



## WOW: Word Of the Week

### ADAPT

July 12, 2023

The journey I make each week to identify a WOW is at times circuitous. The words that I choose are commentaries on life, my Bible studies and Bible readings. This week: Adapt. Definition: to alter something to achieve a desired result. Similar words: modify, alter, adjust, balance, rearrange, change, rework (as in “rework the schedule”).

The idea for this word came from the way life has unfolded for Jan and me over the past few weeks. We thought of several descriptive words and finally settled on “adapt.” My mind automatically turns to Scripture. Is adapt a Bible word? A Bible concept?

Yes. Paul had to adapt again and again. He changed his plans. He rearranged, altered, reworked plans. What was Paul’s plan for the first missionary journey? To be rejected? To be stoned and left for dead? Probably not. It is safe to say that he adapted. On the second missionary journey, Acts 16, he changed his plans and found an open door in the Macedonian call. On the third journey, he writes that he tarried in Troas because a great door of opportunity had been opened. Changed plans. In Acts 20:1-3, also on the third missionary journey, he chose to travel overland rather than to sail because he learned of a plot of the Jews. Was Paul ever frustrated as he waited 2+ years in prison for the next open door? Does the shipwreck of the last part of Acts represent a change of plans? We safely affirm that Paul adapted again and again as he sought to fulfill God’s will in his life.

Jan and I have experienced the need to adapt over the last few weeks. Sometimes adapting is required because of unexpected occurrences. Sometimes the plans we make require a change in the schedule (as during the week that our grandchildren visited). Changing the schedule from the time to time keeps things from becoming too routine, too predictable, boring. But what if every week is not normal? What if every week requires adapting and adjustment?

First week of June. I started the week with stomach problems. Getting better took longer than expected. I was deenergized for much of the week but I kept going. I taught online all morning Tuesday. During the week I handled numerous mission details—Dominican Republic, Honduras, Mexico.

Second week of June—we drove to Edmond, worshiped, and picked up grandkids. They were with us all week (wonderful, but tiring!); most certainly a change of schedule. I again taught online all morning Tuesday. We celebrated Father’s Day with a family meal on Saturday, and again on Sunday after the entire family worshiped together. After two days of celebration and eight days of grandkids, we were relieved when Sunday night came. Normal—please come back!

Third week of June—we lost electricity on Monday. It was not restored until late Saturday afternoon! Not a normal week! Take care of refrigerator and freezer. Then we saw an opportunity to make a trip to Arkansas—mission contacts. Six quite abnormal days—adapt!

Fourth week of June—perhaps it sounds strange, but it took most of the week to recover from being without electricity. Another week of anything but normal. Even getting back to normal and catching up require adapting. Plus, I had two mission meetings during the week.

First week of July—our eldest son Michael’s birthday on Sunday. We postponed the celebration to Tuesday, July 4. Whoops! Monday one of the cars went into the shop (it was there until late Friday afternoon). At the same time, the other car was also in need of repair. A week of limited transportation. No Tuesday celebration. No travel. Vehicle challenges limit where one goes and what one gets done! We missed a couple of events that were very important to us. Adapt. Breathe. Friday afternoon—both cars finally repaired.

This is the second week of July. Perhaps a normal week. We worshiped with our son in Edmond and celebrated a week late. I taught online Tuesday morning. Midweek, nothing unusual has happened—yet! That is good! I leave for Ecuador and Colombia in a couple of weeks. I know from experience that mission trips are synonymous with adapting. And Jan’s time at home will not be normal – she will celebrate a birthday with me out of the US.

Adapting is a normal part of life. The problem is when it must be done again and again. Sometimes you just want normal, routine, dependable. Constant adjustment, adapting, and change are tiring, frustrating, disorienting, and stressful. And they require extra energy. But always God’s strength is sufficient!