
EVENTS NEWSLETTER

Turn Around Purpose Aligned (T.A.P.A.)

Welcome to WoW², Women of Worship, Women of Witness. This newsletter captures special events we participate in outside of our normal meetings. Some events happen with other small groups, and/or other people, but some do not. This event was an all-day conference where we gathered with another small group for special teachings related to our title. This newsletter will not capture everything, and the topics may not be in the exact order discussed; however, it is intended to capture key points from our time together, with like topics being grouped together for convenience. We hope you are blessed as you join us on our journey.

EVENT TYPE: Conference

EVENT DATE: April 20, 2019

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR CONFERENCE: There were two teachings during the conference: “The Place of Deliverance,” and “Beautifully Broken.”

The Place of Deliverance. This teaching looked at Passover through the lens of four major topics that emerged when I studied Passover in Exodus 12: New Beginnings, Preparation, Passover, and Unleavened Bread. Below are a few key points from each topic:

- **New Beginnings.** I shared several reasons why Passover is about new beginnings, the most important being the “new beginning” that occurred when Christ Himself ate the Passover Meal and said, “This cup is the **new covenant** between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you” (Luke NLT).
 - **Application.** Each person took a moment to identify, with the help of Holy Spirit, the most challenging thing in her life.
 - **Takeaway.** With Christ as our Passover Lamb, we have an opportunity for “new beginnings” in whatever challenge(s) we face.
- **Preparation.** When they left Egypt, they were wearing their belt around their waist, their sandals on their feet, and their staff in their hand. I shared how this reminded me of girding our loins with truth, putting on the shoes of the preparation of the gospel of peace, and taking up the sword of the Spirit, since the staff apparently represents the power associated with the sword.¹

¹Swedenborg, E. “Spiritual Meaning of Staff.” Bible Meanings, Retrieved from <http://www.biblemeanings.info/Words/Artifact/Staff.htm>.

- **Question.** Since there were specific instructions given during Passover to protect the first born, I asked, “What would have happened to the first born of Israel had they not followed the instructions the Lord gave them during this time of preparation?”
- **Application.** What we can learn from their preparation is when the Lord gives us specific instructions, it’s important for us to obey what He told us to do in order to receive His protection.
- **Question.** Is there anyone in your life dependent upon and waiting on you to obey something the Lord has told you to do?
- **Passover.** I shared the details of what happened at Passover. One of the things that stood out was them roasting “the **whole** lamb over a fire,” with it’s “head, legs, and inner parts.” This reminded me of our wearing the “**whole** armor of God” in the New Testament.
 - **Question.** In looking back to what, if anything, you wrote about regarding an area of your life where you need a “new beginning,” ask yourself if you are wearing the “whole armor of God” in that situation or are some of your pieces missing?
 - **Application.** Your breastplate, shield, and helmet come from Jesus, so you have more “armor” than the Israelites did! In Jesus, our armor is complete!
 - **Application.** Because they had to roast the whole lamb, is there anything in your life right now you are holding onto you feel the Lord has specifically told you to let go of, and if so, did He give you an example from Scripture or even a specific Scripture to stand firm on?
 - **Personal Testimony.** I shared why I studied Passover and the things I learned when I needed a “new beginning” in a specific area of my life.
 - **Question.** Again going back to the area where you need a “new beginning,” have you taken that thing to Jesus and put it under the blood? In other words, if Jesus shed His blood for the forgiveness of your sin, have you forgiven everyone involved in the situation (to include yourself) for whatever happened that has caused your situation to weigh heavily on your soul?
 - **Possible ways to place things under the blood.** I shared ways I put things under the blood as suggestions others can follow.
 - Commit yourself to cleaning up the soil of your heart by the power of God’s grace and the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

- Seek the Father’s face and heart and not just what He can do for you.
 - Fast to drown out distractions, so He can speak His truth to you to bring peace and allow you to walk in the Spirit and not in your flesh.
 - Organize your thoughts and feelings on paper and wait on God to tell you what do with those thoughts and feelings.
 - Allow those thoughts to become an “offering” made by the fire of the Holy Spirit, as He purges, molds and shapes you on the Potter’s Wheel.
 - Chose to be a part of His army, which means you have to get over your offense, so you can get along with others.
 - Make a decision to not die in the wilderness; instead, conquer your giants in the Promised Land of your situation.
 - Search His Word for what He says about what you’re thinking and feeling and choose to believe and apply what you find.
 - Allow the Lord to examine your heart and bring you to a place of honest and heartfelt repentance for your role in whatever happened.
 - Be honest with yourself about whom you need to forgive and what you need to forgive them for.
 - Work through your emotions by pouring your heart out to the Lord in your journal; also capture the things He speaks to you about you.
 - Review old journals to reconnect with things He’s already said that you may have forgotten.
- **Takeaway.** We actually met on Easter, which was also Passover on the Jewish calendar. This doesn’t happen every year. However, without Passover, Easter doesn’t make sense, so let the first Passover give you a fresh perspective on Easter. Even though we can now celebrate what Messiah did for us when He delivered us from sin, are we walking in the freedom that comes with that deliverance, or are we like the Israelites murmuring and complaining to the point we are dying in the wilderness? What I learned is that when I took things back to Passover and the blood Jesus shed for my sin, a whole new world opened up, which caused me to focus on what actually happened. What I found is no matter how I sliced it, Passover is THE place of deliverance. The LORD passed over the Israelites in the Old Testament. Through Jesus, we “pass over” from death to life when we submit our lives to Him, confessing Him as Lord with our mouths and believing in our heart that God raised Him from the dead.

