

The Hidden Word

Air Dates: February 14-18, 2022

Day One

No doubt you've heard of "spiritual disciplines." These are things we need to do in order to grow spiritually, such as reading your Bible, praying, fellowship with other believers, memorizing Scripture, etc. Frankly, I would like to find another word to describe these things because the word "discipline" just has so much baggage attached to it.

Discipline conjures up in our minds controls, regulations, rules, strictness—words that are not naturally inviting, wouldn't you agree? I would rather call them spiritual benefits, spiritual privileges, spiritual birthrights—something like that. These are the things that make a huge difference in our growth as Christ-followers when we incorporate them into our daily lives. The benefits of these spiritual privileges are uniquely available to those who have been born again through faith in Christ.

So, are you taking advantage of your spiritual birthrights? Recently God put it on my heart to make it a high priority in my life to memorize Scripture on a more regular basis and encourage others to join me. We are beginning a new opportunity here at The Christian Working Woman, which I am calling "The Hidden Word." The purpose is to encourage and inspire you to make memorizing Scripture a priority in your life, to give you a structured way you can do it, and to encourage you in every way possible to keep at it.

Why? Because this spiritual privilege has benefits like no other. From his book, *Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life*, Chuck Swindoll wrote:

"I know of no other single practice in the Christian life more rewarding, practically speaking, than memorizing Scripture. . . . No other single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends! . . . Your attitudes and outlook will begin to change. Your mind will become alert and observant. Your confidence and assurance will be enhanced. Your faith will be solidified."

Sounds like a deal too good to pass up.

Day Two

Chances are you are familiar with this verse from Psalm 119:11:

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

When you hide something in your heart, it's there to stay, isn't it? It's in a place where no one can take it from you—it's hidden there for you whenever you need it. And the Psalmist notes that hiding God's word in that special place gives you victory over sin.

Is there some sin in your life—maybe something nobody knows about but you—but some habit or addiction or sinful way that you haven't been able yet to conquer? You want to but as hard as you try, it just sticks around. Have you hidden God's word in your heart? That's the secret to living a pure life that

pleases the Lord. That's the secret to being a victorious Christian who blesses many others because of that hidden word.

Here at The Christian Working Woman I've decided to make this a high priority for me and to encourage others to join me. I'm calling this new program The Hidden Word, and we have designed a simple program to help you hide God's word in your heart. Some people call Scripture memorization a spiritual discipline, but I prefer to call it a spiritual benefit that is ours when we are Christians.

The Bible says "But the word of the Lord endures forever. And this is the word that was preached to you" (1 Peter 1:25). I can testify to this because my dear mother memorized Scripture all her life. She had a plan that she followed; it was a discipline, but she never thought of it that way. It was her delight. And because she had hidden God's word in her heart so faithfully for so many years, she grew sweeter and more Christ-like as she aged. And in the last years, when dementia was taking a toll, many things she could not remember, but she could quote the Word of God because it was hidden in her heart and nobody could take it away from her. It endured forever.

Day Three

Would you like to know one thing you can do that will make a greater impact for spiritual growth in your life than anything else? It is memorizing Scripture and hiding it in your heart.

Dallas Willard was recognized as a spiritual development scholar, and here is what he wrote:

"Bible memorization is absolutely fundamental to spiritual formation. If I had to choose between all the disciplines of the spiritual life, I would choose Bible memorization, because it is a fundamental way of filling our minds with what it needs."

Dear friend, he was so right. We are what we think, and we think about what we put into our minds. Dallas called it a "spiritual discipline," as most people do, but I prefer to call it a spiritual birthright. It is your right if you are born again through faith in Christ to be transformed in ways you never thought possible by taking advantage of this privilege to hide God's word in your heart.

So, we have a new opportunity to offer you; I'm calling it The Hidden Word, and if you want to join with me, we are initiating a new program that will give structure to this spiritual birthright. You can join with others as we memorize various passages of Scripture together, within a time frame, and we will become a community of people who have The Hidden Word in our hearts. We will encourage you; you will get to know others with the same intention, if you wish, and it will indeed become a transformational force for all of us, through the power of God's word and the Holy Spirit.

If this strikes a note in your heart, as it has mine, please join with me and become a part of The Hidden Word. All the details are now available on our website—christianworkingwoman.org. There is absolutely no cost for you to join with us, but instead there is great treasure for you if you purpose to hide God's word in your heart.

Day Four

I am truly excited to tell you about a new initiative we've begun here at The Christian Working Woman which is called The Hidden Word. This is a simple way to encourage you to join me in a regular program of memorizing Scripture because it is the most powerful thing you can do to be all that God has created you to be and to do the good works he put you here to do.

But I can imagine that you have mentally turned me off about right now because you have decided that you cannot memorize Scripture; it's too hard or you're not good at it or you're too old—or whatever

other excuse you've come up with. Well, if you do that, you will miss out on a blessing that will truly make a difference in your life. So, what are the benefits of Scripture memorization? Here are just a few:

- You'll have victory over sin. Psalm 119:11: "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."
- You'll be more like Jesus. 2 Corinthians 3:18: "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." You contemplate the Lord's glory by meditating on his Word and memorizing verses will cause you to contemplate the Lord much more.
- You'll be able to stand against all of Satan's attacks that he throws at you, just as Jesus withstood his attacks when he was tempted in the wilderness by quoting Scripture. And he could quote it because it was hidden in his heart. (Matthew 4:1-11)
- You will have words of comfort and wisdom for others in need. Proverbs 25:11 says, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver." Because you will have God's word hidden in your heart, you'll be ready to speak beautiful words on the spur of the moment as the Holy Spirit brings those hidden words to your mind.
- You'll be ready to share your faith with others. 1 Peter 3:15: "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

And there are many more incredible benefits available to you, so I invite you to join us and be part of The Hidden Word. All the details are now available at christianworkingwoman.org.

Day Five

I'm usually a bit reluctant to suggest another thing you need to do. After all, you are busy as it is, and you probably think that you can't add one more thing to your life, to your to-do list, to your schedule.

I understand that, but it became clear to me a few weeks ago that God wanted us here at The Christian Working Woman to offer you a new opportunity. Yes, it will take some time; yes, you will need to be committed; yes, you may have to clear your schedule out a bit. But honestly, if I can inspire you to take seriously this challenge, you will thank me because it is life changing.

We have put together a way to help you memorize Scripture—hide it in your heart—so that you can grow spiritually faster and better than ever before, if indeed you've never taken Scripture memorization seriously. Here's what a good friend of mine said that memorizing Scripture has done for her:

Memorizing has brought assurance and guidance and wisdom and stability and joy and hope in my thinking. Yes, it's harder to memorize now as an adult, but I'm convinced of its importance as an anchor for the soul and renewing the mind and keeping my thinking in line with the Gospel.

Would you like to experience a new joy in your walk with God? Would you like to have this one weapon we have as believers, the word of God, so deeply hidden within you that you can know new victory and new joy? It's available to you if you will memorize Scripture. We are here to help you do that. You can join with us—there is no cost—and become a part of a community of believers who together have decided to fill their minds with truth. Truth that will set you free.

It's one of the best gifts you could ever give yourself. All the details are available now on our website at christianworkingwoman.org. Honestly, this is one of the best offers I've ever made to you because I know the difference it will make in your life.