

RETAINING

WHAT YOU MEMORIZE

**"I WILL DELIGHT MYSELF IN
YOUR STATUTES, I WILL NOT
FORGET YOUR WORD."**

-PSALM 119:16

A GUIDE TO SYSTEMATICALLY REVIEWING YOUR MEMORY VERSES

One of the most important parts of memorizing Scripture is review.

After all, our goal isn't just to get verses into our short-term memory; we want them in long-term memory! The way to achieve this is through spaced repetition. In other words, the best way to retain your memory verses is to review them at systematic intervals. It's better to review a verse every day for 100 days than to review it 100 times in one day.

Just as there are lots of ways to memorize Scripture, there are several schools of thought when it comes to review:

► **CATCH AND RELEASE**

Some memorizers review a memorized passage daily for several months and then “kiss it goodbye.” This approach is particularly common among those who memorize whole books of the Bible. Their rationale is that it's better to keep memorizing new Scripture than to get bogged down with review. Plus, it's typically much easier to re-memorize those passages again in the future since you never completely forget them.

► **KEEP EVERYTHING FOREVER**

Others are firmly committed to perfectly retaining every verse they ever memorize. After all, memorizing those verses took effort! While this strategy is realistic for most new memorizers, it becomes increasingly difficult to make time for new memory work—especially if you're actively reviewing hundreds or even thousands of memory verses.

► **TARGETED REVIEW**

This hybrid approach harnesses the strength of both methods. With Targeted Review, you practice your most recent memory verses for a minimum of 30 days. This helps push them into your long-term memory. After 30 days, you decide whether to add those verses to your list of Golden Verses—a set of verses you review indefinitely. This strategy ensures you're always prepared to wield “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Eph. 6:17), while also giving you ample time for new memory work.

Naturally, this method is slightly more complicated since it involves systematically reviewing your verses on a set schedule. If you decide Targeted Review is right for you, the next page contains a simple way to get started. These instructions assume you are using VerseLocker, SMF's free Bible memory app, although you can recreate this system using index cards and a simple filing system as well.



VerseLocker

Download the free app today!
verselocker.com

HOW IT WORKS: THE GOLDEN VERSES METHOD

VerseLocker collections are a core element of the Targeted Review system. Think of a collection like a folder for your verses. A collection can contain as many verses or chapters as you'd like; just remember that the more verses you have in a collection, the longer it will take to review when it comes due.

Give your collection a name like "Psalm 23 – Learning." Use VerseLocker's collection reminder feature to schedule that collection for daily review. After you perfectly recite all of the verses in that collection to someone else from memory, change its name to "Psalm 23 – Memorized." Keep daily reminders enabled for 30 days and continue reciting every verse from memory to help solidify them in your long-term memory. Optionally, you can begin memorizing a new set of verses while simultaneously reviewing recent ones. To keep fresh goals on the horizon, create an additional collection for verses you hope to memorize in the future.



Visit scripturememory.com/review for a tutorial video

After one month of daily review, decide whether you'd like to add Psalm 23 to your list of Golden Verses. If so, change the collection's color to yellow and change the reminder frequency to weekly. Otherwise, simply disable reminders for that collection.

Each time a collection containing Golden Verses is due for review, recite the verses aloud to someone else or use a voice recorder to check yourself for accuracy. After reciting, consider updating the reminder frequency based on how easy or difficult it was to remember them. We recommend reviewing your Golden Verses at least every 90 days.



Memorization is the natural byproduct of repetition





Most people are capable of retaining hundreds of Bible verses in memory

The goal of Scripture memorization is to get God's Word where it belongs: in your heart (Psa. 119:11). The goal of review is to keep it in memory! There's no right or wrong way to review your verses, and this system is not a one-size-fits-all solution. Make it your own, and whatever you do, don't feel overwhelmed! Scripture memory—and yes, even review—is a blessing, not a burden. Not a single moment you spend in God's Word can be wasted, and not a word of it will return void. As you take time to revisit familiar passages from days gone by, ask God to open your eyes to the hidden treasures you may have missed last time (Psa. 119:18).

RECOMMENDED REVIEW SCHEDULE

Phase 1: Active Memorization

As you begin memorizing a new passage of Scripture, review it daily until you can recite it fluently with 100% accuracy.

Phase 2: Solidification

After you memorize a passage and recite it to someone else, continue reciting it aloud daily for the next 30 days.

Phase 3: Review

If you decide to include this passage in your list of Golden Verses, review it weekly for four weeks, then monthly for four months, then quarterly forever. Adjust these intervals as needed based on how difficult it is to recite the passage when it comes up for review.



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P.O. Box 550232 • Dallas, TX 75355
scripturememory.com
contact@scripturememory.com
888.569.2560