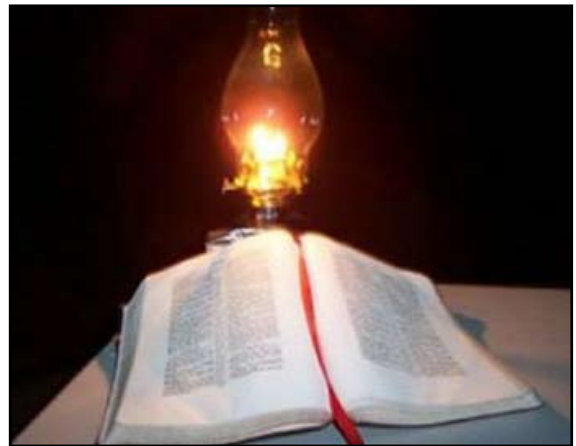




SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

This is what I said in my June 2007 prayer letter: “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.” I had no idea about the major breakthroughs that I would experience in the next two years-plus until the present. So I want to give you an update on how I transitioned from **memorizing** to **meditating** the Word in the last two years.

I first created the **PHD** method in Indonesia 17 years ago and used it extensively to memorize entire books of the Bible for my ministry in discipleship training and also in my teaching at a seminary. (I developed this method in Indonesia while I was training my Indonesian disciples. I call it the PHD method. **PHD** stands for “**P**embacaan **H**uruf **D**epan” in Indonesian. Literally it means “first-letter reading method.” I used to tell my disciples that if they commit to memorizing books of the Bible, this is the real PhD for them. ☺ The main purpose of this method is to saturate my mind and immerse my thinking in the Scriptures, so that the truths of the Scriptures intuitively govern my priorities, decision-making process, and my whole life and ministry.)



Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

When we moved back to the States 10 years ago, I memorized books of the Bible in English. Then in October of 2007 I finally began to work on these books in Korean. By then I had already been using the PHD method to soak myself in the Word for 15 years. And *I was on the verge of a major breakthrough and experience the power of repetition and accumulation.*

I was amazed that I moved through the 17 short epistles in two months, using the PHD method. I invested my energy in reading through these 17 New Testament books over and over again in meditation during those two months. At the end of this period the Lord put a strong desire in my heart to go through the entire New Testament using the same process. I decided on a timeline to do this by the end of August 2008, when JoAnn, my youngest, would leave for college. It took me exactly 11 months to go through the whole New Testament using the PHD method of writing, reading, and meditating.

There was no set pattern in how I reviewed the books as I made progress throughout the 11-month process. Some books I reviewed many times, especially the shorter epistles. Others I worked on them until I had them right (meaning I was able to read the PHD Bible without glancing at the regular Bible) and then moved on to other books. I worked on them one chapter at a time. And then at the end of each book, I would review the whole book two or three times. What is really surprising is how much you can really retain in this PHD process. Using the first-letter trigger method, you can remember so much more than you can ever imagine.

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As I worked my way through the New Testament, I also began to write down the PHD for several Old Testament books. I was getting increasingly excited to start the Old Testament in this process. But when I finished my first run through the New Testament in August 2008, the Lord strongly impressed upon my heart to review the New Testament instead of starting the Old Testament. So that's what I did. I was truly amazed at this point, since it took me only seven days to go through the 17 short books. It would take me two months to finish my second run through the New Testament. By then I was committed to reviewing the New Testament many more times.

My third run through the New Testament took me one month. The fourth run took 10 days. The fifth run took five days. The sixth run took three days. It occurred to me then that if I read through my PHD New Testament once every three days, I could finish 50 readings through the New Testament by my next birthday, when I would turn 50. So I settled into a pace of reading through my PHD New Testament once every three days and kept experiencing breakthrough after breakthrough. I saw big picture as well as small details that I had glossed over before. I saw connections of themes and patterns in new and fresh ways.

As I was soaking myself more and more in the Word, my soul was getting more and more energized and enlivened. And then occasionally the Holy Spirit would impress upon my heart a key verse or portions of the Word that were absolutely right on as Ellen and I would provide life coaching and couples coaching to people. I became increasingly convinced that I need to hold the Bible in one hand and one soul in another hand and let the Spirit bring biblical truths and insights from my heart that was saturated in the Word of God. ***I finished my 50th run through the New Testament on my 50th birthday on May 8, 2009. This was my birthday thanksgiving offering to the Lord for his grace and love in my life for 50 years.***

Now I am settled into a new pace of going through the New Testament once a week. I want to read through my PHD New Testament 51 times by my 51st birthday. Then 52 times the following year, 53 times the next year, and so forth. At this rate, I will have finished more than 600 runs through the New Testament by my 60th birthday. In the meantime, I have finally begun to work on the Old Testament. And I am working through the book of Psalms. I am enjoying it thoroughly. I hope to invest the next five years in this process of going through the Old Testament for the first run. Then after that I plan to go through the Old Testament once every month for the next five years, which will be 60 readings by my 60th birthday. I hope to give that birthday thanksgiving offering to the Lord, should the Lord tarry and grant me the strength and grace to do it.

Ellen is also deeply engaged in this process. She is currently working on her 22nd book of the New Testament in the NIV. We both are deeply grateful to the Lord for the abundant blessing and grace that he bestows on us as we immerse ourselves in the Scriptures. Praise be to God!

You can go to our home page, www.komerinja.com, and click "Resources" to read more on Scripture meditation.

Depending on God's enabling grace and partnering with you for this faith adventure,

Daniel and Ellen