
EVENTS NEWSLETTER

TOUCHING HEAVEN REIGNING IN VICTORY ETERNALLY (T.H.R.I.V.E.)

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 WoW² conference where we gathered together for special teachings related to the 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: September 28, 2019

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR CONFERENCE:

- The theme for this conference was “anchor,” and we were asked to anchor ourselves to several verses beforehand: Psalm 95:6-8, James Chapter 1, Zephaniah 3:17, and 2 Corinthians 6:17. As part of the teaching, everyone received a lovely anchor key chain, soap and lotion set, and two bookmarks. Also, humility, surrender, and grounding essential oils were diffusing in the background. Below is an explanation of each item.
 - **Anchor key chain:**¹ The key chain came in a gorgeous box with an image depicting Ruth and Boaz kneeling before each other. This image is a beautiful representation of how we can posture ourselves in prayer for a time of intimate worship and fellowship with the Lord, the one who redeemed us (paid the price to free us from Satan’s control, so we can have a relationship with our Creator). The cloth covering around the key chain represents how God covers us in His

¹ This product can be purchased from https://www.amazon.com/Ruth-Boaz-Anchor-Stainless-Strong/dp/B01KTTDZYY/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?keywords=ruth+and+boaz+anchor+keychain&qid=1563730721&s=gateway&sr=8-1-spons&psc=1.

righteousness when we surrender our lives to His Son. The actual key chain is to remind us to always anchor ourselves in God's truth, especially during prayer.

- **Goat milk soap and lotion:**² The soap and lotion were made from oatmeal, goat milk, and honey. The milk and honey represent the Promised Land, for it was a "land flowing with milk and honey" (Exodus 3:8). Since oatmeal can be an ingredient in bath products, it represents a previous impartation about cleansing our "spiritual womb." In other words, recognize our power as women to give life to the things we take in. Even those who are unable to give birth physically are still able to give birth spiritually; therefore, as women, we have to be mindful of the seeds we allow to take root in our heart, so we can produce a harvest that honors our Heavenly Father.
- **Bookmarks:** Both bookmarks represents a heart posture any woman can take in order to be a woman whom all she does flows out of her worship of and her witness to the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - **Search My Heart.** The first bookmark contains the poem "Search My Heart" found on the *About Us* page of the website under *Our Passion*. My sincere desire is that each person will allow the poem to become her heartfelt prayer before the Lord.
 - **Our Creed.** The second bookmark contains what a WoW² woman looks like and can be found on the *About Us* page under *Our Creed*.
- **Essential oils:** The three oils diffusing represent our need for humility, surrender, and grounding in our relationship with the Lord.
- **The messages.** There were two teachings during the retreat: "Thriving in the Wilderness," and "Praying in the Wilderness."

Thriving in the Wilderness. In our last conference,³ we learned about themes related to Passover, so in essence, those attending T.A.P.A. symbolically left Egypt, but were still in the wilderness. Likewise, since WoW² is now 14 years old, and "Fourteen" is the "Number of

² This product can be purchased from <https://embuzisoap.com/gift-sets/>.

³ Turn Around Purpose Aligned (T.A.P.A.), Event Newsletter dated 4/20/2019, located under Newsletters on the website: www.wow2women.com.

Passover,”⁴ as a group, we too are in the wilderness. Thus, it seems prudent for us to learn how to thrive there. Therefore, in looking at what it will take to Touch Heaven Reigning in Victory Eternally while in the wilderness, one thing I truly understood is we need to know where we are in our journey between being delivered from our own personal Egypt and inheriting God’s promises in our lives. Ironically, just as our heart can be four different soils (wayside, rocky, thorny, or good), as I prepared for this message, I saw four seasons between deliverance and the Promised Land: just leaving Egypt, at the base of Mt Sinai getting instructions from the Lord, wandering around in the wilderness because of disobedience, and at the edge of the Promised Land seeking to take possession of His promises.

