



## Meeting Notes: Shield of Faith – What it Is (August 7, 2013)

These notes capture our August 7, 2013 meeting. We opened our meeting in prayer and then began our evening. Topic notes may not be in the order discussed during group, and they are not intended to cover everything discussed. They are intended as highlights to capture the essence of our evening. Details of what was discussed are the in the attached Teaching Notes. However, the general notes below capture topics that are not in the Teaching Notes or were expounded upon. Documents used or created during this meeting are attached.

### TOPICS DISCUSSED:

#### Closing the Loop on Last Week:

- **Prayer for students.** While we met on July 31, 2013, the focus of the meeting was to pray over our school-age daughters; therefore, we did not distribute notes for that evening.
- **Summing up the Shield.** We agreed the one word that describes the shield of faith is “protect.” Our faith protects us!

#### Memory verse:

- **Hebrews 11:1,6:** “<sup>1</sup>Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen ... <sup>6</sup>But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (NKJV).

#### Discussion Topic: Shield of Faith – What it Is

- **Hebrews 11:1.** ““Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (NKJV).
  - **Understanding the Key Words in the definition.** As mentioned in the Teaching Notes, the first thing that stood out is the original word for “**now**” is not an “in the moment” word, rather it serves as an antithesis to the last topic in Hebrews 10. We also discussed how **faith** is an action word! We emphasized faith means ‘persuasion,’ and what we are persuaded by and about influences our actions. During our discussion, we noted hope is an idle thing until we apply our faith to it! The rest of the discussion is captured in the Teaching Notes. **Takeaway.** Chapter 10 concludes by placing two choices before us: drawing back to perdition or believing to the saving of our soul. The path we choose is dependent upon our faith.

- **Hebrews 11:6.** <sup>6</sup>But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (NKJV).
  - **Hindrances to our faith.** Our memory verse teaches we cannot please God without faith; therefore, we looked at what hinders our faith to keep us from fulfilling this verse in our lives. In our discussion we noted the hindrances to our faith are fear, unbelief, and doubt. Each of these roots produces a fruit or hinders our faith. Faith results in no fear. Unbelief battles against our faith. And, doubt results in little faith. However, with great faith, there was no contrast! **Takeaway.** Without great faith, we are subject to draw back to perdition, but with great faith we can believe to the saving of our soul.
  - **What about mustard seed faith?** Since I was having a hard time knowing how to explain mustard seed faith, I read what is contained in the Teaching Notes. In discussing faith without works is dead, someone wanted to know what is the “work” we do. Our work is to be obedient to the Word. In addition, we noted how when we have great faith, we can rest in God. There was much more said; however, in summing up our discussion, we believe mustard seed faith is the seed that produces great faith in our lives. **Takeaway.** As we cooperate with the faith God has given us (our mustard seed), our works allow us to witness God’s faithfulness, which grows our faith to produce great faith.
- **T-Time:** In order to capture the difference in drawing back to perdition and believing to the saving of our soul, we did a T. This discussion was great, because we started off with one T, but ended up with another one. In the discussion, we realized overlaying our choices onto the parable of the sower and the seed<sup>1</sup> would help us better understand our choices. We also realized summing up each principle on the right side with one word helped us better see how to put action to our faith, thereby overcoming obstacles to our faith. Additionally, even though we summed up each principle with one word, we left the original Scripture for future reference to know how we got our “one word.” Finally, I updated the explanation for the T, so it would reflect both the original T and the updated T. However, only the updated T and the appropriate explanation will be posted on the Documents page of the website.
- **Additional Discussion:**
  - **The mirrors in our lives.** We discussed how the Word serves as a mirror in our lives (James 1:23). Likewise, our external factors are like a mirror to show us what’s going on in our heart. Thus, the mirror is part of growth—whether that mirror is God’s Word or our circumstances reflecting

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<sup>1</sup> This study can be found on the Meeting Notes page of the website: [www.wow2women.com](http://www.wow2women.com). The title of this study is “Four-Way Stop Sign & the Soils.”

what's in our heart. We also noted we cannot grow unless we take responsibility for our actions. A quotable statement from this discussion is "an external change can never resolve an internal problem." Our hurt originates within us, and while a circumstance change can relieve our pain, it will not heal the source of our pain, so the next time we are faced with a similar situation, we will feel that pain again! Thus, rather than seek to fix our circumstances, we have to seek to heal our heart. In addition, we noted looking in the mirror and seeing the revelation does not mean we will receive the revelation. For example, God can reveal something to us about ourselves through His Word or through our circumstances, but seeing what He revealed is different than accepting and responding to what He revealed.

- **Takeaways.** As everyone share their takeaway, I noted two in particular: if you don't know what faith is, you can't learn how to use it, and it requires faith to keep your eyes on the battle rather than on the circumstances.

**Next Meeting:** Our planned discussion topic is "What Faith Protects Us From."

**Homework assignment.** Continue to capture ways God has been faithful through answered prayers, providing unexpected moments of joy, providing the increase that produces fruit in our lives, and showing us how He worked things out for good even when the answer wasn't what we expected!

