

# Looking Back—WOTY 2015

## Philippians 3:12-17

Ben Deaver at New Hope Church on December 27, 2015

### Announcements:

- No KidsLIFE but childcare for infant through Kindergarten
- End-of-year giving

### Looking Back—WOTY 2015

- WOTY = Word of the Year
- I love words. Words are cool.
  - My vocabulary list on Evernote—feckless, ensconce, detritus, atavistic, ebullient, heuristic, apoplectic, ineffable, inculcate, vapid
  - Foreign words that are deeper than English words—Sehnsucht (German)
  - Made up words—joybediance (Amanda Olinger; fauxnation (Dave Geldart)
- Oxford Word of the Year
  - 2013 = selfie
  - 2014 = vape
  - 2015 = “Face with Tears of Joy” emoji
- Looking forward including BHAGG next week! BHAGG = Big, Hairy, Audacious, God-sized Goal
- Why WOTY?

### Philippians 3:12-17 <sup>ESV</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. <sup>16</sup> Only let us hold true to what we have attained. <sup>17</sup> Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

**Big Idea:** To press on toward the prize we have to process the past and plan for the future persevering in the present.

- Paul doesn't forget his past. He remembers his past. He's the first to take the time to tell his story which means he has to remember the past. What he puts behind him is the way in which he tried to get God's attention, which was through his resume, or his good works. He forgets that approach to God and instead embraces the identity he has as a follower of Jesus.
- Paul remembers his past so he can brag on the work of God in his life. He definitely has had to grow.
- He encourages others to remember their past so that they can also live in light of the Gospel more fully. See Ephesians 2.

### Philippians 3:3-6 <sup>ESV</sup>

<sup>3</sup>For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— <sup>4</sup>though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

- Paul would win the popularity contest. Paul would be picked first on the kickball team. Paul is the smartest kid in the class. Paul has the most stylish clothes in school. Paul had the most promising future. But...
- But...there's something that's worth so much more.

### Philippians 3:7-11 <sup>ESV</sup>

<sup>7</sup>But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup>Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— <sup>10</sup>that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

- Growth in character is of paramount importance. It's extremely important. It's the most important thing in the world. Becoming like Jesus is worth so much of your time, effort, and energy.

### WOTY Online Resources

- [www.newhopeks.org](http://www.newhopeks.org)—Resources—Word of the Year OR [www.newhopeks.org/woty](http://www.newhopeks.org/woty)
- [www.newhopeks.com](http://www.newhopeks.com) gets you there too!
- WOTY Worksheet

### WOTY Worksheet

**Year:** 2016

### Grace-based Growth Word:

- Curiosity! Be curious first.
  - Where might God be wanting to work in your life? Ask Him. Ask those closest to you.
  - Do you believe God is up to something in your life? If so, are you curious about that? Why are all of these things happening? God is up to something awesome!
- Cooperation! Then cooperate. Cooperate with the Spirit of God in your life.
- “I find your lack of faith disturbing.” –Darth Vader in Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope
  - My favorite Christmas gift thus far is this Darth Vader mug.
  - Each decision we make is either cooperation with the Spirit or defiance towards the Spirit.
  - Does our fascination with otherworldliness indicate that perhaps there is something beyond us? Or is it just mere fanciful thinking and what you see is what you get? In many ways, the way you answer this question is the risk you take in life. We all put our faith in something. The big question is what will you put your faith in?
  - You can grow in significant ways. Maybe you've seen someone who has grown in amazing ways. When this is sustained over time, this is of God.

**Key Scripture:** What passage will you chew on this year? Memorize and meditate on it!

**Rationale for Choosing this Word:** Why this word out of all the words in the English language (or other languages)?

- What might the Spirit of God be up to in your life?
- How do you need to process 2015? What lessons do you need to solidify in your life? Where do you need to recognize growth and express gratitude?
- How can you cooperate with the Spirit of God in 2016?

**Group of People Cheering You On:** Whose in your corner, spurring you on to love and good deeds? Spouse, friends, family, LIFE Group, someone who is good at what you want to grow in, etc.

### Plan for growth:

- **Knowledge**—What do you need to know? Book or resource.
- **Character**—How does your heart need to change?
- **Skills**—What do you need to learn how to do?
- **Vision**—What will growth look like in this area?
- Learn from those around you who can help you grow in this area. Ask people to speak into your life. Glean from what they've learned already. Receive input about recommended resources. Share your ideas with those who you're close with.
- You won't finish your growth in this word in one year, I promise you. But, you can grow in significant ways. If you think about it, any growth is miraculous.

