

“It is written...”

**57 Market St – The College Life Center
October 29, 2008**

Jesus' baptism and his temptation in the wilderness

Mt 3.13-4.11

“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Is followed by:

“If You are the Son of God...”

Jesus response to temptation?

The sword of the Spirit, the Word of God

“It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'”

Joshua 1.8

Meditate: Heb 'to murmur'

Translated in KJV in almost a dozen words, some of those: --meditate, imagine, mutter, roar, speak, talk, utter.

Eph 6.17 - sword of the spirit: word of God

Quotes:

"I know of no other single practice in the Christian life more rewarding, practically speaking, than memorizing Scripture. That's right. No other single discipline is more useful and rewarding than this. No other single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends! Your prayer life will be strengthened. 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."

-Chuck Swindoll

"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 mind with what it needs. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth. That's where you need it! How does it get in your mouth? Memorization.

--Dallas Willard (Philos prof, Univ of Wis Madison, USC, UCLA, Univ of Colorado)

"The joy-producing effects of memorizing scripture and having it in my head are incalculable. The world and its God-ignoring, all embracing secularism is all pervasive. It invades my mind every day. What hope is there to have a mind filled with Christ except to have a mind filled with His word? I know of no alternative... I spend this much time on Bible memory because I believe in the power of the indwelling Word of God to solve a thousand problems before they happen, and to heal a thousand wounds after they happen, and to kill a thousand sins in the moment of temptation, and to sweeten a thousand days with the 'drippings of the honeycomb.' I am jealous for you, my readers, that you would "let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." (Col 3.16) This is the path to solid joy and all the service of love that it sustains. Christ will be seen as the fortune He is when we treasure his Word more than money, and when the joy it wakens overflows with sacrificial love." (2 Cor 8.2)

--John Piper

Here's how it works

The devil comes along and challenges me, or circumstances in life are overwhelming me: if I have Word in me, there's something for me to draw upon AND there's something for the Holy Spirit to draw on!

When I'm thinking that I'm at the end of my rope, or that I'm being pushed too far, I remember **1 Cor 10.13**

When I'm overwhelmed by my own sin, I remember **1 Jn 1.9**

When I'm tempted to wander off on my own and ignore spiritual leaders God has placed in my life, I remember **Heb 13.17**

When I pay the clerk at the store and she hands me my change, and there's an extra \$10 bill in there, and I think, "Is this my lucky day, or should I go back and return the \$10?" I remember **Mt 7.12**

When I'm being corrected, either individually or as part of a group, and I feel that thing rising up inside me that says, "Hey, who are you? You're not so perfect yourself!", I remember **Prov 12.1**

When I feel like I have been a spiritual failure and that I can't possibly expect to get close to the Lord, I remember **Eph 2.8,9**

When I'm wondering if there's any point to prayer, and it seems like a fruitless activity, I remember **James 5.16**

When I look at our government, local, state and federal, and I see the wasted money, the unbiblical policies, the corruption among elected officials, and I want to ignore tax laws and every other law they put on me, I remember **1 Pet 2.13-15**

When I sin and I think, Ah, no big deal, nobody noticed, I remember **Prov 28.13**

When I'm feeling a little bored with the Bible, not finding it as interesting as it once was, and that I'm more interested in surfing the net, I remember **2 Tim 3.16,17**

When studying the Bible is turning out to be hard work, and I'm feeling undisciplined, I remember **2 Tim 2.15**

When I'm going through some really trying circumstances, wondering why God doesn't just lift me out of them, or changed them, I remember **1 Pet 5.10**

When I think I have it tough, and I'm wondering what the point is, I remember **2 Cor 4.17,18**

When I'm getting tired of the ministry, when it seems like 1 step forward, 2 steps backwards, I remember **1 Cor 15.58**

When I've given to the Lord, and to the work of the Lord, and I'm wondering if God is going to provide for me, I remember **Phil 4.19**

When I'm in challenging situations, and I'm tempted to get a little edgy, excusing my edginess because, Hey, nobody's perfect, I remember **Gal 5.22,23**

