

The Joy of Walking with God

The most wonderful, joyous thing any person or family can do is walk closely with God. This has been true for thousands of years. Long ago in Psalm 16:11 David said to God, *"You have made known to me the path of life; You will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at Your right hand."*

Most people don't have this joy. Romans 1:21-25 explains this, saying people *"knew God (but) ... they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him ... they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator."*

People look for joy in a lie; in the wrong things. In things like financial security, or material possessions, or the approval of others. People are "worshipping", and focusing on, created things; on other gods. David in Psalm 16:4a says *"the sorrows of those will increase who run after other gods."*

Through God's grace, our family now gets great joy spending time with Him — yet we still struggle to go to bed early so we can rise early (from our warm beds.) Scripture memory is becoming a great joy to most of us — but we struggle to find the time to memorize. We struggle to put Jesus ahead of His blessings!

We have discovered that **the key to joy and worship is gratitude to God**, rather than an unhealthy focus on the "created things" He gives us. When we are full of gratitude to God — for His forgiveness, for the hope of heaven — we start to connect with Him and He fills us with joy.

We pray this diary will help you and your family to walk closely with your God.

How to have a joyful Quiet Time ... on my own

This is the format we normally use to have our personal Quiet Times (QTs).

1) Thank God and praise Him.

It has been said that gratitude is the highest form of worship we can give to God, so as you begin your QT, come into the Lord's presence with a heart full of gratitude to Him.

It is possible to have a QT but not really connect with the Lord. Often this happens because we are thinking about ourselves and our concerns about ourselves. Gratitude to God breaks the power of self centeredness. It shifts the focus onto God.

We can give thanks for:

- Who God is. (Faithful, patient, generous and so on.)
- Things He has done for us.
- Family, friends, and church.
- Difficulties we have experienced. (We can learn and grow from these. James 1:2 says *"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds."* And in Romans 5:3,4 *"Suffering produces perseverance, perseverance character, and character hope."*)

2) Write down the key blessing of the previous day in the QT sheet.

Assuming you have a QT in the morning, write down a key blessing from the previous day. Here's an example.

A Blessing to thank God for on:

Saturday: Sharing with other families

Sunday: The service on Sunday

Monday: The good day I had a school

Tuesday: Jesus dying on the cross

Wednesday: For my family and friends

Thursday: Recovering from the flu

Friday: Scriptures I have memorized

A Special Verse – Ps 145:2

“Every day I will praise you and extol your name forever and ever.”

3) Pray, and ask God to speak to you through His Word.

Ask God if there is anything blocking your communication with Him. If something comes to mind, confess it and ask for His forgiveness. Then ask Him to take control of your life by His Holy Spirit and to give you His thoughts and not your preconceived ideas.

4) Slowly read today's Bible passage several times.

Expect the Lord to speak to you, because He has said He will. In John 10:1-16, Jesus says that He calls His sheep by name. They know His voice, they listen to Him and follow Him. You will hear His voice, so read and re-read the passage, enjoying what you hear.

5) Write out the “best” Bible verse or verses from the passage.

As you read, it is likely one verse will become prominent. Write it in the diary. This will help you later to have even more thoughts and also to share what you believe God said to you.

6) Meditate on this “best” verse.

Prayerfully and thoughtfully go over this “best” verse, perhaps stressing each main word. As you examine it, God will make it rich, relevant and special to you for that morning. His voice will quietly and firmly confirm your fresh insight into it.

7. Write down what you believe God could be saying to you

Write, "*Lord, I believe You are saying that ...* " followed by what you believe He has said to you. If nothing does come to mind, you could write out a prayer. For example:

Best Verse: (v4) *Delight yourself in the Lord*

And He will give you the desires of your heart.

What could God be saying to me?

Lord, I believe You are saying to me that if I spend time with You every day, getting to know You, then You will give me the good and godly things that I desire, that are in keeping with Your will for my life.

A Special verse - James 1:22

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

8) Pray back to the Lord in response to what you believe He has given you.

This is vital. If, let's say, the Lord has brought an awareness of sin in your life, you should ask for His forgiveness and help to overcome that particular sin.

For example, if you believe the Lord is asking you to have more faith and trust in Him, you should pray and ask Him to help you in this. If you believe He is asking you to forgive a certain person, pray and ask Him for His gracious help.

