

Can't Get Enough!

Strengthening Your Purity – Strength in the Word – Proverbs 7

It has been said that one can never get enough of a good thing.

The person who said this must not like pumpkin pie. When October and November roll around, I am ready for some pumpkin pie. Give me a huge slice and load it up with whipped cream. That is what I call a good thing, but I can also get too much of it. My mind tells my stomach that it will all be okay so I can enjoy one more piece. Of course, it is too late when my stomach finally gets word to my mind that enough is enough and then I suffer for several hours.

When has too much of a good thing been bad for you?

We have all had those times. It may have been with food or money or fame, but it all comes down to the fact that too much of a good thing does not bring us joy or satisfaction. There is, however, at least one exception. Here in Proverbs 7 Solomon helps us to understand that we can never get enough of God's Word. He even goes as far as to explain that it is our strength in the Word that will determine our sexual purity.

How well do you know Scripture? Think of the verses you have memorized. How many can you quote?

Why do so many people struggle at memorizing Scripture?

In the first verses of Proverbs 7, a father gives his son the first key to strengthening purity. We must become strong in the Word. In these first four verses, this father talks about Scripture eight different ways. Let's take a look and understand how to become strong in the Word.

The father says to his son, "Keep my words and treasure my commandments within you." The Hebrew word used here for "keep" carries the idea of building a hedge, guarding, or protecting. Think of the cities of the Bible. Rulers would build massive walls around their cities to protect and guard. The father is saying to his son that he must take God's Word and allow it to protect him and guard him. He must memorize Scripture. He then encourages his son to treasure or horde God's commands. It is the idea of gathering up more and more of a valuable thing. The father then repeats himself in verse two.

Why do you think Solomon repeated himself in the first two verses?

Often, Hebrew writers would use repetition as a key to learning and emphasis. This father wanting to make sure the son was hearing what he was saying. I am

"My son, keep my words and treasure my commandments within you. Keep my commandments and live, and my teaching as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart. Say to wisdom, 'You are my sister,' and call understanding your intimate friend."

Proverbs 7:1-4

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments. Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You.”

Psalms 119:9-11

sure all of us have had a similar experience growing up. Our parents tell us something and then repeat it again to make sure we got it. Sometimes I did and sometimes I didn't, but there is something more here than just memorizing Scripture.

Why is it that sometimes we remember memorized Scripture and other times we do not?

Many times, it comes back to value. This father knows that memorizing things is not the fix-all of sexual purity. Just because a son can quote Scripture does not mean that he will stay sexually pure. There is the aspect of treasuring these things or valuing God's Word. David explains in Psalm 119:10 that we should value and treasure God's Word with the whole heart.

So far, in order to become strong in the Word we must first memorize the word, secondly, value the Word; but there is another aspect. We must also review the Word.

I always appreciated the teachers who would plan a review class just before the test. Those were so helpful in seeing what all would be on the test. I was much more prepared for the test after reviewing. Don't you think the same principle can be applied here in regards to being tested in sexual purity? This father does. In verse three, he explains to his son the need to bind them top his fingers or have reminders posted everywhere. Take the opportunity to have verse cards ready at stop lights and while standing in line. Etch God's Word into our hearts and continue to program our minds to think "God" rather than "self".

What are some ways that you can practice review?

There is one more aspect of becoming strong in the Word as seen here. We must memorize, value, review, and also relate. This father explains to his son the need to develop a relationship with wisdom and understanding. This, in many regards, flows out of the first three steps in growing stronger in the Word. It is important to develop an intimate relationship with Christ through the Word. It is like a favorite book you may have, or a favorite sports star. Some of you may immerse yourself in the book and read it through several times or you may read all that you can about that sports star or celebrity. You eventually get to a point where you feel connected. This is what the father is explaining to his son, and then it all comes to a promise in verse five.

Scripture, when it is memorized, valued, remembered, and related to, will keep you sexually pure. Not only does Solomon say this here, but David also answers the question of purity in Psalm 119:9-11. David explains how God's Word will keep us pure and guard us from sin. It takes an intentional, purposeful workout schedule to strengthen yourself in the Word.

- Memorize God's Word
- Value God's Word
- Review God's Word
- Relate to God's Word

This is one good thing that you can never get enough of. Are you getting it?

What do you need to do in response to this lesson?

