



WOW: Word Of the Week

Barrier

September 3, 2025

Barrier. For at least 500 years, the word barrier has been synonymous with obstacle or obstruction. But there are other applications of the word barrier. The sound barrier was an obstacle for many years, but today it defines a limit. A barrier reef is an obstruction but also suggests protection.

Barriers can be real or imaginary. Physical barriers; emotional, mental, psychological barriers.

Social barriers are often about expectations, sometimes such barriers are false ideas about what can and cannot be, what should or should not be.

Barriers can be good or bad. Sometimes, barrier is synonymous with boundary. We need appropriate boundaries—appropriate barriers. We need to get rid of inappropriate barriers.

Back to the basic meaning of the word: obstacle. In England, a barrier is the gate that raises to allow entry to a parking lot. In our age increasingly characterized by a fear of terrorism, traffic barriers are common. You cannot simply drive your car into your favorite supermarket or shopping mall. These barriers are designed to keep people out.

What are the barriers in your life? Spiritual barriers?

What stands in your way, what keeps you from doing what God wants?

What keeps you on the straight and narrow—is the Holy Spirit within us a kind of barrier? Encourager-Exhorter. Those actions involve both permissions and barriers, encouragement and warnings.

Do you need to develop skills? To overcome fears? To overcome lack of experience?

What barriers do others impose on you?

What are the God-barriers in your life?

What are some false barriers in your life?

Important questions. A simple word. Or is it? "Break my heart, dear Lord, tear the barriers down, Show me in convicting tears the glories of Your crown."

Listen to the words. Is that our prayer? Could it be this week? If I can help with your spiritual walk, I am as near as a comment or written note.