



WOW: Word Of the Week

**Harmony [February 14 Reflections -- Valentine's Day 2021]
February 10, 2021**

Harmony. I was a music major. Harmony is “the combination of simultaneously sounded musical notes to produce chords and chord progressions having a pleasing effect.” New musical scores continually redefine harmony, combining sounds in new ways for a desired, pleasant effect. I was a Bible major – a harmony of the Gospels brings together diverse stories into one story. Harmony is an important word in marriage.

What is the key to harmony in relationships? Many answers are possible, I focus on the power of “believing in someone.” This is life-changing, earth-shattering! The simple power that we bring to reality by what we believe in, who we believe in. “Believe in” -- I tried to find a one-word equivalent. Confidence and trust are close synonyms. What happens when two people believe in one another?

When I believe in someone, I have confidence in them. When you believe in someone, you trust that person. When I believe in someone and communicate my belief, I show love for that person. I share some miscellaneous reflections about how love works—what causes it, why does it happen, why is it absent, where does it come from, how can it be sustained, how does it grow. Love reflections—centered around the idea of believing in someone! And the result is harmony – a pleasing combination, making shared stories into one story, reaching the desired goal, working together.

About this time of year, February 1969, on a cold, windy night, on the north side of Gaylord Hall, on the campus of Oklahoma Christian College, Jan and I stood in the cold, bundled up in heavy coats, and we told one another that we believed in one another! No, those were not the words we used, but that is what our hearts were saying. I do not remember the exact words of our conversation about our love. I do remember her answer when I asked her to marry me. We married in August 1969, and in another story for another time, we began our tradition of celebrating another “year” of marriage every six months. This month we mark #103.

In one sense, love is easy—we believe in someone and love blossoms. Harmony reigns. When someone tells us they believe in us, they at the same time tell us they love us. My life has been filled with people who believed in me – my mother, teachers and professors, elders, church members, friends, older preachers. If time permitted, I could share the stories – a clarinet we could not afford, encouragement, recommending that a church contact and hire me, a professor who loaned me his car for a weekend trip to take Jan home to meet my family. Small, subtle actions that spoke volumes about love, and the unique nature of Christian love.

I believe that my sons know that I believe in them, and that I love them. I constantly try to communicate my confidence to my grandchildren – you can do this, I believe in you, you will do okay. You can learn this. Encouragement.

But the most important person who believes in me is my wife! For 51 ½ years we have believed in one another! In failings, frustrations, weaknesses, victories. In disappointments and celebrations. Here’s what I know. Relationships fall apart when a couple quits believing in each another. Instead of harmony reigning, disharmony takes over.

Here is my Valentine’s advice to find harmony! Nothing wrong with the traditional words, “I love you.” But my relationship with Jan is best when she simply knows that I believe in her. The greeting cards I like best are those that tell me that my children, grandchildren, and wife believe in me—what I stand for, what I do in their lives, who I am.

Some days we have to work at it – we disappoint one another, we are not worthy of confidence and trust, but others believe in us anyway. Harmony.

This principle applies in all of life.

→I believe in Christ, with trust and confidence I love him, having learned to love by the trust and confidence he has demonstrated toward me.

→I believe in my spiritual family, the church, brothers and sisters who are coworkers in the Kingdom.
And, it’s not hard for me to say it – I love you!

Besos y abrazos! Hugs and holy kisses in our Lord.

This week, tell those you love how much you believe in them!