WOW: Word Of the Week

Fluent

September 9, 2026

Fluent. What comes to mind? Perhaps the most common use of the word is with reference to languages. Fluent means being able to speak or write a language easily, smoothly, and accurately. Fluent, flowing. "He can defend himself." "I can survive." In my early years of learning Spanish, "you can get angry in Spanish!" The goal is the ability to express thoughts without constant hesitation, awkward pauses, or intense mental translation.

There are other uses of the word. Fluent can refer to smooth movement, for example, motion that flows effortlessly, gracefully, as in a musical performance or a dance. In his hands, the clarinet carries the melodies fluently. Also, fluent can refer to a smooth, effortless command of any subject.

The description caught me off-guard. "He is fluent in God." WOW! What a goal! I do not know exactly what the author had in mind. I do not remember that it was a description of anyone I know. The phrase got me to thinking. What does it mean to be fluent in God? What would be my description? What is my goal?

He talks with God and about God easily, smoothly, accurately. He knows, he understands, enter "Godland" is familiar territory. He has been here before. This is not his first trip this week to God territory. He spends a lot of time here, in God's presence, conversing with God, arguing with God, asking questions, contemplating.

Or, he is fluent in God's Word. He expresses God-thoughts easily, concisely, succinctly. No hesitation, no awkward searching, no thinking it through. He has already been there. This is his home, he dwells in God's word, his guide, his anchor, his firm foundation.

God-fluent. He knows God. God is his constant companion, his ever-present resource. He talks "God-talk." Some think he talks weird because of that. He thinks "God-think." Some think he thinks weird because of that. His focus is God-stuff, God-work. Some think he is weird because of that.

Our writings, lifestyle, postings, goals, hopes, focus, emphasis betray us. They show where we want to be fluent. They reflect priorities. They reflect where we invest time and treasure.

Here's a goal worth pursuing for the serious disciple of Jesus. I want to be God-fluent! I want to be Jesus-fluent!