



W.o.W.: Word Of the Week

Depend

February 9, 2022

In 1970, I began preaching full-time after graduating from college with a bachelor degree in Bible—age 21. For the next 12 years (and a little more), I served in churches where I was the only minister on staff, with memberships from 150 to over 300. That means I was pulpit minister, visitation minister, education minister, bus minister, youth minister, and whatever else was needed.

It is easy to miss the significance of what we do little by little. We want to live life, find success, in giant steps. A part of those early years was being a counselor at summer youth camps. I suppose I touched the lives of 100s of youth. From time to time I meet someone who reminds me that we first met at youth camp.

Over the years, I came to realize that I had made a lasting impression on one young man at camp. He kept in contact, he wrote me, he called me from time to time. I have to confess that I did not see that I was doing anything all that extraordinary in serving as a camp counselor, and later in directing camps in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Michigan. But one young man's life was influenced. He grew in faith, continuing strong in the Lord. He raised his family in the Lord.

In the past couple of weeks, as you know if you were with me last week, I have been thinking about the influences that helped shape me. I have thoughts about several of my heroes in the faith, especially those preachers who guided me and counseled me in the early years of my ministry. I have remembered that we owe a lot of our mothers.

I have been thinking about what we have received; I have also been thinking about what we can pass on. The young man I described above left this earthly life and went to be with his Lord last year. In every stage of life, may our eyes be open to what we are supposed to learn, as well as to what we are to teach. To what we can receive, and to what we are supposed to deposit in the lives of others.

Here's what I want to share. Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might. Bible, not Bob. God fills our life with many things, some seem to us large and important, others seem smaller and only a part of normal. Whatever God places before us, when we do it to his glory, he can powerfully multiply it for good. The Old Testament prophet, paraphrased, "Do we ever despise the day of small things?" If so, we despise those things to our own detriment.

For me, and for my house, and for those who will follow me, those whom I can influence, we will depend on the Lord, who makes great things out of meager efforts.