

Who would have thought?

It would seem that there are acronyms and mnemonic devices galore. When serving in the military, I remember seeing a film of a British Army Officer giving a briefing. It was a spoof on what not to do. It pictured him addressing soldiers who were about to go into the field on exercise. Throughout the entire monologue he used only acronyms, confusing everyone but himself. No one understood what he was talking about, let alone what his intended purpose was.

Using acronyms takes familiarity with the subject matter or the title for which the letters represent. Sometimes the content itself needs to be remembered and acronyms are employed along with a mnemonic device to help recall the information.

The Church and the Bible are a case in point. There are mnemonic devices that help to recall the order of the books of the Bible. Take for example Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians, a few of Paul's letters. Their order can be remembered by the mnemonic device "General Electric Power Company". Or there are the aspects of prayer... Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication – ACTS.

Indeed, acronyms and mnemonic devices can teach a point, shorten knowledge or even simplify the complex. Take for example the little boy who told his father that he knew what the purpose of the Bible was. Upon inquiry, the young boy proclaimed: "It simple dad, it stands for ...Basic Information Before Leaving Earth"! Who would have thought?

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