



## WOW: Word Of the Week

**Insist**

**April 26, 2023**

I am reading through the New Testament this month—I may not finish it, but I will come very close! Titus 3:8 (ESV) caught my attention. “The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.” I am thinking of insistence and resistance. This week’s WOW: insist. Insist on these things.

A major obstacle in taking the gospel to our world is resistance. The gospel message meets resistance.

→For some, a past experience has caused them to see God as unloving, uncaring, or hard, so they resist the gospel. They do not see God as he is.

→Some resist because they are not willing to pay the price—there are things they will have to give up if they follow Jesus.

→Some resist because they resent some past slight or oversight.

Resistance is not always apparent. Some people accept friendships and help, but when the gospel is mentioned, they resist the demands of the gospel. Some people want blessings from God and from God’s people, but they resist Jesus’ words, “it is more blessed to give than to receive.”

Christians must be quick to recognize and analyze resistance. A powerful response to resistance is insistence. Insist on truth. The gospel must not be soft-soaped, made smooth and palatable. The gospel must be front and center in our relationships and conversations. Insistently speak truth. Eph. 4:15, “truthing.” People must see what is lacking in their lives. If there is no perceived lack, there is no perceived need. Insist that the message of the cross be heard.

Jesus insisted that his followers do certain things. Some said, “I will not! I cannot do it!” Sad! There must be a sense of need before the value of the gospel message is seen. Thousands of people in this world are happy without God, but the happiness they have found is fleeting, unstable, temporary. If abundant life, or eternal life, is possible without Jesus, why did Jesus come? If one can be happy and morally acceptable without Jesus, there is no reason to share the gospel. There is no urgency.

Develop spiritual perception. See resistance for what it is. Identify it immediately. Speak to it. Help people wrestle with a resistant spirit and attitude. Do not ignore resistance. Meet resistance with insistence. Do not hope resistance will eventually go away. More times than not, it won’t simply disappear. Resistance must be insistently addressed. “Insist on these things.”