

# HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

## TOOL 6: MEMORIZE

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**2 Timothy 3:16-17** - <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Today's tool, *memorize*, may strike you as out of place in this *How to Read the Bible* course. But remember, Christians study the Bible to grow in our intimacy with God. We believe it is God-breathed, inspired by him to reveal himself and the hope of salvation to any who read or hear it. But intimacy with God produces more than mental connection; it causes life transformation.<sup>1</sup> Do you want to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and might?<sup>2</sup> Do you want to experience freedom from sin and a renewing of your mind? Keep studying God's Word.

If we read God's Word for transformation, then doesn't it make sense for us to carry it with us everywhere we go? Consider some of the benefits of memorization listed in Scripture:<sup>3</sup>

1. Memorization supplies spiritual power. (Ps. 119:11; Matt. 4:1-11; 1 Cor. 10:13; Col. 3:2)
2. Memorization strengthens your faith. (Prov. 22:17-19)
3. Memorization prepares us for witnessing and counseling. (Prov. 25:11; Acts 2:14-40)
4. Memorization provides a means of God's guidance. (Ps. 119:24; Luke 12:11-12)
5. Memorization stimulates meditation. (Ps. 1:1-2; 119:97)

So how do you do it? Pick a verse or a passage and try this: read, recite, and write. Today, we'll try Philippians 4:6-7.

### READ.

Read it several times aloud to yourself.

**Philippians 4:6-7** - <sup>6</sup> do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

### RECITE.

Turn the sheet over and recite the passage aloud to yourself several times. If you get stuck, that's normal. Read it again and try again.

### WRITE.

Turn this sheet over and try writing the passage from memory three times.

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<sup>1</sup> 1 Timothy 4:7.

<sup>2</sup> Deuteronomy 6:8.

<sup>3</sup> Donald S. Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2014), 39-42.

Philippians 4:6-7

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