

ROOTED

in the

Word

**By Dave Pizzolo, 1988-1990 Quizzer,
Calvary Assembly, Staten Island, NY**

It was September 11, 2001. As many people know, I was inside the north tower of the World Trade Center on the 12th floor where I worked when the first plane crashed into the north tower. As I reflect back on that day, many things come back to me. But there is one memory of that day more than any other, which I would like to share.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, I woke up thinking that I wanted to get to work early and beat the traffic. So I got up and caught an earlier bus into the city. When I got off the bus, the bus driver told me to "Have a good one!" I sat down at my desk at about 8:30 a.m. After about 15 minutes of working at my desk, I heard a loud bang. I immediately stood up to try and see if some one was hurt. By the time that I stood up, the entire building was shaking as if I were on a roller coaster. The building actually moved from side to side in all four directions. I put my hand on my cubicle wall to brace myself. When I felt the building shake, I realize that something much bigger had happened, but I still did not know what.

I stepped outside of my cubicle, and I could see outside our conference room windows. Debris was falling from the sky. I also heard an elevator falling down the elevator shaft. I looked out the window of our main door that lead into the hallway and I saw dust billowing out of the back data center toward me, moving much faster than the smoke. There was a group of engineers that came running out into the hallway, gasping for air. I went to the conference room window to look outside. There was a 10-story building right next door, and its roof was completely covered in debris. Some people were saying that it was an earthquake.

After multiple attempts at evacuation, we knew we needed to get out of the building. We heard another explosion and saw debris on fire falling out of the sky. It was the second plane hitting the south tower. They instructed us not to go out into the hallway where all the dust was. We took the long way around the floor to the fire escape. When we opened the door for the fire escape, dust came flying into our floor. The stairway was completely packed and people were panicking. They were actually running up the stairs, not down. They said that the fire door at the bottom of the stairs was locked and that they could not get out. In case of a fire everyone is instructed to go to the 13th floor to await instructions. When the people in the hallway saw that our floor was mostly free of dust, they came running onto our floor. Security then said that it was safer on our floor than on the fire stairs.

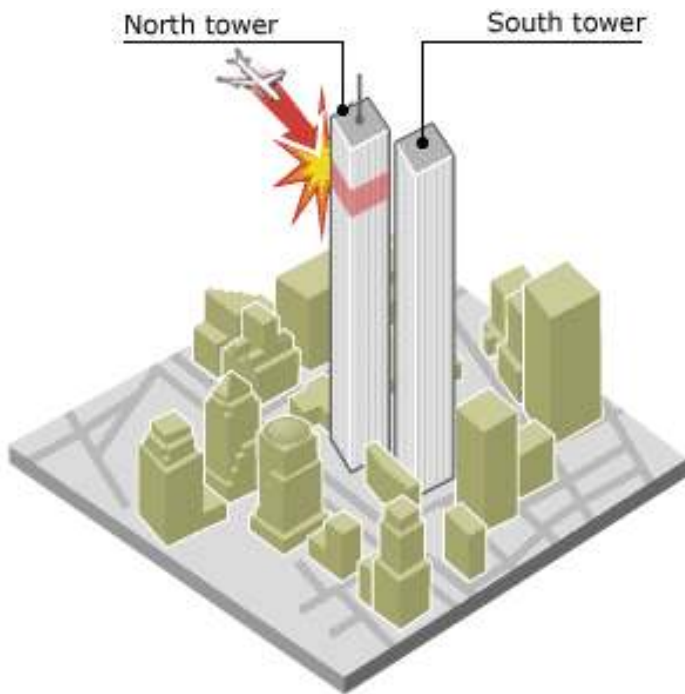
Security wanted us to go back to our desks and work. I went back to my desk but I did not work. Instead, I called my mom and left her a message that I was ok, and also called my wife but could not get through. I finally got a hold of my sister who also worked in the city. I listened to my sister's shocking description of what was going on from the outside and reflected on what was possibly going to happen to me. She was on ground level and said that she was watching my building burn. This moment was the closest I had ever come to death.

When I realized that I was not going to get out, I went back to my desk. I felt very alone. I really could not talk to anyone. Since it was early in the morning, most of my co-workers had not arrived at work.

At moments like these, it is important to know what you believe. I believed that God could save me, for that promise was in His Word. As I was standing by my desk, I decided that if I was going to die, I was going to die quoting Scripture. I had been involved in Bible Quiz as a teen and studied six books of the Bible. I had returned to Bible Quiz after graduating from college, and was a coach and sectional coordinator. I started to try to quote verses in my head, but could not think of anything I had recently studied. All of a sudden, I was able to recall verses from Hebrews chapter 13, a book that I studied when I was 15 years old. I was happy that I could quote anything, so I continued to quote as many verses from that chapter that I could remember. I was not paying attention to what the next verses were. I was just working through what I could remember. Then I quoted verses 5 and 6 which say "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." (We memorized King James back then.) Up until that moment my hands were shaking from all of the adrenalin that was going through my body. When I looked at my hands after I quoted those verses, I saw that my hands were not shaking anymore.

