

## **Tips on Bible Memorization**

By Miguel A. Cañete

The Bible repeatedly emphasizes the importance of memorizing Scripture. For example, David prayed, “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you” (Ps 119:11, NIV). In Deuteronomy we read, “These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts” (Dt 6:6, NIV), and in Proverbs, “My child, never forget the things I have taught you. Store my commands in your heart. If you do this, you will live many years, and your life will be satisfying. Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart” (Pr 3:1-3, NIV). We could go on and on. But how can we memorize God’s Word effectively? Here are a few tips:

First, always have a pen or a marker handy when you read your Bible. This way, as you read you can mark those verses you want to memorize.

Once this is done, you can write each verse you want to learn in a 3-by-5 card so you can then pull it out and read it until you memorize the verse. A good idea is to read the card several times first thing in the morning, before getting out of bed, and also before going to bed at night. Of course, these cards can also be placed anywhere, from a bathroom mirror to an office desk. In any case, make sure you put them in a place where you will have to read it over and over again.

If you prefer, you can simply choose a verse and then write it over and over until you can write it by memory.

You can also make a list of verses you want to commit to memory in the back of your Bible (usually Bibles have a few blank pages at the end), which you can then read and reread until you know each verse well. I suggest you don’t populate this list all at once (with 40 or 50 verses, for example), but rather that you do it slowly, as you read your Bible.

If you read an e-Bible, you can create a document in your computer which you might want to call “Bible Verses,” or something like it, where you can slowly paste verses you want to memorize. You may then want to create a “shortcut” for this document in your desktop so you are reminded to open it often.

If you are computer savvy, you may want to use a “marquee” screensaver that allows you to write a message (in this case, a Bible verse) which will pop up on your screen automatically every time your computer is inactive for a certain amount of time. By doing this, by the way, you can also expose those around you to the Bible without saying a word.

Lastly, you can also use your PDA (personal digital assistant), and even your cell phone (depending on what model you have) to help you memorize God's Word. The important thing is that you be creative, and that you and I realize that, if we can memorize other things, then, we can certainly memorize God's Word.