

Pastor's Corner

Tools

January 28, 2009

Dear Friend,

I was thinking today about tools. All of us have tools. For guys it might be wrenches and ratchets, and for ladies it might be breadmaker machines and pans (but not necessarily, I know a lot of great guy cooks and a lot of ladies which are good mechanics!) But tools can also be palm pilots, computers, curling irons, and pencils. The definition of a tool is "a device used to do work or perform a task."



Now one thing I've noticed about tools is the ones I use a lot or highly value usually have a specific place, and I know exactly where they are when I need them. But the ones I never use, like my fence puller/stretcher, which I haven't used or even needed in about 8 years, I have no idea where it is! So if I were to go get another fence puller today, within a few days I would probably lose it, because I don't use it.

We hear a lot about memorization. "You need to memorize Bible verses" I hear a lot. The Bible even says, "*Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*" But I've found the more I try to memorize, the more I forget, and I still sin, and the more frustrated I become. Until I realize that memorization is a tool. And if I don't use my tool, it will be forgotten and lost, just as if you were to buy me a brand new curling iron for my hair! Memorization without using it results in loss of the verse, either by forgetfulness or lack of use. But, when I memorize a verse, and then use it at the right time, then that verse is doing what it should be; helping me not to sin!

See, here's how it works. I memorize a verse in the morning. Then as the day goes on, and I'm tempted with a thought, or to speak an angry word, I can't just stop the thought. It's impossible to stop thinking and think about nothing. But what I have to do is to replace that thought with something else. And this is the beauty of Scripture. As I think of that verse I memorized, it replaces the bad thought, and the verse overcomes my temptation!

So think about it. Do you have tools you aren't using? Let's start memorizing Bible verses, and then put them to work! As you use your tools, then you'll want to put more in your toolbox, and you'll soon understand by experience how Jesus overcame when He would reply to Satan's temptations with "It is written" and He would recite verses.

Have a great day!

Mark