**Using God’s Word in Everyday Life**

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. –Ephesians 6:10-11*

God asks us to know His Word for many reasons. He wants to lead us in His perfect plan for our lives so that we can live our lives to the fullest. Through His Word he provides us with revelation, conviction, guidance, wisdom, strength, power, confidence, courage, and comfort. We have spent some time getting familiar with the benefits of knowing God’s Word. We have explored the power of His Word. We have also looked at the power of our words and how they could impact our lives and the lives of those around us. We’ve come a long way together! I am blessed to know that God has been working in your life through the study of His Word.

Now it’s time for all this information to come together in our everyday lives. This is where many believers get stuck. The precepts in the Bible are noble and desirable, but how do we convert what we read into how we live? As Donald Alexander noted in *Christian Spirituality*, “(t)he practical dilemma is obvious. Sin seems to reign with unconquerable power, and yet we are commanded to put off the old self with its sinful practices (Eph 4:22) and to work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Phil 2:12). But are we being commanded to do something that we are unable to do in actuality? ” He goes on to remind us that, “(t)he continuing struggle against sin, the flesh and the devil cannot minimize the triumph of Christ’s death and resurrection. At the cross sinners are set free-free to live! We must keep this liberating dimension of the gospel in mind as we attempt to resolve the tension in our call to practical holiness.”[[1]](#endnote-1)

We can rest assured of our ability to accomplish this “practical holiness” by the words from Jesus’ own mouth: “This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples” (John 15:8).

With realistic intentions and abilities in mind, there are some practical ways to move the Bible into our everyday lives. We will spend time in each over the next few weeks. One way has already been infused into this study (I was a little sneaky about this one!) Over each of the last five weeks, your “homework” has included memorization of a scripture passage.

**For review, let’s write those passages here(from memory I hope!):**

**Jeremiah 33:3**

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**Psalm 119:105**

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**1 Corinthians 2:9-10**

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**Job 27: 3-4**

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**2 Corinthians 10:4-5**

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We have spent a considerable amount of time together understanding why and how to know God’s Word. The need for our understanding and dependence on scripture is one of the most heavily repeated themes in the Bible. Deuteronomy 11:18-21 assures us that to “fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds” is the biblical prescription for success. Joshua 1:8 affirms this promise: “Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.”

There’s only one way that we can be sure to have God’s word on hand in any circumstance: memorize it. This may seem like a daunting task, but you can be assured of two things. First, God will honor your effort to join so completely to His Word, and the process of memorization will be easier than usual. Second, you will find yourself using your memory verses several times through any given day, which will build a desire to equip yourself with more.

Just to get you started I will share with you one of my favorite memorization tips: Since we all have a library of passwords to access our electronic lives, I use this as an opportunity to memorize scripture. For example, I might change my email password periodically to the “address” of the scripture verse I am attempting to memorize at the time. I find it more difficult to remember the location of the scripture than the verse itself, but I know it’s equally as important. So, I use the location to remind me of the verse. As I log into my email with “Exodus916,” I recite out loud, “But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” I have found this to be a useful memorization tool. Here are some others I use:

*Writing the verse over and over*. Remember when your teacher (or your mom!) would make you write something 100 times to be sure you didn’t forget it? Maybe I am dating myself, but I can remember doing this many times. Employ this method in scripture memorization. Keep a pile of 3x5 cards in or near your bible. When you find a verse you want to memorize, write it several times, once on each card. Keep one for yourself and give the extras to friends, your spouse, or put it in your kid’s lunch box.

*Visual memorization***.** Write a verse (perhaps on one of those 3x5 cards), and put it on the treadmill while running or on the dashboard of your car for the day. Maybe even tape it to the steering wheel or the bathroom mirror. Use it to mark your place in your day planner or a book you are reading. Seeing it over and over again helps commit it to memory

*Reciting.* How did you learn the alphabet? Same as the rest of us, I bet. We all know that song. You probably know the lyrics to hundreds of songs that you have enjoyed over your lifetime. For some reason, when we put words to song, they are easier to remember. Try this with bible verses-pick a tune, pick a verse, and have some fun!

After you have started the process, you will find more (and better) ways to get the job done, but these might be helpful to start.

The primary reason for memorizing scripture is to have it on hand, so, in the day to day living of our lives, we can be “strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.” This is a huge component in moving the power of God’s word into our practical lives. Ephesians 6:10 tells us to “put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.” Paul goes on to remind us that our daily “struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” Paul describes this armor in the following verses.

**Please fill in the blanks to uncover the “full armor of God.”**

**Belt of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (v 14)**

**Breastplate of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (v 14)**

**[Sandals] of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(v 15)**

**Shield of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (v 16)**

**Helmet of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (v 17)**

**Sword of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ which is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (v 17)**

You will notice that there are five articles of armor that could be classified as defensive and only one that would be classified as offensive, or useful in an aggressive rather than protective way.

Which article of armor would be used in offense, or proactively?

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Paul is purposeful in this distinction. There is no more powerful weapon at our spiritual disposal than the word of God. When we wield it appropriately, with instruments (mouths) that are sanctified, we can move mountains.

During the course of the day, there are plenty of traps set by the enemy of our soul to derail and distract us from a God focus. As we face these challenges, big and small, we can be sure that there is a scripture verse to get us through. If we have memorized enough of the Bible’s “staples,” we can call upon scripture in an audible voice (remember the power of the spoken word over those kept in thought) and combat those elements that try to take us out of our game. Wouldn’t it be nice to have more control over the ups and downs of the day? Wouldn’t it be comforting to have the joy the Bible talks about, even in hard times? When we learn to wield the power of God’s word, we can.

**How did God speak directly to you through this week’s lesson?**

**What is your response to Him?**

**Please read Psalm 139 in it’s entirety and choose a passage to commit to memory**:

**Group Discussion:**

1. As a group, review the concepts from week four which dealt with the power of the spoken word over thoughts we keep to ourselves. Apply that understanding to this weeks lesson.
2. As a group, please read 1 Corinthians 2:13 and discuss its relevance to this week’s lesson.
1. Donald L. Alexander, *Christian Spirituality, Five views of Sanctification* (InterVarsity Press, 1988), 8 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)