### Remember, grace-based!

- Have fun with your WOTY.
- Hyphenated words are alright. Phrases are pushing it. How about an emoticon?
- Think outside the box! Chris Jensen and CONNECT. Connect with God, others, and himself. Three Lego pieces daily if he hits on all three connections.
- Include your kids and extended families.
  - Kate's WOTY 2015 = LOVE
  - Kate's WOTY 2016 = FAITH
  - I don't know what Maddox's WOTY is. BONK!!! Maybe.
- Reminder that the fruit of the Spirit is singular. You can't grow in one area without growing in the other IF it's a fruit of the Spirit. If it's a work of the flesh then you may have great gains in one area without the other. For example, you may become more self-controlled but not in a way that's accompanied by kindness. This would be a work of the flesh rather than fruit of the Spirit. There's a concatenation of the graces in the Spirit led life! Concatenation means a series of interconnected things or events.
- Reflect on growth annually rather than daily or weekly. It tends to be more encouraging. Share with others how you've seen them grow.
  - Paul's words to Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:12-15, <sup>12</sup>Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. <sup>13</sup>Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. <sup>14</sup>Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. <sup>15</sup>Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress."
  - I have been so encouraged when others have gone out of their way to tell me that they've seen me grow. That spurs me on to keep going. Thank you for that!

## NH WOTY 2015 Word Cloud

- New Hope's WOTY 2015 List
- New Hope's WOTY 2016 List
- WOTY 2016 Submission Form

## My WOTY Journey

- 2011 = sensitivity
  - I was gonna choose discipline this year but Maris said, "How about sensitivity?" Yeah, good idea.
  
- 2012 = prayerfulness
  - Read Paul Miller's *A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracting World*
  
- 2013 = joy
  - Read Ajith Fernando's *The Call to Joy and Pain: Embracing Suffering in Your Ministry*
  - The joy of the Lord is my strength. When the joy goes, the strength goes.
  - Nehemiah 8:10
  - This was perhaps my most successful WOTY thus far. I think it was because of my Tuesday mornings at the Bistro with Ajith Fernando and Jesus.
  
- 2014 = cultivate
  - Long-term friendships are important and difficult to come by.
  - Read Ajith Fernando's *Reclaiming Friendship: Relating to Each Other in a Frenzied World*
  
- 2015 = self-control
  - Growth Word = self-control
  - Key Scriptures = Gal. 5:16-26; Phil. 4:6-8; 2 Pet. 1:3-11
    - **Galatians 5:22-23** <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
  - Rationale = I am holistic. My physical health greatly affects my spiritual, mental & emotional health. I need greater self-control to flourish in this season.
  - Cheering Section = Maris, Geldart, LG, family, others?
  - Knowledge—What do I need to know?
    - Study the relationship b/w God's sovereignty & my will
    - Read "Mindscape" by Timothy Witmer
  - Character—How does my heart need to change?
    - Consider the ramifications of my lack of self-control
    - See the good that comes from being Spirit-led rather than flesh-led
  - Skills—What do I need to learn how to do?
    - Develop an exercise plan
    - Develop an eating plan which includes fasting
  - Vision—What will growth look like in this area?
    - Lose 15 lbs (15 in 2015!); go from 200 to 185
    - Bring BP from 140/90 to 120/80
    - Run a half marathon
  - Listened to many TED Talks. Tracked my blood pressure and weight.

- 2016 = ????????
- Emoticon
- WBN—What’s Best Next?
- Saunter—See Thoreau’s essay *Walking*
- Wait
  - Adoption journey
  - Lamentations 3:25-27
  - “To Those Who Wait” by Bethany Dillon
- Water
  - We are 70% water.
  - Trace the theme of water in Scripture.
- Celebrate or Happy or Happiness
  - Jubilant, convivial, mirthful, blithe
  - Read *The Happy Christian* by David Murray
  - Reread *The Call to Joy and Pain* by Ajith Fernando
  - Learn more about the psychology and biology of happiness
  - Read Blaise Pascal’s thoughts on happiness, esp. *Pensees*
    - With others? Geldart, Keck, Tuttle, etc.?
- Communication
  - Maris and me in particular
  - Friends of NH
  - Soc med and other forms of communication
- Empathy or Understanding
  - Learn from Dick
  - Race issues
  - Women’s issues
  - Sensitivity is a continued growth need
- Splagchnon = σπλάγχνον
  - Strong’s 4698
  - Bowels; intestines; the heart, lungs, liver, etc.
  - By the Greek poets, the bowels were regarded as the seat of the more violent passions, such as anger and love; but by the Hebrews as the seat of the tenderer affections, esp. kindness, benevolence, compassion; hence our heart (tender mercies, affections, etc.)
  - A heart in which mercy resides
  - Figuratively, pity or sympathy
  - Passages—Luke 1:78; Acts 1:18; 2 Cor 6:12; 7:15; Phil 1:8; 2:1; Col 3:12; Philemon 1:7, 12, 20; 1 John 3:17

### Questions, Comments, and Testimonies:

- What are your reflections on your WOTY 2015?
- What are you thinking for your WOTY 2016?

**Bring up the ushers and band and pray!**