- **Just leaving Egypt.** When they left Egypt, they were not headed straight to the Promised Land. In Exodus 3:18, the Israelites were to “take a three-day journey into the desert to offer **sacrifices** to the Lord [their] God.” Then, in Exodus 4:22-24, God instructs Moses to tell Pharaoh to let them go, so they could **worship** Him.
 - **Application.** If you’re struggling with the idea of sacrificing anything to allow the Lord FULL access to your heart, hopefully, our anchor verse for this retreat will help: Psalm 95:6-8, “Come, let us **worship and bow down**. Let us **kneel before the Lord**, our maker, for he is our God. We are the people he watches over, the flock under his care. If only you would listen to his voice today! The Lord says, ‘Do not harden your hearts as Israel did...in the wilderness’” (NLT).
 - **Worship defined.** When translated as “serve” in Exodus 4:22-23, it means, “to work.”⁵ However, the word translated as “worship” when Abraham was preparing to sacrifice Isaac basically means to “bow down,”⁶ and, apparently, it also implies “obedience” (Genesis 22:5).
Takeaway. According to John 6:29, our work is to believe in Jesus, the One whom God sent! Therefore, as we take our first steps out of our own personal Egypt, the most important work we can do is to believe in Messiah, that He is trustworthy, and has our best interest at heart, so we can freely worship, bow down, and keel before our Lord.

⁴ Kevin J. Conner, *The Tabernacle of Moses*, (Portland: City Bible Publishing, 1976).

⁵ H5647, Strong’s Bible App for iPhone.

⁶ H7812, Strong’s Bible App for iPhone.

- **More on worship.** Further study of the word “worship” and what happened when the Israelites first left Egypt revealed it appears God is also looking to cultivate three things in our lives:
 - Our ability to sacrifice to Him everything that’s more important to us than He is (Exodus 3:18)
 - Our ability to worship (serve) Him (Exodus 4:22-23)
 - Our ability to obey the things He teaches us (Genesis 22:5)
- **Base of Mt Sinai getting instruction from the Lord.** If we are to sacrifice to the Lord, worship Him, and obey Him, it stands to reason we need to know what that looks like. The Israelites had the Ten Commandments; we have the Bible, an entire book that, when applied to our everyday lives, can help us learn what to sacrifice, how to worship, and how to obey! Two words that best helped me learn how to transition from Scripture being words on a page to being able to live them out are faith and obedience. For me, the simplest definition of faith is to know and to trust in the Word of God. That doesn’t mean I understand everything I read, but I seek to obey the things I do understand, and that was probably the most pivotal point in my Christian walk. It also doesn’t mean walking in perfection, but turning my heart to God and always seeking to honor Him in any situation. The more I practice doing what I understand, the more I am able to trust, and the more I am able to trust, the more I am able to see Him at work in my life. **Takeaway.** Our first step towards God’s promises is to allow the Bible to provide the instruction we need to be able sacrifice to, worship, and obey the Lord.
- **Wandering around in the wilderness because of disobedience.**
 - **Murmuring and complaining.** The Israelites consistently murmured and complained despite the miracles God did for them. Even though the Israelites told Moses to talk to God for them, and they would do what Moses told them, they consistently murmured and complained against him. When they got to the edge of the Promised Land, they even came up with the bright idea to spy out the land, and Moses agreed (Deuteronomy 1:22-23). Well, that didn’t turn out well, because with the exception of two men, Caleb and Joshua, an entire generation failed to enter the Promised Land. The fearful words of 10 leaders created so much fear in the hearts of the people that they chose to disobey God

rather than fight the battles He told them they would win. As a result, an entire nation wandered around in the wilderness for 40 years waiting on a generation of unbelievers and doubters to die out!

- **Purposeful wandering.** When we do allow fear and/or disobedience to cause us to wander around in the wilderness, the good news is, our wandering has a purpose, and it can be found in Deuteronomy 8:2-14. In this season of wandering, we can allow God to:
 - Humble us
 - Test us to know what is in our heart
 - Know if we will keep His commandments
 - Cause us to hunger
 - Reveal something new to us
 - Teach us to rely on the Word of God
 - Provide for us
 - Discipline us
 - Teach us to obey Him
 - Teach us to revere (fear) Him
- **Takeaway.** Murmuring and complaining can easily lead to fear and disobedience, and our disobedience will cause us and anyone else our fear impacts to wander around in the wilderness until we learn what we need to learn.
- **Preparing to possess the promises of God.** The best example in Scripture for how to handle the wilderness in preparation to receive the promises of God is found in Matthew 4:1-11, where Holy Spirit sent Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Jesus was in the wilderness 40 days and 40 nights. He didn't eat or drink anything, and it was in this state of hunger and thirst that the devil approached Him. So, we took a moment to capture in our journal "The Temptation" and the "The Response," in what we call T-Time (see attachment 1). From this T, I pointed out:

