WOW: Word Of the Week

XL (Excel)
May 13, 2026

A soldier had two letters engraved on the back of his watch. XL.

If you are like many, your first reaction to XL is likely "extra large." After the soldier's death in battle, his father shared the story of XL. XL was the young soldier's shorthand code and reminder of how he wanted to live his life. Excel! X-L means E-X-C-E-L.

I have not used a word of the week that begins with X – the options are limited! Now I have an "X" word in my WOW list. I chose XL – perhaps it is also attention getting. But if you prefer, this week's WOW is EXCEL.

You perhaps made the association with the word excellent. You who know me best may remember that Phil. 1:10 is a favorite Bible passage. Learn to "approve what is excellent." That is the ESV translation. Translation is not easy – things differing. All options are not equal. Choose what is best – I like that summary. Good – better – best. How often do we settle for good rather than what is better or what is best. Excel!
I like to say aloud the Greek word spoudazo. A common translation in 2 Tim. 2:15 is, "do you best." Be diligent. "XL."

There is a best version of you in God's eternal plan. Choices can be put in order – choose what is best.

I could multiply Bible verses. Not my point. My point is for you to think today, this week, this month, repeatedly about the two letters XL. When you see those letters—remember. EXCEL. Pursue excellence. Especially in the things of God, be the very best you can be. Don't slack. Don't be satisifed with good enough, don't be satisfied with average, mediocre (another good WOW!).