9) Act on what you believe the Lord has said to you.

It is not always easy to do what the Lord asks. You may need to pray for His help. But He promises to always give you the strength to obey Him. And whatever the Lord asks us to do will always be for our good or for the good of others.

If you have even some slight doubt about what you think you have heard the Lord telling you to do, before taking any action, share it with someone whose advice you respect. Perhaps with your parents, a church leader or a friend.

Preparing for a Quiet Time

1) When is the Best Time to have a Quiet Time?

We see in Scripture that Jesus set an example of seeking His Heavenly Father early in the morning. Mark 1:35 says *“Very early in the morning while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place where He prayed.”* At this time of the day, we too can be in tune with Him.

In John 6 Jesus talked about how He was the bread of life. He reminded the Jews their forefathers ate Manna in the wilderness and eventually died. Jesus then said He was the Living Bread, from heaven.

He said, "*Whoever eats of this bread (meaning Himself) will live forever.*" We can learn how to "feed" on Jesus by studying how the Israelites fed on the Manna.

In Exodus 16:4 God said the Manna was a test. Would they do as he had instructed? He had told the people in Exodus 16:21 to gather it before sunrise, because after then it would melt and they would have nothing. Further, in Exodus 16:4, He said they must gather it daily, because it would not keep.

How we feed on Jesus can also be a test for us. Are we serious about our walk with God? Those who "feed" on Jesus early find a blessing not normally present during the rest of the day. And those who do this daily are well fed, unlike those who have a QT just once or twice a week.

We find the best time to have a QT is the early morning, before the day's activities and pressures grab our attention and fill our minds with all sorts of thoughts and emotions. If we leave it until evening, other things can crowd in and dominate our time and thinking.

For example, children may come home from school tired and grumpy and find it hard to concentrate. QTs at the end of days like this are often ineffective. However, a family sharing time in the evening is often a real blessing.

2) Why is gratitude important in getting Quiet Times established?

We have come to believe that gratitude to God is the key to getting QTs established in families. Invariably when a family is grateful to God, the husband is grateful for his wife and the wife for her husband, and together they are grateful for their children. In turn the children are grateful for their parents and each other. Such families are usually grateful for their church, their friends and their country.

Every family has their trials and difficulties. We have noticed, however, that families brimming with gratitude to God are the ones best able to get the QTs established in their families.

3) How Long Should a Quiet Time Last?

Although the Bible doesn't tell us how long our QT should last, experience has taught us we need at least 30 minutes. This may well mean that we have to rearrange our lives. It may mean that we have to go to bed earlier to wake up earlier.

This is the sort of decision a person makes who has chosen to put Jesus first in their life, rather than someone who only wants to add Jesus on to their life. You will find that the more you "feed" on Jesus, the more you will develop an "**appetite**" for Him. Psalm 34:8a says this: "***Taste and see that the Lord is good.***"

Any sacrifices you make to feed on Jesus will be mightily outweighed by the reward of coming to know Him more deeply and intimately. In Psalm 16:11 it says, "*In Your presence there is fullness of joy.*" If you make having a QT a priority in your life, you will come to love this time with God more than anything else.

How to help my children have their own Quiet Times

1) What if my children don't want to have Quiet Times?

Often, older children don't want to join in because they have established routines and there's no time for something extra in the morning. If this is the case, sit down as a family and say you want to make this time a regular part of your life together. Explain that it will require a major adjustment to the way you do things as a family, but that it is very important to you as parents.

a) Your children are tired and don't want to get out of bed.

This is a very common problem. You may have to decide to make sure they go to bed at an earlier hour. Most children would prefer to watch TV or spend time on the computer than to go to bed. Some say TV has had more influence on many of our children's lives than teachers, the church or even parents.

b) Texting friends.

This has become a common problem in many young people's lives. It is almost impossible for our children to hear from God if every five minutes a friend is texting them. You may have to ask your children to not use phones during their QTs, or better still, don't allow your children to have cell phones at all. In our experience, cell phones can give friends more influence than parents.

c) Your children see this time as legalism or boring.

Try to make it an enjoyable time. In our family, we find that the sharing of the blessing is often a fun time and we have many laughs over the good things God has done for us.

2) What impact can a regular Quiet Time have in my family?

