

SWORD OF MEMORY

Judges 3:15-22 Again the Israelites cried out to the Lord, and he gave them a deliverer—Ehud, a left-handed man, the son of Gera the Benjamite. The Israelites sent him with tribute to Eglon king of Moab. ¹⁶ Now Ehud had made a double-edged sword about a cubit [foot and a half] long, which he strapped to his right thigh under his clothing. ¹⁷ He presented the tribute to Eglon king of Moab, who was a very fat man. ¹⁸ After Ehud had presented the tribute, he sent on their way those who had carried it. ¹⁹ But on reaching the stone images near Gilgal he himself went back to Eglon and said, “Your Majesty, I have a secret message for you.”

The king said to his attendants, “Leave us!” And they all left.

²⁰ Ehud then approached him while he was sitting alone in the upper room of his palace and said, “I have a message from God for you.” As the king rose from his seat, ²¹ Ehud reached with his left hand, drew the sword from his right thigh and plunged it into the king’s belly. ²² Even the handle sank in after the blade, and his bowels discharged. Ehud did not pull the sword out, and the fat closed in over it. NIV

Why did Ehud have the edge over Eglon?

What is our sword in in the Christian life?

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. NIV84

Jesus used Scripture like a sword (as did Satan).

Luke 4:3-12 The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’ [Deut. 8:3]”...

⁸ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’ [Deut. 6:13]”...

¹² Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’, [Deut 6:16]”

What do we need a sword for?

Ephesians 6:12 For our 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. NIV

What kind of sword do you want to have?

How can you sharpen your sword through memorization and meditation?

Realize that you can memorize.

Repetition over time is the key.

Say it the same every time – word-for-word.

Learn the reference first and repeat it the most.

Learn several verses at once.

Review as frequently as possible.

Don't strain to remember verses.

Set a goal and a plan.

What to memorize:

When to memorize

Deuteronomy 4:9 Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them. NIV

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. NIV

Deuteronomy 11:18-21 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.¹⁹ Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.²⁰ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates,²¹ so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth. NIV

Deuteronomy 30:11-14 Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach.¹² It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, "Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?"¹³ Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, "Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?"¹⁴ No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it. NIV

Joshua 1:8 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. NIV

Psalms 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. NIV

Psalms 119:11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. NIV

Proverbs 2:1-5 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you,² turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding...⁵ then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. NIV

Proverbs 3:1-2 My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart,² for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity. NIV

Proverbs 4:4,5 he taught me and said, "Lay hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live."⁵ Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them." NIV

Proverbs 7:1 My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you. NIV

Proverbs 10:14 Wise men store up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool invites ruin. NIV

Proverbs 22:17-18 Pay attention and listen to the sayings of the wise; apply your heart to what I teach,¹⁸ for it is pleasing when you keep them in your heart and have all of them ready on your lips. NIV

John 5:37-38 And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form,³⁸ nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. NIV

John 15:7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. NIV

Romans 10:8 But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming; NIV

