

# Basic Training!

## FAST Basic Training #5 - The Sword of the Spirit

### Memo:

Welcome back!  
You are now halfway through *Basic Training*. How are you doing so far? Or perhaps the better question is, *how much* are you doing? What you are learning, of course, are skills—and skills can only be mastered through practice. You don't put muscles on by reading about them, you have got to get up and exercise. Likewise, you won't build a strong life of discipleship by reading about how to do it—you will need to work at it. So keep plugging away, and God will bless.



This lesson reviews critical keys to memorizing Scripture. You will discover what it takes to permanently engrave hundreds, even thousands of verses in your mind—word for word, and with reference. Think how God could use you with that kind of Scripture stored up! So make a commitment to implement the secrets outlined in this week's study. Discover for yourself how amazingly well your brain has been created to memorize Scripture. Dive in, and take *FAST* hold of the Word!

**The Editor,  
Hid in Christ**

***Bible Secrets to Living for Christ***

## Objectives Week 5

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Initialed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Complete the Bible Search entitled **The Sword of the Spirit**. Remember, the Holy Spirit is your true teacher. Listen for His voice. What is His message to you?
- ☐ Your next two verses both emphasize the importance of memorization: **Deuteronomy 6:6** and **Proverbs 4:13**. Try to avoid waiting till the last minute to memorize your verses. Rather, learn them early, and then meditate as you review them through the week. Also remember to review all the other verses you have learned so far at least once every day. It is the only way to *engrave* Scripture in your mind.
- ☐ Read the **Practical Suggestions** for permanently retaining your memory verses and then begin setting up your back review file. Find a box or container to keep your cards in. Put dates on any cards missing one. And then place cards over two months old in your file. Determine to get your back review file organized before the end of Basic Training.
- ☐ Review all the illustrations you have learned so far, plus **The Pitchfork**. Just as with verses—long term retention of your illustrations is dependent on frequent review. Can you draw all four at a moment's notice?

*A sword in the hand  
Is worth ten thousand in the armory*

## **The Sword of the Spirit**

### **Bible Search 5**

*For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword. Hebrews 4:12*

1. How is God's Word described in Hebrews 4:12?

2. How powerful is it? Isaiah 55:11

3. What are some of the things it can do?

Acts 20:32

Psalms 119:11

John 15:7

Isaiah 30:21

Psalms 119:42

4. What does God instruct us to do in order to begin having this kind of experience in the Word?

Deuteronomy 6:6

Job 22:22

Proverbs 4:4-5

I Corinthians 15:1-2

*Note: Scripture memory can transform a person's life, for it makes the life-changing power of the Word available to the believer on a moment by moment basis throughout the day.*

5. Read the following verses—what does the Psalmist determine to do in all seven?

Psalms 119:16,83,93,109,141,153,176

6. Where does God say He purposes to put His Word?

Jeremiah 31:33

Isaiah 59:21

*Note: Never forget that it is God who actually does the work of hiding Scripture within us. Our part is only to cooperate. He ensures success!*

7. Why do you think God so emphasizes the importance of having Scripture written in our heart?

8. How did Jesus use memorized Scripture in each of the following situations?

Matthew 4:1-10

Matthew 19:3-6

Luke 24:25-27

9. If Jesus relied on Scripture, how important do you think it is for us to use Scripture in our daily life?

10. How willing are you to commit right now to making Scripture memorization and review a regular part of your life? Why not write out your answer as a brief prayer to God?

## **How To Retain Scripture Practical Suggestions**

So far we have looked at several important ways we can deepen our devotion to Christ, morning by morning: studying the Bible, praying through a prayer journal, committing your daily plans to Him. These are all vital to an effective Morning Watch! The paragraphs ahead, however, will give you a powerful tool for maintaining that devotion throughout the day—by the memorization of Scripture. Fixing choice verses in our mind enables us to meditate on Scripture anywhere, claim promises in prayer at any time, and work at application more perseveringly. To transform a morning by morning experience with Christ into a moment by moment one—learn to hide Scripture in your heart, and then keep it there! The suggestions below will help.

### **Daily Review**

For most people, the hard part about memorizing Scripture is not actually the memorizing but the retaining. An average person can memorize a verse in 10 to 20 minutes quite easily, but then he will go on to forget it just a few days later. Successful Scripture memorization requires one to do more than just memorize a verse; he must learn to engrave it on the tables of his heart, permanently. The secret is daily review!

Once you have memorized a verse, date it, and put it together with other recently memorized verses in your verse pack. Review this group of verses every day—preferably during your Morning Watch. Don't miss a day! Look at the side of the card with only the reference, quote the verse, and then turn the card over to check your accuracy. When reviewing your verses, make it a point to always quote the reference before and after the verse. This will help connect the reference to the verse, and the verse to the reference. After a couple of weeks a verse will become easy to quote—but don't let up. It will take up to two full months for the verse to become permanently engraved in your memory.

## Back Review

Once the date on a card indicates a verse has been in your daily review group for two months, move it to a permanent back review file box. To keep these verses fresh they will need to be reviewed occasionally. Work through them as often as you can—at least once a week, at first. Later, after you have accumulated several hundred verses, you may wish to move your better-known verses to a different section for monthly review. As a general rule, all back review verses will need to be reviewed at least once a month indefinitely—to keep them fresh and on the tip of your tongue. If a verse does get a little rusty, give it some extra attention: simply slip it in with your daily or weekly review verses for awhile. It will soon spring back to life—fresh as ever.

## The Importance of Commitment

Just think—if you merely memorized two verses a week, and used an effective review system, you would have over one hundred verses in less than a year. In ten years you would have over a thousand! Imagine—a thousand verses all perfectly engraved in your mind, and right on the tip of your tongue.

To get there will take *commitment*. For some, Scripture memory is difficult, at first. In fact, it may take several months for your mind to become accustomed to memorizing. And during this time, memorizing will require real effort. To succeed, you must not give up. Set a pace (perhaps two verses a week) and stick with it. You can always memorize "extra" verses, but you must never memorize less than the number you have chosen. Remind yourself that the goal is consistency—establishing a habit that will last your entire life!

Eventually, memorizing will get easier, and the rewards will get greater. Soon you could be meditating on Scripture throughout the day, receiving strength through specific promises at your moment of need, finding precise guidance through the Word in critical decisions, and more. Soon you may find it difficult to imagine life without the internalized Word! But until then—it will take *commitment*.

## Scripture Memory Formula