

An Ounce Of Prevention

“I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.”

Psalm 119:11 (NIV)

Benjamin Franklin has been quoted as writing, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” Such a statement is a common sense comment that is well understood by all of us. It is better to take steps to avoid trouble than to find yourself trying to sort out a mess created by something that you could have kept away from.

An alcoholic would be advised to stay away from a party where liquor will be served than to go and have temptation overcome him. A person who is seeking to quit smoking should seek non smoking public venues to keep themselves from second hand smoke. That is an ounce of prevention.

In the Christian life our best efforts to keep temptation from overcom-

ing us is to memorize Scripture on a regular basis. Numerous Christian organizations offer Scripture memorization programs that can help tremendously. Packages on prayer, dealing with temptation, witnessing—among other subjects—can be excellent aids to not only keeping ourselves from sin but also getting us into a position of strength in our Christian journey.

We cannot start too early helping our children and grandchildren in Scripture memorization. Children’s catechisms have great advantages for getting Scripture into children’s memories. By the time a child has finished committing a catechism to memory they will have sections of different chapters they can recall instantly when temptations come to them.

Before a child can read the Bible for themselves, catechisms can hide God’s Word in their hearts and minds for instant recall. I believe grandparents can find much pleasure helping grandchildren memorize a children’s catechism when they have opportunity.

So whether it is for yourself, or for children and grandchildren, committing Scripture to memory is a wonderful and practical activity in which to engage.

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