

## THE SCRIPTURE EFFECT

-Ryan Parsons –

We live in amazing times. The internet has no doubt changed the world. Today, we have unparalleled access to data at any time. In milliseconds, we can query and receive libraries of information. Moreover, we can hold it all in the power of our hand. This reality has served humanity in many positive ways. In others, it has not. For example, the common task of “cognitive offloading” has surged. Similarly (and ironically), the internet states, “The Google effect, also called digital amnesia, is the tendency to forget information that can be found readily online by using Internet search engines. According to the first study about the Google effect, people are less likely to remember certain details they believe will be accessible online.” In all this, we have subtly been rewiring our brains and shifting how we think and function. As followers of Jesus, we mustn’t skew from the path God has called us to. It is vital that we don’t give our hearts away without even realizing it. How can we hold such great privilege and power in our grasp without it corrupting our very souls?

Psalm 119:9-12

*How can a young man keep his way pure?*

*By guarding it according to your word.*

*With my whole heart I seek you;*

*let me not wander from your commandments!*

*I have stored up your word in my heart,*

*that I might not sin against you.*

*Blessed are you, O Lord;*

*teach me your statutes!*

I have recently embarked upon a course that has challenged me. The folks discipling me through it require me to memorize scripture each week. As I have returned to familiar passages and learned new ones, I have rediscovered the joy of not only studying the Word of God but the cognitive and spiritual benefits it provides. Storing up God’s word in my heart has caused me to realize how much cognitive offloading I have done and how much the Google effect has influenced me. Therefore, taking inventory regularly is essential to ensure our hearts are pure and protected. One of the best ways to do this is to memorize scripture!

Here is a challenge. Take some time over the next few weeks and memorize 2 Timothy 3:14-17, Hebrews 4:12, John 20:30-31, Psalm 119:9-12. Once you have it down, video yourself and share with a spouse, family member, or friend. By this, you will enjoy the blessing of the Scripture Effect that the Psalmist was talking about.

Don’t forget!