

Cut the fat and give me the meat

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A little fat adds flavor. Too much fat isn't good. Just like I appreciate the butcher who trims the fat before selling me the meat, so I value the communicator who does the same. Cut the fat and keep the fact. Give me simple thoughts to chew on, not words to wade through.

Take for instance these words of wisdom gleaned from military experiences: "Tracers work both ways" (U.S. Army Ordnance). "Five second fuses only last three seconds" (Infantry Journal). "Don't ever be the first, don't ever be the last, and don't volunteer to do anything" (U.S. Navy Swabbie). "Any ship can be a minesweeper – once." "Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do" (Unknown Marine Recruit). "Don't draw fire; it irritates the people around you." "If you see a bomb technician running, follow him." (USAF Ammo Troop). I also love these thought provoking questions that recently came my way: "Why do doctors and lawyers call what they do practice?" "Why is abbreviation such a long word?" "Why is it that when you're driving and looking for an address, you turn down the volume on your radio?" "Why is a boxing ring square?" "What was the best thing before sliced bread?" And, "How did a fool and his money get together in the first place?"

These are some of the other one-liners that I have gleaned over a period of time. I invite you to keep the ones you like, toss the ones you don't, and use the ones you have.

"Pray at all times. If necessary, use words." "Bad company corrupts good character." (1 Cor. 15:33) "Never miss a chance to read a child a story." "We need 17 affirmations or appropriate touches a day to thrive." "The right heart with the wrong creed is better than the right creed with the wrong heart."

"As soon as you can, pay your debts. As long as you can, give the benefit of the doubt. As much as you can, give thanks." "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13)

"God doesn't keep a clock." "Sometimes the most Godly thing we can do is to take a day off." "Faith in the future begets power in the present." "When Jesus went home, He left the front door open."

If you think about it, Jesus was a master of short, sweet, and to the point. His greatest sermon can be read in eight minutes (Matthew 5-7). His best known story can be read in ninety seconds (Luke 15:11-32). Jesus summarized prayer in five phrases (Matthew 6:9-13). He summarized the Law in three verses (Mark 12:29-31). He healed the sick with two words (Matthew 8:3), and He reduced all of His teachings to one command (John 15:12)

In that spirit, let me share the Bible in 50 words: God made. Adam bit. Noah arked. Abraham split. Joseph ruled. Jacob fooled. Bush talked. Moses balked. Pharaoh plagued. People walked. Sea divided. Tablets guided. Promise landed. Saul freaked. David peeked. Prophets warned. Jesus born. God Walked. Love talked. Anger crucified. Hope died. Love rose. Spirit flamed. Word spread. God remained.

Or to sum it up even further: He Loves. He Gave. We Believe. We Live.