WOW: Word Of the Week

Radicalized
June 10, 2026

Today I follow up on the recent WOW series on radical discipleship. The 1980s pop-culture popularized "rad" as a slang form of radical. In a post-9-11 world the word radicalized has come to describe political extremism. Terrorism is too often front-page news, the commitment and willingness for self-sacrifice of terrorists is startling.

In Ecclesiastes, Solomon wrote that there is nothing new under the sun. Do you see a parallel? The commitment of the first-century Christians, their loyalty to Jesus Christ, was also extreme. In both cases, our WOW fits -- *radicalized*.

In today's world, too few Christians are radicalized to Jesus and His kingdom. Would not the Christian faith move forward more quickly if we were more radical? One author suggested that the church is God's version of sleeper cells. Kingdom cells filled with disciples who live only for Jesus. Paul wrote to the Galatians, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ in me."

With kudos to Frankie V, the ultimate question is: *What are you really living for?*

Your verbal answer will be revealing. But the real answer is not in your words but in your wallet and your calendar (and your social media posts!). How you spend your time and your money reveals what you are living for. This is priorities. This is what we are giving our lives for.

Others see and know. Many of us value possessions, pleasure, experiences, travel, children (and grandchildren). Some value the opinions of others—including the opinions of strangers on social media. We spend our time pursuing a multitude of things. How much of your 168-hour week is devoted to knowing Jesus, becoming like him, sharing his teachings? How radical are you?

Radicalized. Am I radicalized as a follower of Jesus Christ? Can I be anything less than a radical disciple?

Challenge of the week. Look at your own life and ask yourself about your own life. What evidence shows radical conviction? Or echoing the question of several decades ago, "If you were accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?"