

OUR BRILLIANT MONEY COLUMNIST JEFF LESTZ GIVES HIS ADVICE ON DEBT

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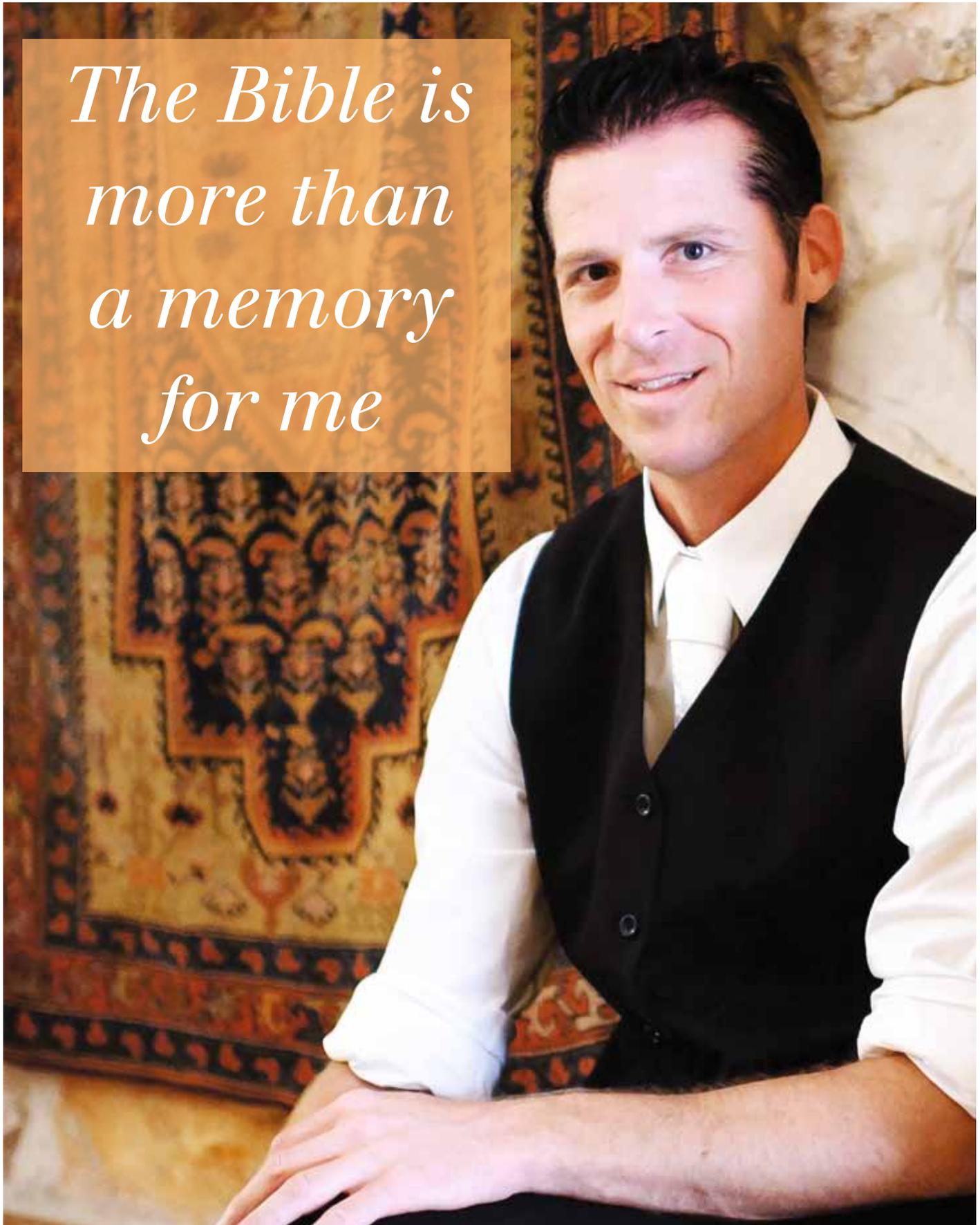
Saved by reading Bible

Grace led me to ditch revenge bid

Says singer who found God



*The Bible is
more than
a memory
for me*



Thomas Meyer wouldn't be so concerned if he lost his Bible, or even his electronic Bible app... he's already got it memorised! iBelieve caught up with him

The Bible says that faith comes through hearing, and Professor Thomas Meyer is one man making sure the Scriptures are spoken aloud. Meyer, a proud father-of-two and husband to Sarah, is part of Wordsower Ministries, memorising books of the Bible and travelling the world speaking God's Word in dramatic fashion.