You can find Dave's full story at www.biblequiz.com

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Dave Pizzolo was on the 12th floor of the World Trade Center's north tower when it was struck by terrorists at 8:46 a.m., September 11, 2001. 102 minutes elapsed from the impact of the plane to the collapse of the north tower. Over 2,700 people were killed in the 9/11 attacks, including 411 emergency workers. Many firefighters, due to no radio signal, did not receive the message to evacuate before the buildings collapsed. --http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/September_11_attacks

The reason why these verses are so important to me was because of the way that I learned them. Back when I was in 10th grade, I had a practice at my coach's house, Sue Adzemovic. While she was cooking dinner for us, she was reading questions. I had hit a 30 point quote which required me to quote these two verses. I actually missed the quote and my coach was mad at me. (That is probably the only time that my coach was ever upset with me. The only thing that she ever wanted from us was for us to do our best. It never really mattered to her if we won or lost matches.) I remember that she slammed her hand down on her book and told me that if I did not learn anything else all year long, that I had to learn these verses because they would be the most important verses in my life. She took a moment to pause and teach why these verses were so important. When I got that question wrong in a practice, that bad feeling lasted with me for a very long time. As I stood there in a building that was in the process of collapsing, I really felt as if I was having a burning bush experience. I continued to quote other various verses that I had memorized as a teen quizzer. Bible Quiz used to be something fun for me to do in high school. It now became a strong foundation that had become a *very present help* in the time of trouble. Although I always loved those verses, they took on a new meaning to me that day. I felt as though God's hands were around me and it really did not matter what happened to me anymore. Up to that point, I had thought of my situation as being a no-win scenario. After I quoted those verses, I felt as though I was in a win-win scenario. If I made it out alive, I would be going home to my wife who loved me very much. If I did not make it out alive, I would be going home to heaven to my Father who loved me even more. No matter what happened, I knew that at the end of the day someone who loved me would be hugging me. That really made all of the difference to me.

Security came to my floor and said that it was okay to go down the stairs. We worked ourselves downstairs to about the fifth floor. Water was pouring out of the floor. As we continued down to the lower floors, water was coming from the floor onto the stairs and from a drainpipe in the ceiling. We exited on the second floor and were told not to go out into the courtyard, but to go down the escalators to the basement level. Debris was still falling from the upper floors and hitting people on the street. I exited the building. Police were guiding people telling them not look up. They pushed us along toward Broadway. However, I did look up at the twin towers and they were burning like two matchsticks. It was a very eerie feeling. I made it to Broadway where I had arranged to meet my sister. People were in the streets watching the towers burn and the crowd screamed as they saw people jump from the top of the towers, trying to escape the burning buildings.

Since we could not use our cell phones, my sister Milena and I decided to go to her office building a block away to use her office phone. We went to her desk and while she was on the phone the south tower collapsed. If I had not seen it with my own eyes, I would not have believed it. A huge cloud of gray soot came rolling in like a tidal wave. People on the street were trying to outrun the cloud, but within seconds the cloud had enveloped them. We really did not know what was inside the cloud and did not know if we would survive the cloud passing us. I told Milena to get on the floor under the desk. The cloud came toward our building and the smoke came up the building. Within seconds all of the windows were completely gray. Everyone in Milena's office was panicking. Then the north tower collapsed and sent a cloud of black smoke barreling toward us.

After awhile we were forced to evacuate the building. When we stepped outside we could not see the sun, sky or to the end of the block. Soot covered the street and was about ankle deep. There was so much dust, ash, and soot in the air that it was difficult to breathe. We needed to keep rags over our mouths. Fire engines came rolling down the streets kicking all of the soot back into the air. We walked to the South Ferry. There were tugboats taking as many people as possible to Staten Island. Everyone kept telling us that they were glad we were okay. People stood in a single file line waiting for the next tugboat. When the tugboat docked, people were loaded onto the boat. They were happy to be alive. Someone had asked them if they were going to Staten Island and one of the men from the boat said that he was going to "Staten Island, Long Island, Coney Island, wherever you want! We're going anywhere today!" There were no seats on the tugboat, so we all stood and sat wherever we could. At least 100 people got on that tugboat and we took off. As we sailed back to Staten Island we looked at the skyline. We could not see most of the buildings around where the Twin Towers had been because of the smoke and soot. It was so awkward to see the skyline and not see the Twin Towers. We eventually passed the Statue of Liberty, with the skyline behind her. In the past, I always enjoyed looking at her. On this day, I saw her hold her torch so high. Even though the city was on fire, she did not move; she was rooted, firm and unchanging.