- Jesus went into the wilderness because Holy Spirit led Him there to be tempted by the devil. He responded with what was in Him—the Word—because He is the Word made flesh. However, we too can become so intimate with Scripture that it becomes a part of us!
- If we are to have faith to thrive in the wilderness and eventually possess God’s promises, we have to have hope in something outside of our control, which is God, His Son, and the hope He has given us. Not only has He given us the hope of eternal life, but also in Psalm 27:13, King David says, “I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living” (NKJV). So, let the hope of eternal life with God and seeing His goodness here on earth provide you the hope you need to sustain your faith.
- **Exercise.** We concluded this portion of our day with an exercise. Each person was asked to reflect on the verses provided before the retreat, and capture at least one thing about the verse(s) that stood out to them. Then, with the one thing from each of the Scriptures in mind, they were to look at some specific questions related to the teaching (see attachment 2) and pick at least one question to answer, or answer as many as time allowed. We then came together for everyone to share, as they felt led. I encourage anyone reading this newsletter to complete this exercise as well to allow Holy Spirit time to speak to your heart!

Praying in the wilderness. This portion of our day was so we could learn how to pray in the wilderness to respond like Jesus and not murmur and complain like the Israelites. Towards that goal, we looked at six types of prayer found in “Dressed to Kill,” by Rick Renner.⁷ Each type of prayer is based on the Greek word in the New Testament translated as or relating to prayer. Therefore, these six types of prayer may be different from what you are familiar with, but the hope is you will keep an open heart to receive whatever Holy Spirit wants to deposit in your heart. Even though different approaches can produce different types and different meanings, this approach has been life changing for me. Therefore, during the conference, I condensed a previous WoW² study on prayer into a very brief summary containing the type of prayer, Renner’s summation of that prayer, one word that captures the essence of that prayer, and what that prayer looks like in our every day lives.

⁷ Rick Renner, *Dressed to Kill: A Biblical Approach to Spiritual Warfare and Armor*, (Tulsa: Teach all Nations, 1991), pp. 443-463.

- **Prayer of Consecration.** The idea behind this type of prayer is you are to “*Come face to face with God, and surrender your life in exchange for His, consecrating your life on an ongoing basis. And be sure to give Him thanks in advance for moving in your life.*” The one word that best describes this prayer is **surrender**. What this looks like in everyday life is for us to surrender our will to God’s will as we sit in prayer with Him, taking time to thank Him in advance for how He will answer our prayer even if it doesn’t look like we want it to look! **Takeaway.** We are dedicating our lives to him, so that Christ may live in and through us.
- **Prayer of Petition.** The idea behind this type of prayer is it addresses our “I’m tired” moments in life, because it “*exposes [our] heartfelt insufficiency and [our] continual need for God.*” The one word that best describes this prayer is **humility**. What this looks like in everyday life is for us to pray from a position of humility to ask God to meet our spiritual, mental, or emotional needs. **Takeaway.** This prayer only addresses our intangible needs! There are times God may use people to meet those needs, but if it comes from the Lord, we can receive it as gift. If we try to force it, it is no longer a gift we can thank Him for, but it’s a need we feel entitled to. However, we cannot walk in humility and entitlement at the same time!
- **Prayer of Authority (or Prayer of Faith).** The difference between this prayer and the prayer of petition is we “petition” or “ask” God to meet our intangible needs, whether it’s spiritual, emotional, or mental, but with the prayer of authority, we demand for God keep His Word! The one word that best describes this prayer is **boldness**. What this looks like in every day life is if we begin by consecrating ourselves to the Lord—**surrendering** our will to Him—we can then **humbly** ask Him to meet our intangible needs, which helps us learn how to rely on Him. Relying on Him increases our faith and our trust in Him, which helps us learn how to go through our trials counting it all joy, because we now understand our trial has a purpose! It is from this place of a surrendered and humble heart, we can then boldly remind God of what He has promised us with full expectation He will keep His promise; however, we have to be patient enough to wait on His timing! Yet, to get to this level of boldness to be able to demand anything of God, we first have to know what His Word says, and we then have to be able to allow His Word to be the authority that governs our hearts and minds, so it can change how we think to make sure we are asking with the right motives. That means we have to be willing to challenge any thought that produces an ungodly response in us, whether it’s a belief we’ve held our

