**Scripture Memorization**

**1.**     It is our privilege to store our memories with good and great thoughts and bring them out on the stage of our minds at will. When the Lord faced His three great temptations in the wilderness, He immediately rebutted the devil with appropriate scripture which He had stored in His memory ("Think on Christ," *Ensign*, Apr. 1984, 11). **Ezra Taft Benson**

**2.**     If you want your son to play the piano, it is good to expose him to music. This may give him a feel for it and help greatly in his learning. But this is not enough. There is the practice and the memorization and the practice and the practice and the practice before he can play it well. If you want your daughter to learn a language, expose her to those who speak it. She may get a feel for the language, even pick up many words. But this is not enough. She must memorize grammar and vocabulary. She must practice pronunciation. There is rote learning without which she will never speak or write the language fluently. So it is with the gospel. One may have a feel for it. But some time one must learn the doctrine. Here, too, role learning, practice, memorization, reading, listening, discussion, all become essential. There is no royal road to learning (in Conference Report, Apr. 1983, 90–91; or *Ensign*, May 1983, 67). **Boyd K. Packer**

**3.**     A mission requires a great deal of mental preparation. You must memorize missionary discussions, memorize scriptures, and oft times learn a new language. The discipline to do this is learned in your early years (in Conference Report Apr. 1985, 48; or *Ensign*, May 1985, 36). **Ezra Taft Benson**

**4.**     When you memorize something, it becomes part of you and can be called upon when at will to give strength when there seems to be no strength left (*New Era*, Sept. 1975, 28). **Vaughn J. Featherstone**

**5.**     I have a vision of thousands of missionaries going in to the mission field with hundreds of passages memorized from the Book of Mormon so that they might feed the needs of a spiritually famished world (in Conference Report, Oct. 1988, 5).  **Ezra Taft Benson**

**6.**     I suggest that you memorize scriptures that touch your heart and fill your soul with understanding.  When scriptures are used as the Lord has caused them to be recorded, they have intrinsic power that is not communicated when paraphrased.  Sometimes when there is a need in my life, I review mentally scriptures that have given me strength.  There is great solace, direction, and power that flow from the scriptures, especially the words of the Lord (in Conference Report, Oct. 1999, 87-88). **Richard G. Scott**

**7.**     “I am wondering how many of you know the Articles of Faith?  How many of you big men, as well as the little men? Do you know them? Have you repeated them? You are always prepared with a sermon when you know the Articles of Faith. And they are basic, aren’t they? I’d think it would be a wonderful thing if all the boys, as they learn them, would learn them word-perfect. That means that you don’t miss and you don’t forget. “Shall I tell you how I did it? . . . I used to milk cows. I typed with two fingers, and I would type out these Articles of Faith on little cards and put them down in the corral right by me when I sat on the one-legged stool and milked the cows. And I repeated them over, I guess 20 million times. I don’t know. But at any rate, I have claimed that I could say the Articles of Faith now after these many, many years and could say them word-perfect. And I think it has been most valuable to me. Will you do that, my fine young men?” (in Conference Report, Oct. 1975, 119; or Ensign, Nov. 1975, 79). **Spencer W. Kimball**

**8.**     "I have discovered that many times you don't fully understand a scripture until you memorize it. And sometimes I have memorized a passage because it seemed important and valuable to me- then afterwards I discovered deeper meanings that I hadn't even known were there."When you find a passage that particularly impresses you, consider taking the time to commit it to memory, word perfect. Then not only will you be able to remember it, but you will probably grow in your understanding as well."But that's not all. By memorizing scripture you show the Lord that you esteem his words to be of great value--and then he will be more likely to speak to you and give you more." ("Searching the Scriptures", pg. 114)  **Elder Gene R. Cook**

**9.**  Show that we esteem the truths to be of great worth by memorizing scriptures. We've had a lot of fun memorizing in our family. When we find a passage we really love, I say, "Shall we memorize that? Let's all have it memorized by next Sunday, okay?" Now we have a number of scriptures we have all memorized, and when the children are called on to give a talk, they already have a store of the Lord's word in their memories. ("Searching the Scriptures", pg. 214)  **Elder Gene R. Cook**

**10.**  “Great power can come from memorizing scriptures. To memorize a scripture is to forge a new friendship. It is like discovering a new individual who can help in time of need, give inspiration and comfort, and be a source of motivation for needed change.”“A memorized scripture becomes an enduring friend that is not weakened with the passage of time.” (CR, Oct. 2011) **Elder Richard G. Scott**

