

# Working on Memorization

Seneca, the ancient Greek teacher of rhetoric, would impress his class of 200 by asking each student to recite a favorite line of poetry.

He would then recite all 200 lines from memory in reverse order.

St. Augustine – an early Christian theologian and philosopher whose writings influenced the development of Western Christianity and Western philosophy – had a friend who could recite all the poet Virgil's works backward!

Okay, maybe those guys were gifted, but there are lots of things each of us can recite from memory, too: family members' names, birthdays and other important dates. Meanwhile, numerous phone numbers, addresses and Social Security, checking account, credit card and driver's license numbers may fall in our memory banks somewhere.



And what about popular songs from high school, songs from summer camp and favorite hymns? Then there are all those workplace requirements we must know by heart.

These items have two characteristics in common: frequent use and indispensability. We've memorized them because we use them so often and because we can't get along without them.

What would happen to our efforts at Scripture memory if we viewed the Bible the same way?

Try picking a passage of Scripture that addresses a need you face (indispensability), and read it once a day (frequency). Before long, you'll know it by heart.

*Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You (Psalm 119:11 NKJV).*

– Beecher Hunter