1 John 1:7 says, "*But if we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship (unity) with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.*"

Walking in the light means not hiding sin from others. It is to honestly confess sin as it arises, and may require apologizing to a family member we have sinned against. 1 John 1:7 promises that this "**walking in the light**" with one another will create a special fellowship or unity with each other. God also promises that as we confess our sin to one another, His blood will cleanse us from all sin. Parents can lead the way by walking in the light themselves, and quickly apologizing to their children when they sin against them.

3) At what age should children begin having Quiet Times?

Our answer is simply this: **As early as possible**. It has been said that a child's character and world view is basically set by the age of seven. If at a young age they have come to believe in a God who loves them and cares for them, in our opinion, they are likely to believe that for the rest of their lives.

However, we have noticed that if, by the age of around seven, children have no real understanding of a God who loves and cares for them, it can become difficult for their parents to instill that faith in them. If they don't have a Biblical world view by seven they are likely to have a worldview gained from godless things such as TV. By the time children reach the ages of 11 or 12 it can be very difficult to get them to have QTs. They have already established lifestyle patterns and they can think that having QTs is an intrusion on their time.

We believe that as soon as a child can look at pictures and listen to a story read to him, he is capable of spending time in God's presence with a parent.

4) How can I train my little child to have a Quiet Time?

Perhaps the most wonderful thing you can do for your children is to develop in them a delight and joy in God's Word and a belief that He can speak to them. Here, Kathy describes what she did with two of our children, Isaac and Priscilla.

"During the time when they were from 1-4 years of age, I would read them simple Bible stories, letting them look at the pictures. As they grew older and started to think for themselves, but before they could read or write, I would read a story to them from a children's Bible story book. **Then, instead of writing down the best verse, I would ask 'What happened?' and write down what they said.**

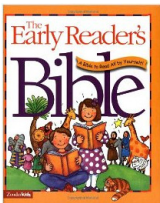
"I usually discussed the story with them, helping them to understand the key parts of the story. Next, I would ask them what they believed God could be saying to them. I would write down what they said. Once again, I would discuss with them possible things that God could be saying to them."

Below is an example of a QT that our Isaac did at aged four, before he could read or write.

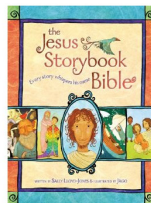
<p>O Tuesday 27 August 2007 Story <i>The Promise – p48 - 53</i></p> <p><u>What happened: God gave Abraham and Sarah a baby boy and they called him Isaac.</u></p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <p>What could God be saying to me?</p> <p><u>God can do good things</u></p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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QT sheets for little children you can get from www.walkingwithgod.com You can, however, use this diary and write in "what happened" where it says "best verse".

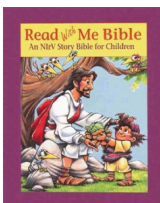
Here are some Children's Bible Story books we have found to be helpful:



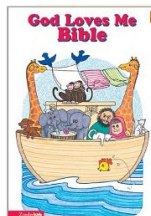
The Early Reader's Bible (Ages 4-8)



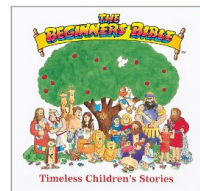
The Jesus Storybook: Every story whispers His name. (Ages 4 – 7)



Read With Me Bible (Ages 8 and under)



God Loves Me Bible (Ages 1-4)



The Beginner's Bible (Ages 8 and under)

5) How can I start up Quiet Times in my family?

a) Decide that this is very important for your family.

When I was a young man, a Godly leader said to me that we always find the time to do the things that are important to us. If watching TV is important to us, playing or following sport, or studying to advance our career, we find the time. He went on to say that if getting to know God is important to us, we will find the time to have a QT.

b) If possible, sit down together to begin with.

For a family starting out, we have found that it is best to sit down as a family and have the QT's together. Having QTs together gives mutual encouragement which is important. If dad has to go to work early, then mum should help the children. But once family members have learnt how to have a QT, the **older children should have their QTs on their own**. It is important to have a family sharing time.

c) Help your children.

Young children often find it hard to get something from the passage. It is helpful if a parent can read the passage and discuss it with their child, explaining possible things that God might be saying to them. You may need to write down what they get, even though they can read and write. Kathy did this with our two youngest. Boys especially, find writing a burden until about eight or nine years of age.

d) In the morning.

