



WOW: Word Of the Week

APPRECIATE February 12, 2025

Appreciate. What did you think of? Increase in value? Our real estate can appreciate. Our homes appreciate. Or did you think about expressing gratitude? Do you know the connection? When we appreciate someone, we increase their value.

Appreciation and gratitude are soulmates. Acknowledge the hard work and activities of others. Let them know you noticed—and that you are grateful. Appreciate them!

Have you heard about the studies that say employees are willing to work for less money if their employer appreciates them? What a principle for the church! Even more important because most church work gets done by volunteers. Our sense of value is built on the appreciation of others. Paul built others up with words of empowerment and recognition. He prayed with gratitude, and he told others about his gratitude before God. Consider these examples from the salutations of four of his letters.

"We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thess. 1:2-3)

"I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God given you in Christ Jesus" (1 Cor. 1:4)

"I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." (Eph. 1:16)

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you." (Phil. 1:3)

A word for the week, a word for the year. My word for 2025 is glorify. I want to glorify God in aging—calm, joyful, relaxed, refreshed and refreshing, at peace with who God helps me become and what God helps me do. We were created to bring God glory. When we appreciate the gifts, talents, or abilities of others, we increase their esteem and value. Appreciation brings appreciation—if you get what that means! When we appreciate someone, we increase their value—we appreciate them--twice!

Appreciation! I know my life is richer because many take time to say thank you. Appreciate others! May we enrich the lives of others by expressing our appreciation!