

Psalm 119: Nurturing Passion For God

Store Up God's Word In Your Heart

Psalm 119:9-16

Introduction

In vv.9-16 God gives us seven steps which will help keep our lives pure from sin. Today we are going to focus on the step described in v.11 — storing up God's Word in our hearts.

What does it mean to store up God's Word in our hearts?

If you wanted to store food in your cupboard so it would always be there when you needed it, you'd go to the grocery store, buy good, and put it into your cupboard.

It's the same with God's Word. God's Word is in the grocery store of the Bible. So we go to the Bible, get the verses we need, and store them in the cupboard of our hearts — by memorizing them.

How does storing up God's Word keep us from sinning?

It exposes sin's deceptions.
It satisfies our hearts.
It strengthens our faith.

Even though Satan is prowling like a lion, seeking to devour us with temptations, God's Word is a sword which will fend off Satan's attacks.

So when we face temptations, if we have Scripture memorized, we can immediately fend them off.

But if we don't have Scripture memorized, if all we have is vague generalities, that's not the Sword of the Spirit — and Satan will devour us.

How do you go about memorizing Scripture?

Pray and ask God to help you (don't say "I'm not a reader," "I'm not a good memorizer").

Write a favorite verse on a 3 by 5 card.

Repeat the reference and the first phrase over and over until you know it.

Then add the second phrase. And the third.

Do this thoughtfully and prayerfully, enjoying God in the process.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

What has been your experience with memorizing Scripture? Has it been positive? Negative? Neutral? Why?

What obstacles have kept you from memorizing more Scripture? How does Psalm 119:11 overcome those obstacles?

What do you usually do when you see Satan prowling toward you, seeking to devour you with a temptation? Do you use approaches other than the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God? Why?

Have you not memorized Scripture because you thought it was too hard — or that you are not a good memorizer? Do you think that's a good reason not to memorize? Why or why not?

What, by God's grace, do you hope to do when it comes to memorizing Scripture.

Maybe pray together as a home group for God's grace to enable this.

