

The Attackers: Vocabulary Storage: Mnemonic Devices in Various Professional Disciplines: Law, Finance, Equitation, Computer Science, Engineering, & Medicine; Theology Is No Exception: Mnemonic Devices Facilitate Recall: 40 Vectors Used at GDC; Necessity for a Technical Vocabulary

- (14) The word comes from the Greek verb **μνημονεύω** (**mnēmoneuō**): to call to mind, to remember. The word's use in Scripture is very instructive:

**Mnēmoneuō is used in an absolute sense in Mark 8:18 where it means to exercise the God-given gift of memory. ["Having eyes, do you not see? Having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember?"] The object of remembrance may also be ... some circumstance that ought to be kept in mind. ["But these things I have spoken to you, that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them" (John 16:4)] Mnēmoneuō therefore means to use the faculty of memory given by God and to keep in one's mind people, things, and circumstances, because memory is the basis of learning and prevention of the dangers of life.<sup>1</sup>**

- (15) Every discipline has its own unique vocabulary and collection of terms and phrases. They help communicate information by stimulating recall. No teaching is required and no explanation is needed.
- (16) However, for these mnemonic devices to be understood and effective, those in the profession must have received the necessary training.
- (17) If you are not privy to the vocabulary of a given discipline, profession, or occupation, then you would be lost by overhearing a conversation among those so involved. Here are some examples from a few members of our local and digital congregations.
- (18) The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate that terms and phrases some people know by rote, you will have little or no clue to their meaning:
1. From Lou Basso of The Basso Law Firm:

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<sup>1</sup> Spiros Zodhiates, gen. ed., "μνημονεύω," in *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, 2d ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1992), 990.

Plaintiff/defendant, petitioner/respondent, interrogatories, deposition, jurisdiction, venue, waiver, collateral estoppel, judgment, joinder, severance, cross-claim, counter-claim, leave, memorandum, parties, execution, garnishment, attachment, indemnity, contribution, comparative fault, standing, ripe, trespass, negligence, tort, replevin, declaratory judgment, bench trial, *nunc pro tunc*, *pro haec vice*, and *voir dire*.<sup>2</sup>

2. From Casey Hunt of St. Louis Financial Planners:

$$\beta = [\text{Covariance}(r, K_m)] / [\sigma(K_m)]^2$$

**Bêta** [ $\beta$ ήτα]:  $\beta$  measures an investment's volatility against the S&P 500. By definition, the S&P has a *bêta* of 1.0. So if your investments have a 1.5 *bêta*, it is 50% more volatile (risky) than the S&P 500 by this measurement. If it were .5, then it would be half the risk.

Jensen's Measure is calculated as:

$$\alpha_p = \bar{r}_p - [r_f + \beta_p(\bar{r}_m - r_f)]$$

Where:

$\bar{r}_p$  = Expected total portfolio return

$r_f$  = Risk free rate

$\beta_p$  = Beta of the portfolio

$\bar{r}_m$  = Expected market return

**Alpha** [ $\alpha$ λφα]:  $\alpha$  measures the return of an investment compared to a benchmark (such as the S&P 500) after you adjust for the investment's risk. So any investment with an *alpha* greater than zero is adding value over the S&P 500 in the form of superior returns relative to risk. Any investment with a negative *alpha* is taking more risk than the S&P 500 for the same return or had lower returns than the S&P 500 for the same level of risk.<sup>3</sup>

3. From Deb Risty of Glory Bound Arabians in Brandon, South Dakota:

- 1) Take your snaffle out and put on the bosal.
- 2) Switch out the twisted and put in the Kimberwick.
- 3) Wrong lead; heels down.
- 4) Pick up the posting trot, drop your irons, and check your diagonal.
- 5) Less curb, more snaffle.
- 6) Buckle your cavesson [*cavezon*]; tighten your girth.<sup>4</sup>

4. From Matt Lawson of Horizons Consulting:

<sup>2</sup> Louis J. Basso, e-mail message to author, May 21, 2011.

<sup>3</sup> Casey D. Hunt, e-mail message to author, May 21, 2011.

<sup>4</sup> Deb Risty, e-mail message to author, May 21, 2011.

