Spurgeon, "A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't."

As someone who has been walking with the Lord for around eight years now, I can tell you that my first three years as a Christian, looked very different than the latter five. What changed? I started taking the command to read and memorize God's Word seriously. And friends, this has changed everything. Was this journey hard in moments, and discouraging in others? Certainly. But can I stand before you today and say it was worth it? Absolutely. Without a doubt. Hebrews 4:12 says that the word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. This means scripture has the ability to change us from the inside, out. I want to encourage and invite you to experience the growth and joy that comes in knowing God's Word as we begin this new year together.

### Why Memorize Scripture?

*We cannot be reminded us of things we do not know.*

A few years back I remember a friend calling me up in a pinch, asking for help with some car trouble she was having. Now, I love this friend and did everything I could to help her, but the only problem with her calling me was...I don't know anything about cars. No matter how much I desired to be helpful to her in that moment, the reality was that I didn't have the tools to free her from the situation she was in.

Knowing God's Word is like that. As Christians we have a role to play in being lights in this world. Does this mean we will always have answers to the hard questions thrown our way? Not likely...but what we receive by storing God's Word in our hearts is helpful counsel for those in need of a way out of the situation they are in.

*Why would God show you His unrevealed will when you do not know His revealed will?*

I can't think of a more common question I hear than the question... "Well how do I know if this is God's will for my life? I don't want to make a mistake!"

Life is full of seriously hard decisions. What college should I choose? Who should I marry? Do I take this job, or not?

Unfortunately, not all the answers to these hard questions are explicitly found in God's Word. But while His unrevealed will is not something we are entitled to in this lifetime, what we do have, is what has already been revealed to us through scripture. It is instructive, it is a guide, and it was given to us for this very purpose.

Bible is made up of 66 different books, it was written by 40 different authors throughout multiple continents and over thousands of years. For a book with that many moving parts, it is incredibly cohesive in its teaching of who God is, how He loves us, and how we are to respond to that love.

**What college should you go to? Ask yourself:**

- Will this place make me a better man/woman of God? ([2 Timothy 2:15](#))
- Is there good leadership? ([Proverbs 11:14](#), [Matthew 20:26-28](#), [Luke 12:48](#))
- Is this a good investment of my time and resources? ([Colossians 3:17](#), [Matthew 5:16](#))

**Who should you marry? Ask yourself:**

- How does this person conduct themselves? ([Ephesians 4:29](#), [Jeremiah 9:23-24](#))
- Do they have the qualities of a godly spouse? ([Galatians 5:22-23](#), [1 Corinthians 11:1](#), [Proverbs 31:11-12, 25-26](#), [Titus 2:12](#), [Philippians 2:3-4](#), [Colossians 3:12-14...](#))

**Should you take this job? Ask yourself:**

- Are my intentions with this decision to elevate me, or make much of God? ([Mark 12:29-31](#), [Luke 9:25](#), [Colossians 3:23-24](#))
- What would my community group advise me to do? ([Proverbs 15:22](#), [Proverbs 27:9](#))
- Is this a wise transition for me/my family? ([Daniel 9](#), [Psalm 119:105](#))

Knowing God's Word gives wisdom, direction, and hope when we are in need.

***If you squeeze a sponge, whatever it was filled with, comes out.***

Ask yourself, when you are under distress, what comes out? Whenever Jesus was squeezed, scripture came out. Jesus quoted Deuteronomy when He is tempted, He quoted Hosea on the way to the cross...

In this world, the question isn't *if you'll be squeezed*, but what will come out of you *when you are squeezed*? If Jesus lived the life we should have lived, discipleship is responding in hard moments the way He responded.

There's a command found in scripture that we should know God's Law and meditate on it ([Joshua 1:8](#)). That command is there so that we would have success in this life and be good representatives of Him. Not only is storing up God's Word in our heart a means of keeping us from sin ([Psalm 119:11](#)), but it allows us to live our lives well. Psalm 119 tells us the psalmist hid God's Word in his heart so that he would not sin against Him. This means, that not only was there an effort made to internalize God's Word, but there was emphasis placed on its memorization with the intention of future use. As Christians, we should not be influenced by the thinking that conforms to this world, but rather separate ourselves through dwelling on holy things.

I guarantee you, the more time you spend with God in His Word, the more you will find yourself responding to situations like Jesus would have.

***So why memorize scripture?***

The goal of scripture memory is transformation of our minds so that we can test and approve what God's good, pleasing and perfect will is for our lives ([Romans 12:2](#)). All scripture is from God and useful for teaching, reproof, and training, in righteousness so that we may be complete, and equipped for every good work ([2 Timothy 3:16](#)).

*This is my encouragement to you:*

Regardless of where you are in your Christian walk, you are never too new to faith or too old in years to take the time to know God's Word!

**If you ever wanted to memorize scripture, here are some helpful places to begin:**

1. [Genesis 1:1](#)
2. [Joshua 1:9](#)
3. [Romans 3:23](#)
4. [Isaiah 41:10](#)
5. [Romans 10:9-10](#)
6. [Romans 6:23](#)
7. [1 Corinthians 3:16](#)
8. [Philippians 4:19](#)
9. [Psalm 107:1](#)
10. [Matthew 22:37-39](#)
11. [Psalm 18:30](#)
12. [Psalm 119:105](#)
13. [Philippians 4:8](#)
14. [John 3:16](#)
15. [Psalm 139:14](#)
16. [Romans 5:8](#)
17. [Jeremiah 33:3](#)
18. [Ephesians 2:8-9](#)
19. [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)
20. [1 John 3:1](#)

### Scripture Memory Two-Week Challenge

#### Week 1: Romans 3:23

<sup>23</sup> "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

#### Week 2: Romans 3:24

<sup>24</sup> "and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

### Tips For Memorizing Scripture:

- Set your phone background to the scripture you desire to memorize.
- Use notecards, and practice them every day!
- Choose a location (ex: the shower, when you are in the car, when you walk your dog...) that will be your "designated scripture review time".
- Put your scripture to song or record yourself speaking through it. Listen to it frequently!
- Ask someone to hold you accountable, say: "In two weeks I invite you to ask me Romans 3:23-24!"