entire lives or something newly formed, to see if it aligns with Scripture. If not, we have to allow Scripture to renew our mind—change how we think—so we can get to a place where we are bold enough to pray with authority and to pray in faith. **Takeaway.** The best takeaway for this prayer is Renner’s paraphrase of John 15:17, “*If you permanently and habitually lodge, dwell, abide, and remain continually in [Jesus], and if [His] words permanently and habitually lodge, dwell, abide, and remain continually in you, you will be able to strongly ask for whatever you wish and it will be done for you.*” Why? Because what you are asking for us in agreement with and aligns with God’s Word and His will for your life!

- **Prayer of Thanksgiving.** This is the simplest of all prayers to understand. The one word that best describes this prayer is **gratitude**. What this prayer looks like in everyday life is learning how to always be thankful. Of particular interest to me was being thankful for what God has already done in the lives of people we are praying for. I would go on to say, it’s important to also be thankful for what He’s already in our lives, because an attitude of thankfulness is the best medicine I know against being judgmental and prideful; it keeps us from becoming jealous or resentful when others are being blessed in ways we want to be blessed, and it keeps us out of the “pity party pit!” **Takeaway.** If we genuinely thank God for what He is doing in our lives and the lives of those we are praying for, it makes it a lot harder to murmur and complain to or against God, which makes it easier to thank Him for what He’s doing in us no matter what is happening to us!
- **Prayer of Supplication.** The prayer of thanksgiving was the easiest to understand, and the prayer of supplication was the hardest! The idea behind this prayer is we “*fall into the presence of the Lord,*” or we “*come into a wonderful relationship in prayer.*” The basis of this relationship is “**love,**” which is the first word that best describes this prayer. The second way to best describe this prayer is “**intimate fellowship.**” The picture of Ruth and Boaz on the front of the box for our anchor key chain are a great illustration of what this looks like in everyday life to posture ourselves in intimate fellowship with the Father, where we “*freely express ourselves and our desires and unreservedly enjoy His wonderful presence.*” It reminds me of the times I crawl up in Abba Father’s lap and can feel the sweetness of His presence as I pour out my heart to Him, secure in the love He has for me and that I have for Him. Of all the prayers, this prayer is the most diverse. By looking at Romans 11:2, we see Elijah praying against someone, but in 1 Timothy 2:1,

we see the apostle Paul praying for others. Then, in 1 Timothy 4:5, we see a prayer regarding what makes our food acceptable to God. Initially, this diversity greatly confused me! However, I finally realized, it's not what I'm praying that matters, but that I go into His presence to share my heart. And, if by chance, I'm complaining about others, He has an answer for me the same way He had an answer for Elijah. **Takeaway.** This prayer is when we choose to go before Him in prayer before venting our thoughts, feelings, and emotions to others. It looks like spending time with Him to lift up others needs to Him. It also looks like thanking Him for our food. It seems this prayer covers every other time we communicate with God that is not covered in the other five prayers described here. Bottom line—its' our time to lovingly fellowship with our Creator!