The best time to have a QT is early morning, before the day's activities dominate our thoughts. Although, when a parent is helping a child with their QT, this may be impractical.

e) Every day if possible.

Try to have QTs every day so that they become part of the life of your family. We have found that in the weekends and holidays, it is important to keep having QTs. Years ago we gave our children a break in the holidays, but we found this was a mistake as it was difficult to get them back into having QTs afterwards. We don't stop eating food in the weekends and holidays, so why should we stop feeding on Jesus during these times? For children needing help, it may only be practical to have a QT two or three times a week.

f) Share with another family.

A great way to establish Quiet times and sharing in your family is to share with another family or families. Our children love it when we share with other families. We usually have a shared meal and the children/young people often play games before or after the sharing times. One of the dads can lead the sharing time in a similar way to how he would lead it in his own family.

g) Do other enjoyable things with your family.

Family fun is important, and there is a saying "Families that play together stay together. " We have noticed families that "**play together**" can "**pray together**."

6) How important are television, computers and mobile phones?

They are not important. Kathy has a friend who teaches in a Christian school. This friend's family doesn't have live TV in their household. The children are lovely; polite and very well behaved. Their mother says she can tell which children in the school watch a lot of TV by their behaviour. These children are often rebellious and disobedient to teachers and parents.

We have had TV in our home for years, including when our children were young. At that time we struggled to monitor what our children watched. We wanted them to be non-materialistic, but so much advertising was geared towards getting them to spend money. We have noticed families that watch a lot of TV usually find it difficult to pray and share together. Families that don't watch TV, but instead share a good video or DVD together, have a very positive experience.

Research has shown that any TV badly affects young children. For example, a study published in Canada's 'Archives of Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine' tracked 1,314 children born in 1997 and 1998 and found, when they were 10 years old that for **every extra hour** of TV a week watched when they were between 2 and 4 years, there was a 6 per cent decrease in maths achievement, a 7 per cent decrease in classroom engagement and a 10 per cent increase in 'victimisation', plus a 9 per cent decrease in exercise, a 10 percent increase in eating snacks and a 5 per cent rise in Body-Mass Index.

No child under two should watch TV at all, the Academy of American Paediatrics said in 1998. Doctors blame TV for increasing aggression and obesity in children, and now add ADHD risk to early TV use. Television has adversely effected our family. So we now only watch news and occasional rugby games and documentaries.

What about computers? Obviously many people have to have them to effectively run their businesses. But do their children need to spend a lot of time on them? The answer, we feel, is **NO**. Like TV, computers are having a detrimental effect on many families. Children and other-wise normal adults can become almost addicted to games, chat and pornography.

It seems the Church, as a whole, is not really addressing the problem of Internet pornography, because surveys have shown around 50 percent of Christian men and 20 percent of Christian women are addicted to pornography. The Internet makes it so easy to feed this addiction.

Studies show that when a man views pornographic images, powerful chemicals are released by the brain into the bloodstream. These chemicals are said to be more potent in their addictive potential than cocaine and are similar to heroin.

Some parents put a stop on family computers to block pornography, but discover their children can see it on their mobile phones. There was a time when parents could limit the contact their children had with others to school hours. Kids with wrong values, who might be a bad influence, could not contact them at home. Now their children are **accessible at any time** by anyone who has their mobile number.

What about facebook? More than half a billion people are members and for many of them it is a good way to keep in touch. But others get almost addicted to contacting friends, and for them facebook is a major problem. They lose time which could be spent on more worthwhile things. And then there is the alarming fact that marriages — even Christians marriages — are breaking up when discontented spouses use facebook to easily make contact with old flames.

In our opinion if parents want their families to effectively walk with God they need to address these three things — TV, computers, facebook and mobile phones.

7) Read Christian books as well as the Bible.

There are books in Christian stores that can have a major, positive impact in our lives. The biographies of great Christians, for example, or books encouraging intimacy with Christ. Christian novels need to be chosen carefully, however, as some people spend most of their spare time with them to the extent that they are more important than God's Word.

How to share Quiet Times together as a family

Something wonderful happens as a family shares and prays about what the Lord is saying and doing in their lives. Here's a simple way to do this regularly. (In our family, dad leads this sharing. We believe this is best. But there will be some families where it is best for mum to lead, and that is fine.)