- **Unleavened Bread.** In researching leaven, I found leaven could be positive, negative, or neutral.² So, I chose to keep it simple and summed it up as leaven, in the natural, causes dough to rise.
 - **Question.** When you think about your “new beginning,” what rises in your heart? Is it creating something positive, something negative, or something neutral, as in you have gone numb from it all? Is it something that honors your Heavenly Father?
 - **Application.** One method to gauge what’s going in your heart is to do an honest assessment of yourself against Ephesians 4:17-5:21 and Galatians 5:16-24. This helps you see if you have put off the old man in an area and put on the new, and if you are walking by the Spirit or fulfilling the lusts of the flesh. Doing this just might help you tone down your murmuring and complaining.
 - **Testimony.** I shared how by allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to my heart as I analyzed the components of Passover, He was able to show me how the “leaven” of hurt was causing a root of bitterness to creep into the soil of my heart. When I learned that Sinai (the name of the mountain where Moses received the Ten Commandments) means “thorny,” I was convicted of my own personal cares that were choking God’s Word out of my heart. I was also reminded of how a whole generation of Israelites died in the wilderness from looking more at the cares of taking the Promised Land – there are giants in the land – than obeying God. What God had done for them by delivering them from slavery was not enough. What He had done to get them to edge of the Promised Land was not enough. This made me ask myself, “What does it mean for me when my heart gets stuck in the thorny, in my own personal wilderness?”
 - **Question.** Is what God already done for you enough? Does He still need to prove His love to you? If the Cross of Calvary isn’t enough to prove that, is there anything else that can?
- **Bottom line.** In order for me to “pass over” from death to life in my situation, there were things that needed to die in me. Dealing with the hard truths that had me in the wilderness was my offering by fire. I wrote each of them down and let the fire of the Holy Spirit deal with my heart in each area. It wasn’t easy. But, at the end of the day, I was able to repent for the things I needed to repent for, truthfully examine my heart against Scripture, and then write down a series of questions that led me to Scriptures that helped clear out the leaven in my heart that was choking the life of God out of me.

² Robinson, Rich. “Lesson from Leaven.” Jews for Jesus, March 1, 2007, Retrieved from <https://jewsforjesus.org/publications/newsletter/newsletter-mar-2007/lessons-from-leaven/>.

I shared my testimony and all the things I learned from studying Passover in the hope that each person there, and anyone that reads this newsletter, will use this message of Passover to allow Holy Spirit to show you anything He wants you to address. It may not be sin. It may just be something weighing you down. Towards that goal, I closed with these specific questions:

- Is there anyone you are offended with? If so, who do you need to forgive and what do you need to forgive them for?
- Are you struggling with any emotions and what is the fruit of those emotions in your life?
- Is there anything that is weighing you down that Holy Spirit is telling you to let go of?
- **Conclusion.** Why study Passover? Because while Passover is the place of deliverance, it is not the place of freedom! If you look at the example of the Israelites, one generation's disobedience caused an entire nation to wander in the wilderness for 40 years. They were delivered from slavery, but never possessed the Promised Land. Through the blood of Jesus and the forgiveness of our sins, we too can be delivered from being a slave to our sinful nature, but unless we allow the grace and truth found in Jesus as our Passover Lamb to set us free, we never possess the Father's promises nor align ourselves with His purposes. Therefore, we have to remember, there is a HUGE gap between Passover and the Promised Land called the Wilderness! We close that gap by turning around from our circumstances to face our heavenly Father and aligning our purposes in life to His. So, please know the enemy of your soul tests every seed of God's Word you hear. Therefore, "Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8 NLT). Don't let that someone be you!

Beautifully Broken. The focus of this part of the retreat was the Japanese art of Kintsugi, where breaks are treated as part of the art's history using gold, silver, or platinum. Since this part of the day was ministry-driven to meet the specific needs of those present, I only captured a few notes; however, here's a link to a wonderful article that captures the essence of the teaching: <https://www.lifegate.com/people/lifestyle/kintsugi>.

- Here are the nuggets I wrote down:
 - We looked at Isaiah 43:18-19, remember not the former things.
 - Letting go of the former things and getting our new beginnings look like Kintsugi.

- We have to learn how to truly repent and turn around.
 - We can be so caught up in the doing of our lives that life does us!
 - What are the things that are causing the dryness or chaff in our lives? What holds you back?
 - Psalm 138, I will give thanks.
- We concluded this portion of the conference with an exercise that allowed each of us to let go of what was hindering our ability to turn around and align our purposes to God.

A final word. There were prophetic words shared during this conference, so I hope those words fell on good soil, and that they will produce an abundant harvest.

Closing: We ended our day with communion and prayer.

If you have questions, comments, or concerns about information contained in this document, or would like to be added to or removed from the email distribution for the meeting notes, please email us at wow2@wow2women.com or complete a Contact Form on our site www.wow2women.com.