



## WOW: Word Of the Week

### Kakorrhaphiophobia

June 21, 2023

I love words. I am always casting about for new words—memorable, challenging. I asked my grandson to share one of his favorite words – a word he found intriguing, interesting, different. He responded with this week’s WOW. I could decipher the general meaning. I looked it up online. It looks like even Charlie Brown knew and used this word! But it is not in my list of words used daily, or weekly, or even annually. Kako-rrhaphio-phobia. Not your average 18-letter English word!

A phobia, a fear. Dictionary definition: an abnormal fear of failure. Literally: badly sewn or constructed. A fear that the fabric of life is badly woven and automatically works against us; that the tapestry of life, culture, friendship limits our possibilities. A fear that keeps us from acting for fear of failure or defeat. Perhaps in one sense, just the opposite of Romans 8:28, God working all things for good.

Applications? Many. One comes to my mind immediately. Kakorrhaphiophobia explains the hesitancy of many Christians to share their faith. Others won’t be interested. They will reject me. I will fail. I am not good at evangelism. I will inevitably fail. So I will not try. That is kakorrhaphiophobia.

Fear is a great enemy of the proactive Christian life. Step into action – regardless. Mission work, evangelism, outreach, teaching, helping, serving. Stretch yourself. Get out of your comfort zone. Go above and beyond. Do something for Jesus that you have hoped to do but have not done. Yield. Follow Jesus, obey his commands, do something for Jesus that you would rather not do!

You don’t have to remember the word. It may be gone from your memory by the time I finish speaking. (Which may mean it was never really yours!) My request? Remember the concept -- when you begin to think that the fabric of our world is automatically opposed to anything and everything Christian. That kind of thinking is irrational, debilitating, abnormal.

Why do some succeed where we fail? Why can others do what we cannot do? What is the explanation? I understand there are several possible answers. But here’s one to add to your list: kakorrhaphiophobia.

Remember that God loves you, I love you, that’s the way it’s going to be. Understand clearly—that’s the way life is woven together.

This week in your Christian life as you seek to fulfill God’s eternal plan and purpose for your life, do something daring, outside the norm, uncomfortable. May fear of failure not paralyze us. May we be bold and daring, as were those first Christians we read about in the book of Acts!

May our lives in Christ never be marked by fear!