

KISSES for Lasting Success

It's been said that persistence is the key to success. The good news is this: Anyone can memorize Scripture, regardless of age, education, intelligence, or memory ability. In fact, your memory will improve as you consistently commit Scripture to heart. Success ultimately comes down to two key factors: a genuine desire and consistent, persistent effort.

It's very important to remember KISSES—a mnemonic for *Keep It Short, Simple, and Sweet*—especially if you're new to Scripture memory. I learned this from my friend Dan Vis, a teacher in Scripture memory.

SHORT – Begin with verses that are short. People often start memorizing successfully and feel motivated to tackle longer passages, like chapters or books. However, over time, the process becomes rote, leading to less meditation, trouble with references, and reduced personal benefit—often resulting in giving up.

SIMPLE – Focus on familiar verses you already know, as they are easier to learn, stick better, and are easier to share. While it's fine to memorize verses from unfamiliar passages, starting with well-known verses makes the process smoother and more impactful.

SWEET – Keep your verses sweet, meaning, choose verses that intrigue and speak to you personally, as they are more meaningful and easier to remember. Focus on verses that stand out in your regular study, rather than memorizing assigned or preset lists, if those verses don't resonate with you.

Each week, we will recommend 2-3 verses to memorize. If 2 or 3 verses feel too difficult, focus on just 1—memorizing 1 verse well is better than none. Finishing the year with 50 memorized verses is a significant accomplishment, far better than having none. Don't let the devil tempt you to give up just because you can't memorize every verse.

The devil's strategy is to make you procrastinate, fall behind, and eventually quit—or to overwhelm you by pushing you to do too much, leading to burnout and failure. We must avoid both of these pitfalls.

Let's keep our eyes fixed on Jesus; by His grace, let's not just start strong but, more importantly, finish well.

The end of a thing is better than its beginning. - Ecclesiastes 7:8

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. – Revelation 22:21