



WOW: Word Of the Week

Continuing

July 20, 2022

In the communion meditation on Sunday, Jim Hill identified a “word of the day” – continuing. I thought immediately of Acts 2: the early disciples continued.... Some parts of the Christian life should be “givens.” Some things are described in the Bible as continuing or constant. Sunday’s “word of the day” leads me to my “word of the week” – continuing.

The word in the original language is used in frequently in the New Testament. The idea is that of being prepared or ready, doing something constantly or consistently. In Acts 1:14 and 2:42, 46, some translations say “devoting themselves,” others use “continuing” or “attending” (in the sense of constantly paying attention). In Acts 6:4, the apostles were committed to continuing in their ministry of the word. In Acts 8:13, Simon was sticking to Philip like glue, going everywhere that Philip went. Cornelius (Acts 10) had “attendants” who continually did what he asked. Repeating the thought of Acts 1:14, Paul in Rom. 12:12 and Col. 4:2 writes that prayer is a constant, a given, in the life of a Christian.

What are the “givens” of your life? What do people know you will be doing? What is the first thing people think about in your life? The Bible suggests that the “constants” for the first disciples were prayer, the word of God, the Lord’s Supper, and meeting together, paying attention to one another. I want those to be my “givens” or “constants.” We pray when people come to our house, we pray when people leave our house, we pray when we leave in the car, we want to pray without ceasing. What the word says has to be important—we study it for encouragement, for spiritual growth, for knowledge, to share the Good News with others in evangelism, to help others grow in the Lord as disciples, to train our minds to be constantly prepared for participating in God’s mission.

After I arrived home Sunday, I did a quick study (which I have just summarized). As Jim suggested, the Lord’s Supper is a constant in the life of a Christian. I never fail to eat the Supper and remember – week after week. That act has always been at the core of the Christian faith. Believers have always come together to share the feast of celebration and remembrance -- what Jesus did, that Jesus is coming again! Jim “hit the nail on the head.” The word is central—obeying the word, imitating Jesus in baptism, becoming more and more like Jesus as a disciple-follower. Constant prayer is mentioned several times. But that which is most visible and shouts “Christian” most loudly to those around us is our assembly and what we do together—prayer, the Word, eating together, sharing, encouraging and loving.

[I hope this WOW is not too heavy! It is a more intense Bible study than what I usually share. If I can be helpful in pointing you to God’s message and desire for your life, please contact me.]