1) Dad shares the blessing he has written on his Quiet Time sheet, followed by each family member sharing theirs, one after the other.

Sharing blessings is a very significant thing for a family to do together because it develops gratitude for what God is doing.

2) Give thanks in prayer for the blessing.

Dad prays a one sentence prayer thanking God for the blessing he found, followed by other family members giving thanks for theirs. Keep these prayers short. Long drawn-out prayers spoil family sharing times, although it is beneficial to pray two or three times, perhaps adding to another family member's prayer of thanks as you go.

3) Dad then shares his Quiet Time, as written down on his sheet, followed by each family member sharing theirs.

Each reads the whole verse and then what they believe the Lord has said to them. **"I believe the Lord said to me that ..."**

Parents need to be sensitive to the fact that this process makes people vulnerable. Your children will not write down things if they know that what they write will always have to be shared. You must nurture an atmosphere that protects your child's privacy and gives them the option to "pass" if need be. And dads, their sharing is **NOT** a platform for you to preach at them — then or later!

4) Pray together in response to what God has said to each member.

It is very special when a family prays together over what the Lord has spoken to them about. It is also very powerful when family members pray, asking for the Lord's help and forgiveness for sin and failure in their lives. It is especially powerful when the dad or mum prays this in front of their family. Keep these prayers short. Dad should start, followed by the others.

5) Prayer can then shift to "asking" type prayers.

When appropriate, dad should then pray "asking" type prayers, followed by family members also praying such prayers. While these prayers can be slightly longer it is important to pray one topic at a time. For example, don't pray, "*Lord please heal Grandma,*" and then in the **SAME** prayer ask, "*...and please help me with my schoolwork.*" Allow other family members to add to your prayer for Grandma. When you've "prayed through" one topic, move to the next.

6) When appropriate, Dad brings the prayer time to a close.

He could do this by praying for God's blessing and protection to be with them for the day. It is also very powerful for dad to regularly thank God for his wife, and for each of his children by name.

Why Scripture Memory is such a blessing

Once you have the QT and sharing times established in your family we would encourage you to also make Scripture memory part of your family's life. It is one of the most wonderful things we can ever do in our walk with God. Scripture memory has been a great blessing in our family.

1) It greatly honours God when we memorize Scripture.

It is humbling ourselves and saying to the Lord, *"I need your words in my life more than any other teaching or philosophy."* It is saying to the Lord, *"I love you so much, that I am prepared to allow You to speak into my life ahead of any book, teacher, university lecturer, doctor, famous preacher/ speaker or TV program."*

2) It enables us to hear God's voice throughout the day.

Beginning the day with God and hearing his voice is so important, but the many distractions at work and school can fill our mind with wrong thinking. If our thinking is filled with God's Word, however, He can speak to us throughout the day from His Word.

3) Memorising Scripture changes our thinking, makes us more like Christ.

Romans 12:1-2 says, *"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind ."* We get our minds renewed by replacing our thoughts and our ideas with God's thoughts and God's ideas. As God's thoughts and God's ideas are found in Scripture, memorising Scripture is the most powerful and most direct way to **"reprogram"** or **"renew"** our minds.

Many Christians will say God speaks to us through His creation, through dreams or visions, by "impressions in the heart", and so on, but that He mainly speaks to us through His Word. The more His Word is stored up in our hearts, the more He can "quicken" it to us. This is similar to a computer — we can access information that has been stored in it, but if the information is not there we can't!

Why does God choose this way to communicate? Perhaps because the Word of God does not change, unlike our feelings or emotions that can be swayed by circumstances and people. Satan can play havoc with our feelings, but He can't change what's written in the Bible.

However, unlike computer programming, learning Scripture is not a "lifeless" thing. When we are busy with it, we are having fellowship with the Lord Himself.

Many of the Psalms are written in the form of a direct conversation with God. For example, most of Psalm 63 is talking directly to the Lord. *"O God, You are my God, earnestly I seek You; my soul thirsts for You. My body longs for you in a dry and weary land where there is no water."* As we learn Scriptures like this, we can often find it echoes the deep cries of our own heart and we can have the sense of **"fellowship"** with a God who is hearing and understanding our cries.

