



WOW: Word Of the Week

“Blinders” Off

August 18, 2021

For those who may share this Wednesday WOW without having heard or read my previous post—a brief review.

“Blinders” refers to a pair of small screens attached to a horse's bridle to prevent it seeing sideways and behind.

Have you ever enjoyed the romantic carriage rides around Central Park, often with snow and cold to justify snuggling just a little closer? Either in the movies, or perhaps in person?

If you look closely, you will see that the horses pulling the carriages have on blinders. Blinders keep the horse looking forward, not backward or to the side. Blinders keep the horse from seeing the distractions.

Some days, I understand very well the concept of blinders, since my palsied eye muscle requires me to turn my head to see clearly to the side.

Blinders On! In a positive sense, blinders keep us focused, looking straight ahead, eyes on the goal. In the Christian walk, blinders may keep us focused on Jesus.

Blinders Off! Blinders can also have a negative impact. Blinders can keep us from seeing everything we need to see, factors that would help us understand a situation completely.

Today—blinders off!

If I need blinders to avoid the distractions around me, in other situations I need to make sure I am seeing the whole picture. I need to make certain every factor is being considered, that I do not have “blind spots.” I want a panoramic view; I want to integrate all of the dimensions and components.

Blinders may be the result of our past experiences, our lack of orientation, our lack of prayer time with God, our lack of creative thinking, our lack of risk-taking, our lack of hope or lack of faith. Life is full of experiences and challenges that may serve as blinders.

Churches often fail to see the whole scope of God's great gospel power. Churches limit themselves and limit gospel outreach to the world.

Church leaders and ministers may wear blinders. Preachers, elders, leaders may use limited views, tending to do the same things again and again, or the same things in the same ways (often expecting different results!).

Christians with blinders may fail to see all that God has in store for them. We may fail to accept God's blessings and power. We may fail to seek new areas of service that God will empower. We may fail to bless others, because we wear the blinders.

This would be a good week to check your blinders. When blinders are a hindrance—blinders off!