When I'm reading books, magazines, and newspapers, and everyone is presenting their personal philosophies of life and the way to happiness and an orderly society, I remember **Heb 4.12**

When I feel the pressure of criticism and disrespect from relatives, friends, and others because I am trying to follow Christ in a meaningful way and that means I don't do what everyone does, or think like everyone, and that pressure hurts and I feel abandoned, I remember **2 Tim 3.12**

When I want to get into the presence of God, either by myself or with other believers, and I'm feeling down and discouraged, I remember **Ps 100.4**

When I, as a parent, am getting tired of working with my children, I teach, I correct, I model, I chasten, I teach, I correct, I model, I chasten, and it doesn't seem to be getting the results I am hoping for, I remember **Prov 22.6** and **Prov 22.15**

When I look around and see how much stuff is out there to have and to enjoy, and man, this life could be really good with more stuff!, I remember **1Jo 2:15**

When I feel like God is picking on me, and I wish that He would deal with other people for a change, I remember **2 Cor 10.6**

When I'm feeling a little timid, a little hesitant, a little fearful in any area of life, I remember **2 Tim 1.7**

When I'm a little tired of giving to others, and I feel like they aren't giving back enough to me, I remember **1 Jn 3.16**

When I'm wondering if it will do any good to seek God, if it will make any difference, I remember **Mt. 7.7,8**

When I look around and see Christians living at all levels of commitment, some seem deeply consecrated but others seems very shallow, and I'm wondering if it makes any difference, I remember **Gal 6.7**

When I'm wondering how to battle temptation, I remember **Ps 119.11** and **Ps 119.9**

When I'm feeling spiritually weak and I'm not sure how to turn the corner, I remember **1 Cor 14.4** and **Jude 20**

When I feel like a frail, imperfect container and I wonder if God can possibly have any use for me, and I wish I was a better preacher, I wish I more polished, I remember **2 Cor 4.7**

When I have a big decision to make, I remember **Prov 24.6**

When there's a sense of spiritual warfare, and I need a shot in the arm, I remember **Eph 6.11,12**

When I need some encouragement to pray and seek the face of God, I remember **Jer 33.3**

When I'm tempted to think that I'd be just as well if I wasn't serving Jesus with my whole heart, I remember **Ps 1**

When I'm losing my grip on why it's important to battle temptation, when I forget that there's value in fighting the spiritual battle, I remember **James 1.12**

When I look around and I wonder which side is winning in this spiritual battle, I remember **Is 9.6,7** and **Mt 16.18**

When I'm wondering if it's worth the sacrifices I have made to serve him, the things I go without, the time away from home and family, I remember **Lk 18.29,30**

When I need a boost of confidence that no matter what I go through, the Lord will keep me and be with me, I remember **Rom 8.37-39**

When I get upset with people cause they do what I think are dumb things and say what I think are dumb things and I'm getting ready to blow my stack, I remember **James 1.19**

When difficulties arise and my soul is troubled, I remember **Is 26.3** and **Phil 4.6,7**

When someone around me has fallen into sin and needs some restoration, I remember **Gal 6.1**

When I need to look past this temporal world and look ahead to sharing eternity with Christ, I remember **2 Tim 4.8**

When I feel like the enemy has taken a dirty shot at me, I'm a little overwhelmed by life and the difficulties of life, I remember **Is 54.17**

When I'm preaching and I'm feeling pushback, the very real awareness that the things I am saying are bothering people, I remember **Jer 1.17**

When I'm wondering if there's any point to memorizing all these bible verses and reciting them to myself over and over, if it will really make a difference, I remember **Josh 1.8**

When the world presents the idea of religious pluralism, that there are many paths to God, and that each of us is simply on a different path, the Holy Spirit brings to my remembrance:

1 Tim 2.5

Ac 4.12

1 Tim 3.16

Gal 1.8

Joh 14:6

Jn 3.16-18

You will have challenging days: what will you have inside you when you face those challenges?