



BIBLE HABITS

CONVERSATION #7: THE ROOTED CHALLENGE

READ: TAKING OFF THE TRAINING WHEELS

Every important transition in life comes with a moment where support gives way to strength. A moment when the training wheels come off and where guided steps turn into steady strides. At some point, what you've been given has to become something you carry. That's true spiritually, too.

Scripture doesn't describe God's Word as something we visit occasionally or borrow when we need help. It describes it as something we *store, hide, and carry within us*. As we've looked at recently, Psalm 119:11 says, "*I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*"

The scriptures were never meant to be kept on a shelf or limited to a screen. They were meant to take root in our hearts. They were meant to be kept where we make our decisions and where we feel pressure the most.

Up to this point, these Bible Habits conversations have helped put truth in front of you. We've talked about using the Scriptures as daily spiritual nourishment. We've looked practically at how the Bible can be the lamp that lights our paths. We've learned to listen for God's voice in the Scriptures and to commit to applying what we've learned. Those conversations have been helpful, but as we've moved toward the end of this section, we've learned that hearing truth and holding truth are not the same thing.

There comes a moment when the Word has to move from being something you hear to something you own. From something explained to you to something available inside you. In this challenge, we hope to help you begin to make that shift.

This challenge isn't about proving anything or getting it perfect. It's about taking responsibility for your growth. It's about learning to feed yourself by storing Scripture in your heart - so when temptation comes, when emotions rise, or when life presses in, God's Word is already there. Today, you're not just talking about spiritual maturity. You're stepping toward it.

THE CHALLENGE:

Spiritual growth doesn't happen just because you hear truth - it happens when truth becomes part of you. Until God's Word is stored inside your heart and mind, it will always remain something you depend on others to explain, remind, or apply for you. This is what your next challenge is all about.

In this challenge, instead of learning *about* Scripture, you're going to learn to *carry* it. Not a single verse pulled out of context, but a larger portion of God's Word that you commit to memory over time. This will take effort. It will require repetition, patience, and self-discipline. That's the point.

Challenge #2: THE ROOTED CHALLENGE - Choose one of the provided extended Scripture passages and commit to memorizing it over the next several weeks, putting down daily roots through reading, reciting, and reviewing, so God's Word moves from something you hear to something you are deeply rooted in and able to draw strength from.

BEGIN BY READING EACH OF THESE EXTENDED PASSAGES TOGETHER:

Psalm 23	Romans 8:1-17	Matthew 5:1-12	Colossians 3:1-17	James 1
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LET'S ASK SOME QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED:

- Which of these passages would you like to memorize and why?
- **Finish this sentence:** "I am committing to memorizing this passage because _____."
- When do you want to be able to recite this passage of scripture from memory?

NEXT STEPS:

If you're not sure where to begin or how to approach memorizing a longer passage, you're not alone. This challenge is meant to stretch you, not leave you stuck.

Before you start, take a moment to scan the QR code to the right and watch the short video - it will walk you through a simple, practical way to break the passage down and begin putting roots down in God's Word with confidence.



CLOSING THOUGHTS:

As you step into this challenge, remember that growth rarely feels dramatic in the moment - it happens quietly, through daily choices. Putting roots down in God's Word won't always feel exciting, but it will make you steady. Over time, what you've memorized will begin to shape how you think, how you respond, and how you live.

This isn't about finishing fast. It's about showing up consistently and letting Scripture take root beneath the surface. When pressure comes, roots matter. And as God's Word becomes rooted in you, you'll find yourself less dependent on being fed and more confident feeding yourself - drawing strength from what you've stored deep inside.