4) Memorizing Scripture helps us overcome addictions

More than any other activity, Scripture memory can help us break our addictions. Many Christians struggle with things such as eating disorders, alcohol, magazines, some Christian novels or pornography. The way to overcome them is for Jesus to become a greater joy to us than these.

How to memorize Scripture ... so you never forget it

Learn whole chapters and Psalms rather than individual verses because Scripture was written as a whole, and verses are best understood in context. Chapters and verses were inserted by scholars during 1227-1555AD and are not divinely inspired like the words. But they help us find our way quickly around the Bible, so our family learns chapter numbers but considers verse numbers optional.

Research has proven you will remember better if you:

- Write the passage out by hand. (We write on 160mm x 100mm cards, because they are big enough to write seven or eight verses on, yet small enough to carry in a shirt pocket.)
- Use several coloured pens.
- Walk or move while memorizing.
- Memorize passages aloud. (This increases memory by 50 percent!)
- Recite what you've memorized to someone else.
- Learn passages you love.
- Use imaging techniques.

Imaging is powerful. For example, to learn Psalm 1 ...

1 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

4 Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

6 For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Imagine a man walking casually along a road, talking with wicked people. He stops and listens to them. Then he actually sits down with them to listen.

Now picture another man sitting a few paces further on, past this first man. The second person is delighting in memorizing God's Word. Then picture that same person flourishing like a fruitful tree, planted by streams of water.

Next, move in your mind along a few more paces down the road to a paddock gate, and inside you see wicked and good people being threshed like wheat. The wheat and chaff are thrown into the air. The good wheat falls to the ground and is saved, while the chaff blows away and is lost.

Then finally, look up from the threshing towards heaven and imagine the judgement seat of Christ up there. There are wicked people there, unable to stand before God. They perish. And there are righteous people there also, being looked after by God.

Here's a three-step method that uses these principles of memory.

1. Read a phrase (aloud) several times. Image it. Without looking, try to say it accurately. (Learn without errors, because a mistake at this time will be hard to unlearn.) Write it out from memory.
2. During the day pause several times and recite the Scripture from memory. Repeat this step the next day and the next — until it has moved from "**short term**" to "**long term**" memory.
3. Divide all your old cards into seven groups and revise one group each day. At the end of the week you'll have revised all your scriptures!

It is helpful to learn new passages and revisit old verses as part of your Quiet Time.

Don't give up before you have the memory habit. It gets easier. (Everyone says this!) Keep memorizing and revising. Those who develop the habit usually come to love memorizing God's Word.

Reward your children as they learn verses. When ours were young, church was over an hour's drive away. Of course the children would get restless and squabble in the back seat — until we started paying them for each verse they memorized. It worked wonders. The fighting eased, and in the two years we attended this church they learned Psalm 1, Psalm 23, Psalm 34, Psalm 37, Psalm 100, Psalm 121 and more. They're now adults and say they are grateful for the Scriptures they learned as children.

Here are some special passages that you could start with:

Psalm 1, Psalm 16, John 10:1-10, Psalm 23, Psalm 27, Isaiah 40:27-31, Psalm 34, Psalm 37, Psalm 63, Psalm 84, Psalm 100, Psalm 116, Psalm 121, Psalm 139, Proverbs 3, Lamentations 3:19-33, Matthew 5:1-12, John 14:1-6, 1 Corinthians 13, Philippians 2:1-11, Colossians 3:12-17

Some final thoughts on Scripture Memory

Scripture memory has had a powerful, positive effect in our family. But in families where parents have demanded that children memorize Scripture it is often counter-productive.

In New Testament times every Jewish male was required to memorize the first five books of the Bible, and those training to be Pharisees had to memorize the whole of the Old Testament. While this was not a bad thing, it tended to produce men, and especially Pharisees, who were proud, legalistic and un-loving.

Not all were affected this way, however, as memorized Scriptures eventually were an incredible power in the life of converted Pharisees, such as the Apostle Paul. His 13 known letters are permeated with memorized Scripture.

It is clear Jesus had memorized much of the Old Testament. He regularly quoted it in His teaching and preaching without using notes. He also quoted Scripture when the devil confronted Him in the wilderness with three almost irresistible temptations. We see in Matthew 4 and Luke 4, that each time Jesus resisted these attacks with memorized Scripture. We can do the same.

We warmly encourage you to make Scripture memory part of your family life.