

THE POWER OF A WORD

Instead of resolutions for 2017, which don't ever work for me anyway, I have decided to pick a word for the year that I hope will reflect my intentions and my mind-set for how this year will go, insofar as the amount of control we truly have. We don't have total control (you know that, right?) but intentions seem to be a step in the right direction. Better than floating through the days without direction or thought. I've been in that boat many a year. *Whatever happens, happens* was my unsaid thought, which turned into an intention whether intended or not. This year, I want to be more intentional.

About a month ago, I took one of those silly Facebook tests, just because. Because I like them, OK? They amuse me and they're fun. This one was going to tell me which one word would characterize the coming year for me. The word was "fighter". It was made into an A.C.R.O.N.Y.M. (Yeah, I had to look it up). I don't remember what any of the other words were except that *g* stood for "glorious".

Glorious!!? I loved that word. It jumped off the page and grabbed me. I'm thinking, this is my word. Then I looked it up – "having or deserving glory". You know what comes next. I had to look up the word "glory", even though in the Christian realm, we use this word all the time in connection with God, along with words like honor and praise and worship. God and glory go together. I wasn't sure that this was really my word. It seemed like I might be flying too close to the sun, you know - as in being too big for my britches.

Then an interesting thing happened. It seemed that no matter where I was reading in the Bible, I kept running into the word glorious. That word is everywhere. So I looked it up again, thinking I had missed something. And I found this – "characterized by great beauty and splendor; magnificent; delightful; wonderful."

OK. That sounds more down to earth; something I can wrap my mind around. Something more in the realm of my imagination. I would like my year to be beautiful, magnificent, full of splendor, delightful and wonderful. Any one of those words would do.

But, here's what sealed the deal. I knew of a scripture in Isaiah 55, the last part of verse 5. "...I, the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, have made you glorious." It is underlined in my Bible, because it is a favorite of mine, something I have encouraged myself with before. And, to be honest, something I have pondered.

A lot of things are linked to God and the word glorious, I have found. His glorious power, the glorious power he gives us, as well as the glorious liberty he has given us. There is his glorious new covenant that makes us right with God, and his glorious, unlimited resources.

But just because I want my year to be glorious doesn't mean it will be just by thinking it. So of course, I had to look up the word "intentional", because I had to know if it's more than just a thought or if there is some action behind it.

Intention: (1) a course of action that one intends to follow (2) an aim that guides action; an objective

Hmmsmm, not quite clear to me as I still do not understand what course of action I should take to make my year glorious; need a little more understanding. Some synonyms are "intent", "purpose", "aim". There are more, but these helped me to more understand what an intention is.

Intent; implies deliberateness.

Purpose; strengthens the idea of resolution (I guess I can't get away from that word after all) and determination.

Aim; stresses the direction one's efforts take in pursuit of an end.

And also helpful, I came across this quote from Dr. Laura Belsten – "The quality of our lives begins with our intentions. **Our intentions form our thoughts, our thoughts shape our actions,** and our actions create our lives.... without clear intention our energy is scattered and our actions are less powerful." Yes, I understand that, back to the drifting boat I have often found myself in.

So, the reason you are reading this in February and not in January as I intended (!), is because the beginning of 2017 has been about as far from glorious as you can get for me. And so I scrapped this piece, feeling like it was a joke. But isn't that what we all come up against – outside interference in the guise of circumstances beyond our control? Isn't that one of the challenges of our lives? So, I had a few thoughts. First, I was thinking that if I intended it, that everything would go just right this year and then it would be glorious. Well, we all know that isn't likely to happen. Maybe I was mixing up circumstances, and how things should go with my attitude.

According to Isaiah 55:5, I believe God intends us to be glorious. And with that intention in mind, he has provided us with ways to be glorious. In Romans 1:23, he is called "the glorious, ever-living God." He lives. He is not long gone and dead, a legend, an inspiration to aspire to and admire, but he's alive, still. Despite what is going on in the world, despite some unpleasant circumstances that have suddenly reared their ugly heads in my life, I will avail myself of the glorious power he has given me; I will believe in the glorious liberty he has given me; I will receive his glorious, unlimited resources because he has said they are mine. I will hold the word

“glorious” in my mind, because he is my glorious, living God who helps me in time of trouble. Life may not be glorious, but I can be glorious. I can act glorious and be glorious because he has made me glorious.

Glorious is a great word and within reach if we will only realize what we have and who we are in Christ Jesus. I claim it for my own this year. And I want you to claim it too. I want all of us to have a glorious year.

Chris Macy
January, 2017
cjmacy@earthlink.net