

USE Your Christmas Gifts!

A WOTY Encouragement

2 Peter 1:1-9

Ben Deaver at New Hope Church on December 31, 2017

Lord's Supper:

- Dale and Jannis Bremer
- Tom and Sharon Grogan
- Mike and Barb Sanderson
- Dan and Angie Flippo

Big Idea: God has given you amazing Christmas gifts. Use them!

Use Your Christmas Gifts

What did you get for Christmas? Do you remember?

- It's been almost a week since Christmas already.
- Have you opened all of your gifts yet? Are all of the toys out of the packaging? Are all of the Legos put together yet? Are you thankful for what you got for Christmas? Or are you sad about what you didn't get?
- Make sure you actually use your Christmas gifts!
- **Examples:** Heli ball and coffee mug

A WOTY Encouragement from 2 Peter 1:1-9

PRAY!!!

2 Peter 1:1-2

¹Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: ²May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

- Faith obtained!
- By the righteousness of Jesus! Jesus' righteousness is the starting point. This is a gift, it's not earned. It's the greatest Christmas gift we've ever received.
- Faith, grace, peace is already yours in Christ if you have put your trust in Him. This is the Gospel! Christ died for our sins.
- May grace and peace be multiplied to you [as you grow] in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.
- **1 Peter 1:2 (MSG)** Grace and peace to you many times over as you deepen in your experience with God and Jesus, our Master.

2 Peter 1:3-4

³His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

- Divine power has given us all things!
- Precious and very great promises given.
- The best promise given was the Seed of Promise that we've been studying in Genesis. That promise has been fulfilled. It's Jesus Christ! The one who was born at Christmas.
- We can be partakers of the divine nature.
- Use the gifts God has given you!

2 Peter 1:5-7

⁵For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

- Make every effort! We're called to work hard at walking with God.
 - "Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning." –Dallas Willard
 - zealous diligence
 - Biblehub.com—For the believer, [4710](#) /*spoudé* ("speedy diligence") means *quickly obeying* what the Lord reveals is *His priority*. This elevates the *better* over the good – the *more important* over the important – and does so with *earnest swiftness* (intensity).
- Bookends are faith and love.
- Faith obtained (v. 1)
- These qualities have been given to us by God Himself. Now He wants us to use them. Put them into practice.
- Read verses 3-4 again.
- Virtue—moral excellence
- Knowledge—experiential, personal knowledge
 - **Hebrews 12:1** Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.
- Self-Control—How will you handle life's pleasures?
 - My 2015 WOTY.
 - Mastery over sensual desires.
- Steadfastness—patient enduring; How will you handle life's pain?
 - moxie; grit; stick-to-it-ive-ness; resiliency
- Godliness—spiritual-mindedness; spirituality
- Brotherly Affection—Philadelphia; Close to my 2018 WOTY; compassion (splachnon)
- Love—sums it all up. Agape

2 Peter 1:8-9

⁸For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

- Have these qualities and in an increasing manner. Little by little one travels far.
- "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." –African proverb
- Knowledge of Jesus—both relational experience *AND* info about Him.
- Nearsighted (myopic)—*μυωπάζων* (*myōpazōn*)
- Blindness to our identity—You need to bring your true identity back into focus.

- **James 1:22-25** ²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

Word-of-the-Year Worksheet

Year: 2018 (I'll give you this answer.)

What's your grace-based growth word?

- If you already have a Word-of-the-Year for 2018 then use this time to help develop your plan. If you don't have one, then use this time to be curious.
- 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! Be curious first, then cooperate. Cooperate with the Spirit of God in your life.
 - 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?

What's a helpful Bible verse or passage?

What passage will you chew on this year? Memorize and meditate on it!

Why did you choose 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 2017? 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 2018?

Who's cheering you on this year?

Who's in your corner, spurring you on to love and good deeds?

- Spouse, Friends, Family
- LIFE Group
- WOTY Mentor—someone who is good at what you want to grow in, etc.
- 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**, ¹² "Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. ¹³ Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. ¹⁴ Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. ¹⁵ 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!

What's your plan for growth?