Looking back on that day, I realize what a treasure I have in the Word of God. I often wondered why, of all the verses I memorized in my life, that it was these verses that I quoted that day that made a difference. On the day that I needed God's promise the most, His Word was true, firm and unchanging. Quizzing is not about competition, score sheets, wins, losses or quiz outs. Quizzing is about planting the Word of God so far into your soul that it gives the Holy Spirit an opportunity to use them at a latter point in your life. You really have no idea what God will do with the living Word that is rooted in you. So to all of you quizzers out there, do not slack off on your daily study time. These verses could someday save your life. Do not take for granted the Word that you are putting into your heart—one day you will need it!

How can we **HELP?**

Your new newsletter is brought to you by quizzers. Some might be former quizzers and some might be current, but we all know what it is like to be a Bible Quizzer. We know what it is like to juggle school, family, the BQ study schedule, volunteer work, sports, extracurricular activities and so much more.

The Bible Quiz Alumni Association is here to help you! Each month, quizzers will receive information on items affecting their life. In order for you to get the most out of each issue, we would love to know what you would like to hear about.

- Do you want a better relationship with God?
- Do you need help with study or memorization tips?
- Are you dealing with team issues?
- Do you want to know how to be a better teammate?
- Do you need help balancing all of the stuff you have committed to?
- Are you a Novice quizzer wanting to go into the A-league next year?
- Do you need help with how to study to get to Districts, Regionals and Nationals?

Let us know what you want to hear about and we will do our best to help each month. Send suggestions to agbiblequiz@gmail.com and look for the answers to your questions in upcoming newsletters.

10 **Season Starter** Tips

By John Angelis, 1992-1998 Quizzer, First Assembly of God, Warren, OH

1. Get connected with your team and with other people. Memorization is hard work! If you don't have friends in quiz, you can burn out easily. Find things about your teammates and coach that you love.

2. Make a list of all the reasons quiz is fun and why you want to do it. Even put silly reasons like "Coach brought candy that one time" or "I think Chris from First AG is cute" (but **DO NOT** tell your teammates about this one unless you want a little teasing!). If you get discouraged later in the year, pull out the list and read it.

3. Slow and steady wins the race. Don't put together a hard study schedule you can't keep up with. This will just depress you. Keep a pace that you can succeed at.

4. Don't forget to reward yourself for hard work. Make promises to yourself like: "If I learn all my verses today, I'll play a video game. But I won't do it until I finish my verses."

5. Find "cheerleaders" to encourage you. "2-4-6-8! What gospel is really great? Mark! Mark! MMMMMark!" Ok, maybe not *that* kind of cheerleader. For some of you, it could be your parents. For others, maybe it's a friend who can't believe that you're memorizing so much. They can help build you up to study if you get tired.

6. Find a Bible Quiz role model. Look around at league meets and tournaments. Who is a good quizzer and also a good person? Study them and try to be friends with them. Learn from their example.

7. Study at a consistent time and place, and put that time and place on your schedule. Maybe that is third period study hall, or the bus ride home, or right after dinner. It makes it easy on you because you don't have to struggle each day to find time.

8. Use boring down-time for review. Are you sitting in the car waiting for your parents to finish shopping? You may not feel like memorizing new verses, but it's a great opportunity to read old verses and review. Don't study in the shower, though—it's embarrassing to explain to your coach why you need a new book!

9. Ask questions to yourself as you study. Don't just skip over parts that you don't understand; ask questions until you do. What person is the "who" in Mark 1:2? Aha, it's "my messenger" in verse 2, and it's a prophecy referring to John in verse 4. Now that you understand that, you'll be a little faster on the buzzer than someone who did not.

10. Understand yourself as a quizzer. Do you learn better standing? Then pace around as you memorize. Does it help if you play instrumental music in the background? Do you study better with friends? What food helps you concentrate better in quiz matches? Do what works for you, so that you can do your very best to God's glory.

And finally, a bonus: 11. Quiz is not about what you can earn or get. It's about letting God's Word fill your heart, so that Christ now acts in you. There can be plenty of disappointments in a long quiz year. If you are letting God's Word teach you, you will still be happy. If you are focused on yourself, you will still find something to hate or complain about, even if your team is #1 in the country.

Name Me!

Your new quizzer e-newsletter needs a name!
Send your suggestions to agbiblequiz@gmail.com.



FIRE BIBLE **STUDENT EDITION**

Igniting a generation in the Word of God

Invested in
Campus
Missionaries.
Be one.