"I grew up memorising the back of baseball cards because that's what I was interested in," Thomas tells iBelieve. "We are interested in what we're interested in and we're not interested in what we don't want to be interested in.

"In my church you would have to memorise a Bible verse every week, but I could never remember the verses because I really wasn't all that interested.

"I would memorise the back of baseball cards like crazy, but when I graduated from high school I worked with my dad for five years and it wasn't like a donkey or angel came to me, but I just knew I wasn't doing what I was supposed to be doing.

"Since I kind of figure God had wired my mind to memorise those baseball cards so much, I guessed that was for a purpose.

"Before I went away to Bible College in California I memorised part of the Sermon on the Mount and then one thing led to another where I am now doing this full-time, reciting 15 books at a time from memory any given Sunday."

After completing his Bachelor of Arts degree, Meyer opted to further his studies in Israel, where as well as being challenged by old traditions, he met his wife Sarah on Mount Zion.

"We live in a copy, paste, Tweet, Facebook, file and delete world where we don't really have to memorise anything any more. It's great, it's awesome, press a button and there it is," Meyer says.

"But the Bible so often encourages us to hide God's Word in our hearts. I had a few small books memorised when I finished my degree and then I went out to Jerusalem to study two masters degrees there. While I was there I really got locked into

the world of memorisation. Jews have the oral and written law, which means repeat from memory. There are children in the Orthodox Church who have the entire 150 Psalms memorised.

"Being able to live amongst these people for four years helped refine my memorisation techniques."

Meyer has spent countless hours reading Scripture in order to prepare for delivering his ministry, but believes the true power of the Bible comes from speaking it out.

"On the pages and in the world of the Bible, the power is in the spoken word of God," he insists. "Psalm 33 says the heavens were made by the word of the Lord, and faith comes by hearing, not reading.

'By having the Bible memorised you have the mind of God close to you... I think the Bible was originally meant more for the ears than the eyes'

At the time of Jesus people didn't have a Bible in their homes so you had to hear the Word of God.

"Some historians suggest through travelling up to the feast each year Jews would know the Scriptures better than their own name.

"We don't live in the world of the Bible, we live under a different government, language and society, but just because our culture is different doesn't mean we should disregard the Bible.

"Memorisation is very difficult. It takes me at least a month to memorise a chapter of the Bible and that is doing it for an hour every single day.

"If all the Bibles in the world were somehow taken away, most people would be

in a world of hurt and desperate to hear God's Word.

"The Word of God is powerful, the Bible says it is sharper than any two-edged sword, and when Jesus was tempted he spoke Scripture.

"Memorising the Bible does a few things for you. It makes meditating on God's Word easy when you don't have a copy with you, and no matter where you are you can set your affection on things above.

"Also, by having the Bible memorised you have the mind of God close to you. What God spoke to man is right there on your mind and you can provide words of comfort to people in times of need because it is there in your heart and mind, and also it is your weapon."

It was 12 years ago that Meyer teamed up with Jason Nightingale, founder of Wordsower Ministries, to start visiting churches delivering books of the Bible from memory.

"The spoken Word of God carries much more power and authority than somebody giving a commentary or application, which, don't get me wrong, can be great, but the Word of God is where the power is," Meyer says.

"I can go into any church and speak the Bible. The Church is one body, one spirit and there is one book. It doesn't matter what denomination you are; there is one book."

Meyer encourages Christians to get into the habit of speaking and listening to the Scriptures to experience the full power of God's Word.

"I think the Bible was originally meant more for the ears than the eyes," he states. "I have just finished memorising First Thessalonians and it talks of the charge for 'this Epistle to be read', and by 'read' it means out loud.

"The public proclamation of the Word of God was the custom of the early Church and in doing so the Word of God will just wash people's minds."

Recently Meyer and Nightingale took on the challenge of reciting the Bible for 24 hours in order to raise funds for Christians hurt by the Nepal earthquake and to help stop human trafficking.

"I really don't know anyone in our generation who speaks books of the Bible from memory as a ministry," he reflects. "I wish there were more, but since it is so rare people find it stunning."