

## Just Three Words

Our middle son and his family and four of our grandkids recently moved back to Edmond after living for several years in Germany (military family). They're staying with us and their other grandparents as they finish remodeling their home. Their oldest son, Sam, is playing on his 7th grade school football team, his first time to play organized football. As a granddad, I recently got to take him and pick him up from practice.

So on the way home, I asked questions about how it went. "Daddy Jim" (my grandpa name), today they taught us how to tackle. It's just 3 words - "hit, wrap and roll."

Now I never played tackle football so this was all news to me. But I thought this was a brilliant way to teach football skills. Hit, wrap and roll - simple, doable, memorable. It's also a brilliant way to teach lots of things.

Firing a weapon - "Ready, Aim, Fire." (Just make sure it's the right order.)

Winston Churchill inspired England to defeat Nazi Germany through three inspiring words - "Never...Give...Up."

Success in life - "Do your job." "Make your bed." "Tell the truth." "Say you're sorry." "Follow the directions." "Live with integrity."

Success in marriage (3 words and 4 sentences) - "I was wrong." "I am sorry." "Please forgive me." "I love you."

Or how about some God words? "Forgive your enemies." "Love your neighbor." "Love one another." "Trust in God." "Worship your Lord." "Believe in Me." "Obey My word." "Be not afraid." Sometimes we make life and even spiritual living so complicated with excessive rules. But it's really so simple. "Love God with all your heart, and love your neighbor as yourself." Or this, "Love Jesus; Love like Jesus." (OK, this is four words.)

Here's the application. Several years ago, I heard a man say this in a sermon - "My motto as I live for God is this - to be attentive, available and obedient." Just three words: Attentive. Available. Obedient. I wrote this in my Bible and have tried to follow this as best as I can. These three words also summarize the life of Jesus. He was attentive to people on the margin - the poor, the hurting, the outcasts, the invisible. And even though he was a man like us and could be

tired, he made himself available to go to these people, to touch the untouchable and teach them God's truths. And ultimately, he was obedient to his Father, even to death on a cross to save us. Which leads me to some final words from God - "I know you." "I see you." "I hear you." And most important - "I LOVE YOU." Just three words - personal, needful, and eternal.

"God is good."

Jim Schnorrenberg