



WOW: Word Of the Week

Spectacular

October 22, 2025

Satan tempted Jesus with the possibility of doing something sensational. Jesus chose servanthood. Satan's temptations can be described with three questions. Shall we satisfy appetites or seek authenticity? Shall we be spectacular or be servants? Shall we live by power or by principle? Seeking to be relevant we forget to be real. Seeking to be sensational we forget to serve. We forget that principle trumps power and prestige any day!

Human beings seek the sensational. We are drawn to the miraculous, the unusual. This fascination easily becomes an obstacle that keeps us from hearing and understanding God. Do we learn nothing from the accounts of Jesus' temptations?

Toward the end of Jesus' ministry, after his resurrection (which was super-spectacular!), the disciples fell into the trap again. Jesus was with Peter. The beloved disciple was also there. Peter asked, "Lord, what about him?" Jesus replied: "If I want him to remain until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me" (John 21:21-22).

Jesus' words were quickly misinterpreted because people seek the spectacular. "Because of this, the rumor spread among the believers that this disciple would not die."

The misunderstanding grew so great that John clarifies: "But Jesus did not say that he would not die; He only said, 'If I want him to remain until I return, what is that to you?'" What was meant as a simple illustration was distorted by the expectation of something extraordinary.

Many Christians live enthusiastically and energetically, expecting the spectacular. The spectacular never arrives and faith falters. The Christian life is more often struggle than sensational. We want quick results but God is often telling us something different. Are we listening? Can we hear?

Careful Bible study reveals that the eternal goal is not achieved by daily supernatural encounters. The goal is achieved by faithful obedience, believing the promises of the Great Commission, making disciples of all nations. As I look back on 60 years of ministry, I can tell you that God's work is seldom sensational. Special moments are seasonal—often coming only after long seasons of struggle. Dedication, devotion—the apostles' teaching, sharing life with other believers, celebrating Jesus' saving work, prayer.

The task is not easy, the road is long and arduous. The story is told of an older preacher with an extraordinary ability to recall and quote the Bible. A listener commented, "I would give my life to be able to quote Scripture like that!" To which the preacher replied, "That's what I did."

God is communicating his will for us in Scripture. If we would simply study and listen, not searching for something spectacular at every step, we would be imitating Jesus' responses in his temptation. "It is written." Real relationship with God, serving others, living with purpose guided by God's principles.