



LWML CNH CHRISTIAN LIFE LINE

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Cathey King - VP, Christian Life

Happy New Year to all of you! I pray your Advent season, Christmas gatherings, and New Years celebrations were blessed and meaningful for you. I was excited and blessed to see my daughter the Friday and Saturday after Christmas. We had an Aunt/Mom - Cousin/Daughter get together for the first time in about 5 years! I hope you have a wonderful story to share also.

Memory Verses

Do you remember the first Bible verse you ever learned? "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105 (KJV), is the first Bible verse I can remember learning 'by heart'. What a joy for a little girl to carry God's holy Word in her heart! I was so pleased and repeated that verse often during the day. Every time I hear the 119th Psalm, I think of that first memory verse.

Why do we remember verses? Why would we memorize verses in the first place? In Martin Luther's explanation of the third commandment, he says, "...and gladly hear and learn it (God's Word)." Listen, meditate on, digest, discuss, store up, memorize, are all ways of learning it. We are doing what God wants us to do with His Word.

Mary remembered and held onto the Word of God in her heart. Luke 2:19 says that she treasured and pondered all that had happened as the shepherds visited the Christ child in Bethlehem. Donna Snow, in

her Bible study, Unshakable, says, "She observed, kept, and preserved all of these moments so she would not forget who her Son belonged to as He hung on the cross three decades later."

In Deuteronomy 11:18-21 God tells us, "You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth. God's Word needs to be available to us to share with our children, grandchildren, anyone on the spur of the moment.

We are responsible to know God's Word so that we can perform in a Christian manner while teaching, reproofing, correcting, or training in righteousness, as it says in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

Sometimes, though, it is important to learn scripture for our own benefit, when feeling overwhelmed, confused, disappointed, afraid, or whatever feeling needs help, God's Word will fill us with a joy and peace that brings quiet to our soul and comfort to our aching heart. After all, it is in that Word where God shares with us the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, allowing us to be forgiven and spend eternity in heaven!

That's my heart until next month. Please share your Advent adventures and anything else on your mind with me. I would love to hear from all of you! My love to y'all,

Cathey

(209-996-5464 or mrsking1948@gmail.com)

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