

Immersed in the Scriptures

What is your number one lifelong hobby? How much time do you spend on it? How much creativity and imagination do you bring to it? How much joy and pleasure does it bring to you? How much intensity and concentration do you mobilize for it? My lifelong hobby is memorizing the Scriptures. I grew up as a fourth-generation Christian and knew the Bible from my childhood. I have loved Jesus all my life and grew steadily in my passion to hide the Word of God in my heart. It was not until I became a missionary in Indonesia, however, that I began to memorize whole books of the Bible. I immersed myself in the Word of God in the Indonesian language by memorizing large portions of Scripture and many of the New Testament epistles in their entirety.

When I finished writing my dissertation for my Doctor of Ministry degree at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary last year, God impressed upon my heart to begin memorizing whole books of the Bible in the English language. So I have committed to memory thus far most of eight books (Philippians, 2 Timothy, James, 1 Peter, 1 John, Colossians, Ephesians, and Galatians). This year I began to work on memorizing the Scriptures in the Korean language, and I have completed four books so far. I believe I am coming to a point in my life where I want to commit to memorizing as much of the New Testament as possible and also portions of the Psalms, Proverbs, Isaiah, Deuteronomy, and more.

Why am I doing this? I want to immerse myself in the Scriptures deeply, so that the truths of the Scriptures will shape and reshape my core values that drive my daily intuitive responses to

life. I find that there are many recorded voices in my heart that find their origins in the pit of hell. These messages replay again and again in my heart, controlling my intuitive responses to follow earthly, natural, and demonic wisdom. As I continue on my journey of faith in this chaotic and crazed world, I want to give Holy Spirit the best ammunition possible in my heart so that the **Spirit of God** within me can control my intuitive responses by mobilizing the truths which are hidden in my heart. Jesus immersed Himself in the Scriptures and fulfilled His life purpose and destiny. How much more do I need to do the same, if I am to follow Him all the way to the finish line?

How in the world do I find the time to memorize whole books of the Bible? Like I said, it is my lifelong hobby. Just ask yourself how much time you spend on your number one hobby, how much creativity and imagination you bring to it, how much joy and pleasure it brings to you, and how much intensity and concentration you mobilize for it. Then you may understand that I have only just begun. I wish I could sit down with you and share with you a truly simple and yet transformational Scripture memory method that I developed and have been using for many years now. I cannot begin to tell you the incredible benefits, joys, and strength that I draw from this lifelong hobby of mine. See Psalm 1:2-3; 19:7-10; 119:9-11, 105; Joshua 1:8-9; Ezra 7:10; Matthew 4:1-11; Colossians 3:16; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 4:12-13.

In Christ,

