



WOW: Word Of the Week

Loiter

October 13, 2021

Throughout life, we learn new words and many times do not remember when and where and how we learned them. I learned this week's word, loiter, in the US Post Office in the small central Kansas town where I grew up, as a young lad, 8-years-old, perhaps 9. "No loitering." The dictionary definition: "to wait around idly with no apparent purpose."

In the twenty-first century, many Christians approach the heavenly journey somewhat nonchalantly. Distractions are everywhere. Society has converted us—self-fulfillment is a priority. A goal in life for many is to have leisure time. Anticipate retirement, while away the time, live idly.

Early on I adopted a response I had heard from a seasoned Christian. When asked, "What do you do in your spare time?" he responded, "Don't have any!" What do you do for leisure? Don't have any leisure time!

God's purpose calls God's people unendingly, always. The day never comes when we have the luxury of sitting back and resting, because we are servants.

In my religious tribe, we have too often failed to read and listen to others. Many do not know the names of George Muller or David Brainerd. Today I focus a Wednesday WOW with a Brainerd quote, "O that I may never loiter on my heavenly journey."

I have coffee periodically with a friend who sharpens my spiritual sensitivity. He recently observed, before making a family trip to attend a wedding, that he was anticipating what God had in mind for this trip. He went on to observe that Christians are always "on the clock." Always on God's clock. What is God's purpose for me in this event, this moment, this time? How can we serve him? What will advance his cause?

A daily prayer.

Regardless of your employment, or retirement. Regardless of your family responsibilities, or no. This moment in our lives is not a time for loitering—living idly, leisurely, devoting large blocks of time to self-pleasure, travel, experiences, enjoyment, personal likes and wants.

This moment in our lives is our God-moment. This is the time for full attention to God's agenda, God's priorities, his desires, his open doors.

May we never loiter on the heavenly journey. There is a purpose so great, so worthy, so eternal, that no other priority can replace it. Loiter! This word is our call to purposeful, Christian living, every day of our lives, until the heavenly journey is complete!