



WOW: Word Of the Week

Single-Minded

October 14, 2020

Today, with a hyphenated-word, I introduce a series of four words: single-minded, submissive, spiritual, security. These four concepts or words summarize four major challenges found in the four chapters of Philippians. I hope you will check in each week for this interesting survey of one of Paul's most profound letters, written to a church he dearly loved.

"Half a heart is no heart at all."

(Jer. 32:38) *They will be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them singleness of heart and action.*

The book of Deuteronomy mentions the heart thirty times. Israel is admonished to follow the Lord whole-heartedly. The same concept appears in the New Testament as "single-minded, of one heart, of one mind." For example, "...complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." (Phil. 2:1-4)

The beginning of Philippians 2 summarizes Chapter 1 -- Paul's call to single-mindedness. Paul seven times mentions the gospel, his intense desire for the advance of the gospel, the application of the gospel, the battle and the victory.

Meditating. After sharing a wonderful dinner with Brent and Lisa Beth Hutchins and their family, the conversation turned to words -- unique words and words that we find especially meaningful. That is how we landed on "stick-to-it-tiveness, tenacity, perseverance." I was reminded of the "one thing" of Paul: this one thing I do (Phil. 3:13).

Single-mindedness is the key to unity with the Father and with others who share the same single-mindedness.

Therefore, single-mindedness brings peace.

Stick-to-it-tiveness signifies bonding, being connected to something from which one cannot be separated. Single-mindedness is the adhesive of our life and of our faith.

Applying. Am I single minded about the same things that God is single minded about?

Is my purpose God's purpose?

Am I focused on what God wants, on God's plan?

Single-mindedness is useless if the single-minded focus is not pleasing to God. Single-mindedness leads us to something more than what satisfies us -- what we want, see, desire, believe, understand...

Praying. Dear Heavenly Father, we come before your throne asking that you give us singlemindedness with you, that we have peace, that we have knowledge to do your will and not to stray from it. Protect us from Satan's arrows and temptations. Forgive us when we fail to walk in your steps. In Jesus' name, Amen.