

How to Memorize Scripture

Following these seven easy steps will make Scripture memory a meaningful and effective discipline that will enhance your spiritual growth.

1. *Begin with a positive attitude.* Many think they can't memorize, but Philippians 4:13 says you can do all things through Christ. If you can memorize phone numbers and addresses, you can memorize Scripture.
2. *Glue the reference to the first words.* To remember both the verse and the reference, say the reference and the first words without pausing. For example, "Philippians 4:13—I can do all things."
3. *Memorize bite by bite.* Repeat the verse to the end of the first phrase, ending with the reference. For example, "Philippians 4:13—I can do all things—Philippians 4:13." Say that over and over until you have it memorized. Then repeat what you have learned and add the next phrase, still starting and ending with the reference: "Philippians 4:13—I can do all things through Him—Philippians 4:13" and so on. Memorizing a verse phrase by phrase is easy because you are learning only five or six words at a time. Learn the verse word-perfect this way.
4. *Review, review, review.* This is the master secret to memorization. Use memory cards to review. Say the verse as quickly and accurately as possible. After memorizing, review the verse every day for 90 days, weekly for the next six weeks, then monthly for the rest of your life. The best review is using the verse in your life or to help another person.
5. *Meditate on the verse.* Meditation can increase your grasp of the passage's teaching and its application. Experience Christ as that verse's truth works in you. Think of ways the verse can be lived.
6. *Use spare time wisely.* Carry Scripture-memory cards with you to use during your spare time, such as when exercising or waiting in line.
7. *Team with a friend.* Listen to each other's verse, checking the Bible or Scripture-memory card for accuracy.

Waylon B. Moore, *Living God's Word* (Nashville: LifeWay, 1997), 26–29, as adapted by Thomas D. Lea, *God's Transforming Word: How to Study Your Bible* (Nashville: LifeWay Press, 1986), 96–112. Out of print.

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