11. “There is a power that can change lives in the specific words recorded in the standard works. That power is weakened when we paraphrase of alter the actual wording. I therefore suggest that you encourage students to cite scripture content with precision. All you do to encourage students to memorize selected scriptures accurately will bring to bear in their lives the power of their content.” **Richard G. Scott**, “Four Fundamentals for Those Who Teach and Inspire Youth,” in Old Testament Symposium Speeches, 1987, 5

12. “A mother recently told of using the Topical Guide to help her six year old. He had received an assignment to give a memorized scripture in Primary… the mother and her little boy looked in the Topical Guide… they found in Ezra 10:4 the phrase: ‘Be of good courage, and do it.’ The boy memorized the scripture and filled the assignment… later, when school started and he was faced with separation from his family for the first time, he repeated to himself on the way out the door, ‘…Be of good courage, and do it!’” **M. Russell Ballard**, “Resources for Teaching Our Families,” Ensign, Feb. 1983

13. “She said, (quoting a young woman acquaintance), ‘When we were young my mother started a program in our house to help us memorize. We would memorize scripture passages and sacrament meeting songs and other types of things that would be helpful to us. So we learned how to memorize, and it became easier for us.’” **David B. Haight**, “Be a Strong Link,” Ensign, Nov. 2000

14. “Let me encourage you faithful married couples without children at home to go on missions. The Lord needs you out in the mission field. Forget your fears. We don’t expect you to do everything the young missionaries do. …I was in Idaho trying to eliminate the fears of some High Priests, and I said, ‘You retired couples don’t have to memorize scriptures like the young missionaries … unless you want to.’ I told them, ‘You don’t have to get up early in the morning…and if it is raining or snowing you don’t have to go outside until you feel up to it…’ At that point a fellow down in the middle shot up his hand and said, ‘When can I go? That’s a better life than I’ve got now!’” **Rulon G. Wells**, “Adventures of the Spirit,” Ensign, Nov. 1985

15. (Referring to President Kimball as a great example) “He [President Kimball] said, ‘I thought, what a waste of time, to sit on a three legged stool. Maybe there is something else I could do while I am milking.’ He placed a copy of the Articles of Faith on the ground beside him and went through them, over and over, until he had memorized them. Then he repeated the Ten Commandments over and over until he learned them. He memorized important scriptures that would help him on his mission – all while he milked the cows.” **David B. Haight**, “Spiritual Crevasses,” Ensign, Nov. 1986

16. “As you prepare for your missions, remember the counsel of the old sage: ‘You can’t teach what you don’t know any more than you can come back from a place you ain’t been.’ How is your educational preparation? Do you love to learn? Do you know how to listen? To read? To Study? To ponder? To memorize?” **Milton R. Backman**, “Called to Serve,” Ensign, Nov. 1987

17. “The Book of Mormon contains many insightful and stunning gems. The late Elder Robert E. Sackley of the Seventy attributed his conversion to this brilliant passage of scripture, (Mosiah 3:19) which he memorized while hospitalized as a young military commando…”

**Russell M. Nelson**, “A Treasured Testament,” Ensign, July 1993

18. “[While mission president] I recall being uplifted during a long automobile ride with a fine missionary as we quoted form memory favorite passages of scripture. He helped me memorize one that has had great meaning in my life:… Later, I wrote this note in my copy of the Book of Mormon: ‘An assistant, Andrew W. Peterson, pointed out this [memorized] scripture. He is a choice spirit.’ I was not surprised some years later when he was called to be a mission president.” **Richard G. Scott**, “The Power of the Book of Mormon in My Life,” Ensign, Oct. 1984

19. “People sometimes ask me, ‘what is your favorite verse of scripture?’ I tell them that I have many, but among these is one for which I feel a particular love. ‘That which is of God is light; and he that receiveth light, and continueth in God, receiveth more light; and that light growth brighter and brighter until the perfect day’ (D&C 50:23-24). I ask you to ponder those words: For me, in those few words there is encompassed the marvelous concept of the eternal plan of God in behalf of His sons and daughters whom He loves. That statement speaks of learning. It speaks of the now and the forever. It speaks of growth and development. It is positive and affirmative and wonderful. Long ago I memorized those words of scripture. To me they are wonderfully challenging and filled with magnificent promise made by Him who is our Father and our God.” **President Hinckley**, “True to the Faith,” Ensign, June 1996

20. “The word search means to inquire into, study, … Searching implies more than just reading or even memorizing. When Jesus told the Jews to ‘search the scriptures,’ he was talking to men… who had spent their lives reading and memorizing them. They could and did quote reams of scripture in support of their apostate rules and rituals. They had wholly failed, however, to discover their true message.” **Marion G. Romney**, “Records of Great Worth,” Ensign, Sept. 1980