Plan for growth by identifying specific next steps of growth in each of the areas below related to your growth word.

- Grit! Make every effort.
- Growth! Growing old in your own strength results in the worst version of yourself. Growing old in the strength of the Spirit results in the best version of yourself (barring major health issues).
- 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.
- Fruit of the Spirit! **Galatians 5:22-23** ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
- 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.

Knowledge—What do you need to know? Choose a helpful book or resource.

- Resource Table
- Greenhouse Library
- Ask me and/or others for ideas!

Character—How does your heart need to change?

Skills—What do you need to learn how to do?

- Read, study, rest, do ministry, etc.

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.

What's your BHAGG? A Big, Hairy, Audacious, God-sized, Goal related to your WOTY?

For more WOTY resources go to www.newhopeks.org/woty

WOTY Online Resources

- www.newhopeks.org—Resources—Word of the Year OR www.newhopeks.org/woty
- www.newhopeks.com gets you there too!
- WOTY Worksheet

My Example: 2015 WOTY

- What's my growth word? self-control
- What's a helpful Bible verse or passage? Gal. 5:16-26; Phil. 4:6-8; 2 Pet. 1:3-11
 - **Galatians 5:22-23** ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
- Why did I choose this word? I am holistic. My physical health greatly affects my spiritual, mental & emotional health. I need greater self-control to flourish in this season.
- Who's cheering me on? 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.
- BHAGG—Run a marathon.

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.
 - Jason Rounds and HALCYON.
 - Dick Jaques and FLOURRRRISH.
 - Bill Bickmeier and BOZO.

Submit your WOTY online!

Go online and submit your 2018 WOTY by the end of January (end of February for sure!).

- Which LIFE Group are you involved in?
- KidsLIFE, Fusion, College
- Regular Attender
- New Hope Alumni
- Other (Visitor, Not Connected, Etc.)
- This could be a great way to stay connected between those who are a part of the church plant launch team and those who stay at New Hope. Let's pray for one another! Let's see the growth in each other's lives!

Invite others!

Include your kids and extended families.

- **Story:** Cousin Beth asking us what our WOTY for 2018 is.
- Kate's WOTYs—2014 = JOY; 2015 = LOVE; 2016 = FAITH; 2017 = FOLLOW; 2018 = RELATIONSHIP
- Maddox's 2018 WOTY = LOVE
- Maris' WOTYs—2014 = REMEMBER; 2015 = RUN; 2016 = ROOTED; 2017 = CORE-STRENGTH; 2018 = GRIT

NH 2017 WOTY Word Cloud

Find a Word of the Year for 2018!

Scary Steps of Faith:

1. Reflect on your 2017 WOTY.
2. Pick a 2018 WOTY & make a growth plan.

WOTY Testimonies:

- What are your reflections on your 2017 WOTY?
 - What's your name?
 - What was your 2017 WOTY?
 - What steps did you take to grow in this word?
 - What did you see God do in your life?
- What are you considering for your 2018 WOTY? Why?

WOTY Testimonies on deck?!?!

- Kassi Chapman
- Kate Deaver
- Dave Geldart
- Need some dudes

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
- 2016 = run
- 2017 = meek

- 2018 = Splagchnon = σπλάγχνον = compassion; 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.)
 - 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
 - **Luke 15:20** And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.
 - *Cultivating a Tender Heart* by Dennis McCallum
 - Message <http://www.xenos.org/teachings/?teaching=1245>
 - Essay <https://www.xenos.org/essays/cultivating-tender-heart>

The Lord's Supper!

- We take the Lord's Supper so we don't forget that we are forgiven of our sins. This is a tangible Gospel reminder!
- If you don't know Christ, please take this time to consider His claims. Call out to Him!
- Gluten free option!
- **Luke 22:14-20** ¹⁴And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

Pray!!!

Benediction (Good Words) (on PowerPoint)

2 Peter 1:10-11

¹⁰Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- We're on the same team, with the same goal! Entrance into the eternal kingdom of Jesus awaits us.
- In the meantime, let's practice these qualities and encourage one another. We're all on the same team together.