- **Prayer of Intercession.** As used in the New Testament, this word is different than how I have heard it described and taught in the past, simply because we are looking at how the word is used in Greek and not in English. The idea behind the Greek word is also two-fold. One way to describe this prayer is "vessel," because as used in Romans 8:26, this prayer describes how the Holy Spirit meets us in our mess and prays for us when we don't know what to pray for ourselves. So, we become vessels through which Holy Spirit prays in those times when we honestly don't know how to pray for ourselves. That's why the phrase "rescue me," is also a great description of this prayer. As Renner states, "*With all His wonderful attributes and personality traits, the Holy Spirit still feels everything you feel. He empathizes with your feeling of complete inadequacy. He understands the battles you are facing. He willing falls into each difficult circumstance along with you, feeling your emotions of fear, anger, or frustration. Then, He begins a plan of rescue.*" However, He can only do this when we confess "our own human weakness" so we can "open our heart and souls to this intercessory ministry of the Holy Spirit." In other words, as long as we think, "I got this," He's going to let us have it! What this looks like in every day life is when we stop trying to figure things out, work things out in our own strength, and making our plans for how things need to go and admit to Holy Spirit we need His help, He is right there to help us find a way out of our mess! **Takeaway.** When we're at our wits end and finally turn to the Holy Spirit, He typically gives us an "aha" moment, where He makes things so clear we know exactly what to do and how to do it! Sometimes, it's based on a Scripture we've heard; other times, it's just every day practical advice that helps us get unstuck! But, it's important to note that when we go to Him, it's not a time to have a "woe is me" party so Holy Spirit

can hang out in the pit of despair with us! It's time for Him to rescue, renew, and deliver us from whatever circumstance we are in!

- **One final thought on prayer.** I encourage everyone to read the book "Dressed to Kill" to delve more deeply into prayer and the whole armor of God. Neither this newsletter nor our Meeting Notes on prayer do justice to the depth of teaching in this book.
- **Exercise:** We concluded this portion of our time together in prayer. Going back to our anchor verse in Psalm 95:6-8, it was time to go before the Lord in worship, to bow down and kneel before Him to listen to His voice. The elements of the anchor key chain were used to set the stage for our time of intimate fellowship with the Father. After the exercise, we had a time of sharing.

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.

T.H.R.I.V.E ATTACHMENT 1: THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS - MATTHEW 4:1-11 (ERV)

The Temptation	The Response
<p>³...If you are the Son of God, tell these rocks to become bread.</p>	<p>⁴...The Scriptures say, ‘It is not by bread alone that keeps people alive. Their lives depend on what God says.’ (Deuteronomy 8:3)</p>
<p>⁵Then the devil led Jesus to the holy city of Jerusalem and put him on a high place at the edge of the Temple area. ⁶He said to Jesus, ‘If you are the Son of God, jump off, because the Scripture say, ‘God will command his angels to keep you, and their hands will catch you, so that you will not hit your foot on a rock.’” (Psalm 91:11-12)</p>	<p>⁷...“The Scriptures also say, ‘You must not test the Lord your God,’” (Deuteronomy 6:16)</p>
<p>⁸Then the devil led Jesus to the top of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and all the wonderful things in them. ⁹The devil said, “If you will bow down and worship me, I will give you all these things.”</p>	<p>¹⁰...“Get away from me, Satan! The Scripture says, ‘You must worship the Lord your God. Serve only him!’” (Deuteronomy 6:13)</p>
<p>Question: What happened after Messiah “passed all the tests?”</p> <p>Answer: “¹¹So the devil left him. Then some angels came to Jesus and helped him.”</p>	

T.H.R.I.V.E. ATTACHMENT 2: A TIME OF REFLECTION /Q & A

1. Please take a few moments to read through the homework verses in whatever version of the Bible you are comfortable with and jot a key point from each one that directly speaks to your heart.

2. With those key points in mind, please take a moment to reflect on and answer at least one question related to the teaching or as many of them as you feel led.

- **Question.** What are you willing to sacrifice to allow the Lord FULL access to your heart?
- **Question.** Is there an area of your heart that is hard towards God? If so, what will it look like for you to come, worship, bow down and kneel before the Lord?
- **Question.** What are the things you murmur and complain about to God? And whom are you blaming in the process?
- **Question.** How often do you allow fear, whether it originates with you or with someone else, to infect your thinking and cause you to doubt God?
- **Question.** Which one of these things does God need to cultivate in your heart so you can be prepared to possess His promises?
 - To humble you
 - To test you to know what is on your heart
 - To know if you will keep His commandments
 - To cause you to hunger
 - To reveal something new to you
 - To teach you to rely on the Word of God
 - To provide for you
 - To discipline you
 - To teach you to obey Him
 - To teach you to revere (fear) Him
- **Question.** How much do you allow the Word—Scripture and what God reveals to you personally—to become a part of who you are and how you think?