



## **WOW: Word Of the Week**

**Eureka!**

**July 6, 2022**

I share an unusual word, unexpected, fun, challenging. A Bible word! **Eureka**, which being translated literally means, “I have found.” I usually say, “I have found it!”

I begin by sharing a bit of my challenge, week after week: some words are more enjoyable than others. Some words are weighty, challenging. Some words seem light, almost irrelevant. I clearly saw this tension during my years in ministry when I was choosing a “word of the week” every week for the Wednesday night devotional. Some words catch attention—others less so. I can see the difference in the statistics, and I find encouragement in those weeks when hundreds of you listen in.

Eureka! I have found it. In the US, 29 locations in 15 states include “Eureka” in the place name. Cities, counties, unincorporated villages, and word combinations—for example, in my region of the country, Eureka Springs. Why would someone name a certain place “eureka”? Perhaps so others will come, perhaps from joy.

In the New Testament, John 1:41 comes to mind, eureka men, we have found the Messiah! When a person finds Jesus, obeys Jesus, is saved by Jesus, perhaps we should encourage, as part of baptisms, this word: EUREKA! The congregation could say it, a person baptized, parents, a family.

Perhaps we should make clearer that when we find Jesus, our joyful hearts will not be able to contain declaring that truth—Eureka. Here is the key to discipleship, evangelism, faithfulness.

In Luke 15, the exact word does not occur, but there is a similar verb form. Rejoicing comes because I have found my sheep, because I have found my coin (vv. 6, 9).

From time to time, I write under the general title, “God Sightings.” Perhaps when we see God’s presence, power, or providence, we should develop the habit of yelling, Eureka! (If you find that too embarrassing, perhaps you can yell it to yourself!)

Catch my point! We age, we mature, we grow up, and we lose the wonder! My Sunday prayer each week is for a heart of wonder so that I will have a heart of worship!

May we never lose the wonder! (Perhaps I should have made our “Word of the Week” the word, wonder.)

But you might have forgotten that more common word.

I hope you will remember, Eureka! I hope you will think, Eureka! And perhaps you will learn to say, Eureka (even if you only speak it softly, almost under your breath).

I pray for you a week of daily Eureka (not vacuum cleaners, although that detour seems to offer lots of interesting ideas). I pray for you a week of seeing God, finding God. Eureka!

I pray for all of us that we will have Eureka hearts – hearts of wonder – to understand God’s marvelous ways and to see how and where he wants us to follow our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Remember that God loves you, I love you. Unchanging! Eureka!