



CEDAR VALLEY CHURCH

JANUARY 2024

A NOTE FROM PASTOR DARRELL

It is 2024! Yes, you heard me right! It is 2024!

Hopefully, the possibilities of this next year excite you and get your blood pumping!

I pray that 2024 will be so much more blessed than any other year you lived!

In 2024, I would like to challenge you to do something that, maybe, you have never tried. For many of you, resolutions and goals are pretty commonplace when it comes to how you view the next year. And, to be honest, I have made numerous resolutions and set an abundance of goals throughout the years as well. Yet, what if we changed it up this year? What if, instead of making a resolution, we choose and pursue a one word vision for our life? Let me explain.

In the book One Word That Will Change Your Life, the authors challenge the reader to simplify their lives for an entire year by focusing on ONE WORD. Now that ONE WORD is unique to you and to your life situation, the goal is by focusing on that ONE WORD, you can be lead to success and clarity in all the dimensions of your life! Let me give you an example from scripture.

There are a lot of words that define who God is when we read the Bible. If you read the Old Testament you will see words like justice, mercy, compassion and power. When you read the New Testament, you will see words like forgiveness, grace, patience, and joy. Yet, there is one word that defines God throughout all of scripture. If you read 1 John 4:7-8 you will see it layed out for you in its simplest form.

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

Who is God? God is love. ONE WORD. Does that mean that the other words are unimportant? Absolutely not! God is forgiving, merciful, compassionate and just. But God is also... love!

So what is your ONE WORD for next year? Could it be love, maybe. Especially if you need to learn to be more loving. Chances are, once you take some time and look at your life, it will be something different.

With all this in mind, let me give you four steps to help you identify your ONE WORD for 2024.

1. Identify the Word. This is going to take time. Take a pen and paper and write down some of the characteristics you would like to see developed in your life. Then bring those words before God and ask him to show you what ONE WORD he wants you to focus on.
2. Remind Yourself of the Word. The ONE WORD needs to be ever on your mind and in your heart. Write it down in places where you will see it. Sticky Note it to your bathroom mirror, by the radio in your car, and on your refrigerator. Keep it always in front of you
3. Listen and Obey. By focusing on this ONE WORD, you will begin to see things through this word's lens. You will also start making decisions based on this ONE WORD. It will pop out at you as you read scripture and as you pray. And your decisions will take on the flavor of your ONE WORD.
4. Share It With Others. Bring other people along on this journey. Accountability is key. Without it, we can make excuses concerning our WORD and it will lose its potency quickly.

If you care to know, my word this year is GROW! I spent some time mind fighting over other words, but this one kept on standing out the most. I have had a tough couple of years. Without going into detail, some of the time I was just hoping to survive. I realize that God wants more for me than to just survive. I am called and created to thrive and the only way I can do it is to grow in that direction. So if you remember, please pray for me as I make decisions that will push me to grow relationally, emotionally, mentally, professionally, and spiritually

What about you? What will be your ONE WORD for next year and how can I help?

God bless you as you journey through 2024!



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