Software Development Terms: Abstraction, object-oriented design, refactoring, entity, regression testing, use care, actors, and GUID.  
General Computer Terms: Bandwidth, cloud, VM, and DNS.<sup>5</sup>

5. From Vic Modeer of Volkert & Associates:

Liquefaction, harmonic vibratory forces, internal and viscous fluid forces, laminar flow, turbulent fluid flow, structural beam centroid, dead and live loads, Reynolds number, and allowable bending moment.<sup>6</sup>

6. From Weldon Schott of West County Pathology:

Alcian yellow stain – A tissue stain employed for the detection of *Helicobacter pylori*, a bacteria that is a common cause of gastritis.

DCIS – an abbreviation for ductal carcinoma in situ (pronounced “sigh-2”). DCIS is a type of malignant tumor of the breast that has not invaded or penetrated outside its native duct.

Frozen section – A shorthand for immediately freezing a piece of tissue in order that it can be immediately cut thinly, placed on a glass microscopic slide, stained with appropriate dyes so that a rapid diagnosis (minutes) can be rendered to aid the surgeon while in the operating room to make an informed and proper therapeutic decision before finishing the operation.

Nosocomial infection – An adverse reaction due to an infectious organism (usually bacterial) that was not present or not incubating at the time of a hospital admission.

Clavus – a callus

Nevus – a mole (pronounced Knee-vus)<sup>7</sup>

(19) If you have interest in law, finance, equitation, computer science, engineering, or medicine, and are motivated to pursue one of these disciplines, then you will find life made easier if you learn the meaning and application of the terms used by these practitioners.

(20) Of all the disciplines, theology is the most technical because its goal is to decipher divine revelation and communicate it in the parishioners’ native tongue; in our case, English.

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<sup>5</sup> Matthew C. Lawson, e-mail message to author, May 21, 2011.

<sup>6</sup> Victor A. Modeer, Jr., e-mail message to author, May 21, 2011.

<sup>7</sup> Weldon Schott, e-mail message to author, May 26, 2011.

- (21) Those who have interest in studying Scripture and are motivated to enroll in the Divine Academy of Grace Didactics will acquire a vocabulary that is as esoteric as those we have just illustrated.
- (22) In the process, they will acquire mnemonic devices that will assist them in the recall of biblical principles and doctrines.
- (23) Serious students of the Word of God acquire an inventory of words and phrases that relate to specific doctrines and clusters of doctrines whereby the very mention of them serves as vectors for instant recall and application.
- (24) These words and phrases emerge from in-depth study of various passages of Scripture and they become the equivalent of tabs on a file folder. Doctrine is stored in constellations of memory traces and these vectors call up what you know about the subject.
- (25) Here are some examples which, if you are veterans, will have meaning; if you are new to doctrine some will be abstruse. See how you do.

(1) Angelic conflict, (2) client nation, (3) laws of divine establishment, (4) divine institutions, (5) faith-rest, (6) exegesis, (7) eisegesis, (8) problem-solving devices, (9) FLOT, (10) pivot, (11) rebound (12) GAP, (13) anthropopathism, (14) Pentateuch, (15) ICE, (16) Divine Academy of Grace Didactics, (17) Satanic Academy of Cosmic Didactics, (18) wheel-tracks, (19) Nike Awards, (20) vectors, associations, and constellations, (21) cosmic systems, (22) reversionism, (23) divine decree, (24) experiential sanctification, (25) royal chart pedigree, (26) Zionophobia, (27) historical trends, (28) dispensationalism, (29) systematic theology, (30) infralapsarianism, (31) royal family honor code, (32) sin nature, (33) carnality, (34) spirituality, (35) *cosmos diabolicus*, (36) grace pipeline, (37) point of contact, (38) stream of consciousness, (39) the barrier, and (40) agents provocateurs.

- (26) These forty examples only scratch the surface of the many terms and phrases that serve to identify major subjects that emerge from Bible study. Each serves as a vector for a detailed discussion from your memory center.
- (27) None of the examples on the list is found in Scripture. They are developed over time in the context of the study or studies they represent.
- (28) Therefore, a professional Christian in order to facilitate the learning process must accumulate in his inventory of ideas a technical vocabulary.
- (29) This in no way means that such techniques make the study of Scripture an academic exercise that robs the experience of its innate spirituality.
- (30) Those who so criticize the strict academic discipline of doctrinal churches are those who confuse emotionalism for spirituality. Spirituality is the absolute status of any Christian who is filled with the Holy Spirit.
- (31) But spirituality does not equate to spiritual growth. Learning Scripture leads to the development of experiential sanctification and ultimate arrival at the sophisticated spiritual life.
- (32) Conclusion: The Christian is to regard himself as a professional whose obligation before the Lord is to be consistently enrolled in continuing education.