

## Counseling Commentary

One of the greatest disciplines a Christian community can have and can pass on to their young is the skill of Bible memorization. WHY you may ask? Well, according to Charles Swindoll because: 1) prayer life will be sharpened 2) witnessing will be sharper and much more effective 3) attitudes and outlook will begin to change 4) minds will become alert and observant 5) confidence and assurance will be enhanced 6) faith will be solidified.

I bring this up for discussion this month because Bible memory is an effective way we can help children get through their "hard" times. Over and over as I've worked with students on an individual basis I've been blessed when students quote scripture while they problem solve. I can see their confidence being built as they realize that they knew the answer all the time, and they also are assured that if they do what the Bible says it will work out. Also, Bible verses serve as great self-talk phrases. For example, when children are afraid, many times I will give them a verse like Ps. 56:3 "When I am afraid, I will trust in you" and show them how to repeat it to themselves when they feel fear. It is truly amazing to see God giving peace to His own through His word.

There are many techniques one can use in the area of memorizing Bible verses. However, whatever technique is used there is one shared suggestion that makes all the techniques successful. That is to make sure there is someone available to hold you accountable for memorizing like one's entire family.

The following is a technique that was given to me as a suggestion. May you find it as enjoyable as I have. It was put together by Betty Vermeer and is called *Alphabet Memory Work*. The technique suggests memorizing only one verse a week and adding it to the previously learned verses.

### Alphabet Memory Work

- A** A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. Pr. 15:1
- B** Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Eph. 4:32
- C** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Ps. 51:10
- D** Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Mt. 7:12
- E** Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. Jas. 1:19,20
- F** Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. Ecc. 12:13
- G** Greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world. I Jn. 4:4
- H** How great you are, O Sovereign Lord! There is no one like you and there is no God but you. 2 Sam. 7:22
- I** I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Ps. 119:11
- J** Just and true are your ways, King of the Ages. Rev. 15:3b
- K** Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies. Ps. 34:13
- L** Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and with all your strength. Deut. 6:5
- M** May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer. Ps. 19:14
- N** No man can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. Matt. 6:24
- O** Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law. Ps. 119:18
- P** Praise be to the Lord, for he showed his wonderful love to me. Ps. 31:21

- Q** Quench not the Spirit. I Thess. 5:19 (KJV)
- R** Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. Prov. 12:18
- S** Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well. Matt. 6:33
- T** Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. Ps 86:11
- U** Under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield. Ps. 91:4b
- V** Verily, verily, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. John 3:3 (KJV)
- W** When I am afraid, I will trust in you. Ps. 56:3
- X** Exalted be God my Savior! Ps. 18 :46b
- Y** Your ways, O God are holy. What god is so great as our God. Ps. 77:13
- Z** Always be zealous for the fear of the Lord. Pr. 23:17b