## WOW: Word Of the Week

### Character

**February 25, 2026**

Likely unncessary for the majority of those reading or viewing, but perhaps a very quick review will be helpful. We are in a brief series focused on "radical discipleship." Six characteristics, descriptions, challenges, goals. We seek to get to the root of discipleship: we have explored maturity, conformity, nonconformity. The goal is character.

What is this word "character?" The word has various meaning, shades. In English, "he is a character" is different from "he has character." Today's WOW is the character of Romans 5. Or the character of Hebrews 1—Christ as the express image of God's essence.

For the radical disciple, character is consistency, always the same. Integrity, in every situation. Our understanding is helped by synonyms, other WOW possibilities. Here are two: consistency, integrity. A personal favorite: alignment. The "aligned" life, lined up according to the character of Jesus.

Romans 5:1-5. Our faith walk is possible by God's justification, we walk in peace with God, standing in faith, grace and hope. The next sequence is telling. In this world of sufferings, we learn endurance, leading to character and hope. Hope made possible because of God's love poured into our lives through the Holy Spirit.

I used this text recently at the funeral of a dear friend, a friendship in Christ extending back over 50 years. The text was suggested because of notes my sister in Christ had written in her Bible at Romans 5. What is character? We know it when we see it, don't we?

The suggested synonyms are powerful. Character is consistency. Always the same, same person, same spirit, same attitude, same essence, same nature. WYSIWYG. What you see is what you get. Character is integrity, wholeness, no bumps on the bowling ball.

Hebrews 1:3. Character is actually a Greek word, transliterated to English. Express image. An image is stamped, a signet ring, children stamping figures on paper, an ink pad and signature block. The result is an exact copy. The writer of Hebrews is saying that in Jesus we get an exact copy of God—impression, image, express image.

In using this word to describe radical discipleship, I want to communicate the same truth. In radical discipleship, an exact copy of Jesus walks around in this world. He is our example, the sample we seek to duplicate. We become people of character – his character. Like him. Mature in Christ, like him, unadulterated nonconformists, character. Every day, day in and day out. Every aspect of our lives. Radical!