



WOW: Word Of the Week

Glorify

October 29, 2025

I begin with personal reflections. Please be patient with an old man reminiscing.

I began preaching at youth rallies during my high school years. A favorite sermon, based on Col. 1:28, was "We Proclaim Him." Three points.

I was introduced to ministry at Wichita State University. During four years of undergraduate study, I served in campus ministry, weekend preaching assignments, and inner-city ministry. I have spent my life in fulltime church ministry (25 years), academic work, interim ministry, and church planting (12 years), and mission work (19 years).

I always saw myself as a preacher, although I often preferred my second self-view as an evangelist.

I think about my experience.

I have studied the printed word; I have sharpened and shared my faith through the spoken word and through the printed word. I was appreciative of those who mentored me and eager to mentor others in the university. Efforts to combine words written and words spoken summarizes my life for almost six decades.

My goal has been always to proclaim Jesus. Bring people to Jesus. Hundreds were baptized in local ministry. Thousands have been baptized during the last twenty years of mission work.

I was not a well-known professor at a well-known university; I never occupied a high-visibility pulpit.

I purposefully limit my online and social media presence. I have few followers, few subscribers.

Writing books has become a part of my life only during the past 7-8 years.

If I know my heart, I have little desire to cultivate a following.

Here is what I desire. I want to know Jesus. I want others to know Jesus. We proclaim Him!

In every setting. Smallest of crowds, individuals, no assignment too small.

Ordinary people, ordinary lives. Staying with ordinary people, seeking to be a blessing.

Faithful in little. Doing much with little. Favorite sermon: doing little with little, doing little with much, doing much with much, doing much with little.

Knowledge of much, total mastery of much less. Know a little bit about everything.

Know a lot about the Bible, the word of Christ. Make it my goal to know Jesus, we proclaim him.

Write for the ordinary person, not the academics. Informed, knowing the scholarship, writing so all understand.

Word of Year, every year for the last 20 years, in 2025 my WOY is glorify.

A favorite song repeats the words, "We will glorify..." John's Gospel is about glory—27 verses in the first seventeen chapters. Jesus shows us God's glory. Jesus glorified the Father by accomplishing the Father's will.

What does it mean for you and me to glorify God? Do we glorify God in all we do? Can we ever take time off from God? Do we ever direct God's abundant gifts to us and our own desires instead of surrendering all to Him?

God's mission in this world continues. God's eternal saving purpose accomplished in Jesus is unchanging. How committed are we to the words we sing? "We will glorify..." Do you glorify only by the words you sing? Does glorify happen only in your worship, or is it the entire tenor of your life? Glorify—how you invest your time, your treasures, your talents!

I want to be a person of faith and a fellow traveler with as many as possible in the Way of Jesus. Spiritually connected. Making a difference in the kingdom.

I close with the words of J. I. Packer when asked about his final words to the church, "Glorify Christ every way."