By Jill Williams
1992-1997 Quizzer, Park Crest Assembly of God, Springfield, MO

I am always looking for ways to deepen my relationship with God and I'm sure you're the same. As a former Bible Quizzer I am passionate about God and about His Word. I don't want shallow devotionals that make me feel all warm and fuzzy every day (although for some people there is a place for that). I want my life to be challenged, my walk with Christ to be deepened, and my future changed by the time that I spend in God's Word. I've found this great Bible that I want to share with you—I truly own it and use it ALL the time. My pastor even has one and preaches from it. It is for people who want to be **serious** students of the Bible. It even contains special notes and commentary written especially for middle school and high school students!

What is the FIRE BIBLE: Student Edition?

The FIRE BIBLE: Student Edition is the first true Pentecostal study Bible for students, igniting a generation in the Word of God. This FIRE BIBLE contains the most comprehensive study notes of any student Bible, ever. This is an amazing resource that quizzers will not want to miss. Don't have a FIRE BIBLE? Go to fbse.ag.org for information on how to purchase yours today.

Even if you don't have a FIRE BIBLE, you can still use a lot of the free helps for your devotional time:

FIRE STARTERS at fbse.ag.org/firestarters.cfm

A new National Youth Ministries resource for you to utilize this year are the Fire Starters. Each downloadable pdf contains Fire Starters for two days of study. You can download these free of charge or simply refer to them online.

INDIVIDUALS (SELF-GUIDED STUDY)

Fire Starters are designed to help you read and study through the New Testament in one year, regardless of when and where you start. But, even if you aren't following the one-year track, you can still select the Fire Starter that corresponds to whatever you are reading in the Bible on any given day. The Fire Starters provide 10 to 20 minutes of study, including the Bible reading. Check out the Fire Starters for the Book of Mark as you begin studying for the quiz season!

FAMILIES

Fire Starters can also be used to facilitate family time in God's Word. The family leader can start by referring to the "THINK" section. Sometimes this gives background information on the passage. Other times it may be an illustration that could remind family members of personal examples or opinions they could share. Often, the first section contains thought-provoking questions that can spark some opening discussion.

SMALL GROUPS and BIBLE QUIZ TEAMS

The Fire Starters are highly adaptable for small group leadership and study, directly linked to the notes and commentary in the FIRE BIBLE: Student Edition. The wide array of questions in the "RESPOND" section will provide more than enough interaction to fill most small group discussion times. Use Fire Starters together with the Mark Bible Quiz Study Guide with your Bible Quiz team this year.

Hopefully you will love this Bible and the free studies as much as I do!

Got FACEBOOK?

Want to stay connected with all that is happening in the Bible Quiz world? If you have a facebook page (www.facebook.com) you can now add Pastor Bernie as your friend. Keep up with him as he travels the country starting new teams, preaches at churches and retreats, works in the office, and lives life with his family. He might even mention the Steelers once or twice! Also check out cool BQ flair for your page.



Learning References

Do you have trouble learning verse references or matching the reference to the verse that you are supposed to quote? Here is a fun game to play at home or with your teammates:

- 1) Get out your box of quote cards.
- 2) Take out the cards for the chapter you are working on that week.
- 3) Throw the cards up in the air and let them land on the floor.
- 4) Each quizzer takes a turn picking up a card. If you pick up a card with the verse reference showing, you have to quote the verse. If you pick up a card with the verse side up, you have to say the chapter and verse.



Mix it up during your personal study and at practice time. You'll find that there is a lot of fun in working and playing together.

If you don't have a box of quote cards you can order some at www.gospelpublishing.com, product number 731-707.

why bother?

Have you started on your discipleship or memorization award, yet? Why bother—you're busy enough. It's not like you need something else to do in life, right? *WRONG!*

The national Bible Quiz office offers several extra awards apart from competition awards. If you haven't checked out the Mark Discipleship Award, you have to! Former quizzer and current coach Jason Martin says, "I believe that the Discipleship Award is a great way to get all quizzers—no matter what their experience or ability—to apply Bible Quiz in a relevant way to their life." Talk about depth in your walk with Christ—as you work through each application item, God can change your heart and teach you in ways that you never thought possible.

Also, start on your memorization awards as soon as you can. Did you know that many Assemblies of God colleges give scholarships for students who do their memorization awards? That's free money for you! It's also a huge help as you study all year and quote the material often.

The Mark Discipleship Award points and applications can be found in the Mark Study Guide. All Mark Discipleship Award forms and application points must be postmarked by April 9, 2008.

All memorization award forms will be due on May 1, 2009. Again this year, acceptable quoting times include a Sunday morning, Sunday evening, or a Wednesday evening service. All quoting and other guideline requirements must be completed by May 1, 2009.

Need forms for your awards? Go to www.biblequiz.com for forms and more information on each award.