



WOW: Word Of the Week

Anti-bucket [FOMO, YOLO]

December 4, 2024

Three for one. Your choice. Which one is most memorable to you? Or choose all three!

ANTI-BUCKET. If you are paying attention to contemporary culture, this word is not new.

Anti-bucket, as in anti-bucket list. The word or phrase is used with several different meanings. For example, (1) anti-bucket list—things you are not going to do (Forbes, September 2023); (2) anti-bucket list—things we never want to do or experience again; (3) anti-bucket list—things not to do in order to have time for what you love.

Almost ten years, the reverse bucket list was suggested. Rather than writing down things you hope to one day achieve or do, write down the things you've already accomplished or done. The reverse bucket list is the opposite of a regular bucket list. It can be an encouraging exercise.

I suggest a different application—a spiritual anti-bucket list. My spiritual anti-bucket list contains two types of things. First, those things that I would like or enjoy, but I will not do them because my commitment God demands different priorities. Second, things I willingly sacrifice to accomplish God's will and purpose in my life.

This list of things that I would enjoy is lengthy—and sometimes expensive! Taking a family out to eat for a nice meal can cost more than supporting a national preacher for a month. Things such as sports and sports tickets, entertainment, and personal travel can be even costlier. I remember the words of an elder, wisdom shared over 50 years ago. "You get to choose your one luxury, but you can't have everyone else's luxuries too."

My anti-bucket list is my effort to live out (to some extent) the sacrificial life of the one I call Lord and Master. (Frankly, most of us in the US struggle to understand sacrifice in comparison to the lives and situations of our brothers and sisters in Christ in other countries.)

I will not say more – only a challenge for you to begin to develop your anti-bucket list before mentioning two other "words."

FOMO—Fear Of Missing Out! How often does selfishness creep into our plans and finances because of FOMO.

YOLO—You Only Live Once! YOLO easily encourages unbridled spending and extravagant plans.

Both of these US cultural concepts easily work against us to keep us from seeking first the kingdom and the righteousness of God (Matt. 6:33). Both easily keep us from being generous givers – to God and to others..

Perhaps one of these three "words" will resonate with you at this season as we think about giving to others and what it means to commit generously to the eternal purpose of God.

Important themes for the holiday season, and for life. "Nothing makes us more like God than being generous." May we become more and more like Him!