**Closing:** We closed our meeting in prayer with a time of need-specific prayer for the challenges that were lifted up, for the group overall, and as the Holy Spirit led

*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](mailto:wow2@wow2women.com) or complete a Contact Form on our site, [www.wow2women.com](http://www.wow2women.com).*



## ATTACHMENT: TEACHING NOTES FOR AUGUST 7, 2013

### Closing the Loop on Last Week:

- **Prayer for Students:** We had a time of dedicated prayer for all the young ladies going back to school. In addition to collective prayer, each girl was prayed over individually. In the process, God provided each a Scripture and/or words of encouragement.
- **Shield of faith.** What is one word that describes what our shield does?

### Memory Verse:

- **Hebrews 11:1,6:** “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen ... But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (NKJV).

### Discussion Topic: Shield of Faith – What it Is

- **Hebrews 11:1:** “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
  - **Understanding Key Words in the Memory Verse:**<sup>2</sup>
    - **Now:** (G1161) (adversative [expressing opposition or antithesis] or continuative [having the function of moving a discourse or conversation forward] ...
    - **Faith:** (G4102) ... persuasion, i.e. credence, moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation ....
    - **Substance:** (G5287) ... a setting under (support), i.e. (figuratively) concretely, essence, or abstractly, assurance (objectively or subjectively):--confidence, confident, person, substance.
    - **For:** (G1679) ...to expect or confide:--(have, thing) hope(d) (for), trust.
    - **Evidence:** (G1650) ... proof, conviction ...

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<sup>2</sup> Strong's Concordance for the iPhone version 1.5.3, Copyright © 2009 Brian Thomas Webb

- **Things:** (G4229) ... a deed; by implication an affair; by extension, an object (material):--business, matter, thing, work.
- **Pulling the definitions together:**
  - **Now.** Since “now” either expresses opposition to or continuation of a thought, it seemed prudent to determine what topic was being discussed in Chapter 10. The last “topic” identified in the New King James version in Chapter 10 before the writer begins addressing faith is “The Just Live by Faith.” In this section, the writer addresses willful sin, and drawing away from God, among other things. He concludes this section with “But we are not of those who draw back to perdition (ruin or loss)<sup>3</sup>, but of those who believe to the saving of our soul” (v39 NKJV). (Underline added)
  - **The rest of the words.** If we look at the rest of the key definitions, we see faith needs substance. A great example I learned in Bible College is hope is the blueprint for faith. Thus, if we liken hope to our blueprint and faith to the actions we take to build a house, what was unseen (the house) becomes seen through the evidence (works) of our faith! Therefore, it’s up to us to do the work that will bring the unseen into the seen! Or, as James 2:20 says, “... faith without works is dead” (NKJV).
  - **Takeaway.** Chapter 10 concludes by placing two choices before us: drawing back to perdition or believing to the saving of our soul. What we choose is dependent upon our faith!
- **Hebrews 11:6:** “But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”<sup>4</sup>
  - **Hindrances to our faith.**<sup>5</sup>
    - **Mark 4:40.** This verse highlights how being fearful can cause us to have no faith. “Fearful” is defined as “(dread); timid, i.e. (by implication) faithless.”
    - **Matthew 17:20.** This verse highlights having faith or unbelief. “Unbelief” is defined as “faithlessness, i.e. (negatively) disbelief (lack of Christian faith), or (positively) unfaithfulness (disobedience) ...”
    - **Matthew 14:31.** This verse highlights how doubt can cause us to

<sup>3</sup> Strong’s Concordance for the iPhone version 1.5.3, Copyright © 2009 Brian Thomas Webb

<sup>4</sup> We may define key definitions for this verse next meeting as we look at what faith protects us from

<sup>5</sup> Strong’s Concordance for the iPhone version 1.5.3, Copyright © 2009 Brian Thomas Webb

have little faith. “Doubt” is defined as “to duplicate, i.e. (mentally) to wave (in opinion).” “Little faith” is defined as “lacking confidence (in Christ).”

- **Matthew 15:28.** This verse highlights how great faith led to healing. *Great* is defined as “big”. It is interesting to note, there is no contrast to great faith!
- **Takeaway.** In essence, there are different “forms” of faith: no faith, faith, little faith, or great faith. Three of these forms have a “root.” For instance, no faith is a result of fear, faith battles against unbelief, and little faith is a result of doubt. In each form with a root, we can “draw back to perdition,” but if we have great faith, it appears we “believe to the saving of our soul.” Based on these different forms, it would appear having faith alone is not enough, because it has to always battle against our unbelief! Therefore, in returning to our shield,<sup>6</sup> we gain a better understanding of why we have to join our faith with the faith God gives us to create a shield that becomes “great faith” which is strong enough to “quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one” (Ephesians 6:16).
- **What about mustard seed faith?** In Matthew 17:20 and Luke 17:6, Jesus describes “faith as mustard seed.” He does not say faith IS a mustard seed; rather He likens faith TO a mustard seed. He also tells us in the parable of the mustard seed the seed has to be planted so it can grow (Matthew 12:31-32, Mark 4:30-32, Luke 13:18-19). Since every seed is intended to produce fruit, what is the fruit of our mustard seed? Again looking at our shield of faith, we correlated the composition of the Roman soldier’s shield to the composition of our faith. We likened the wood foundation to Jesus and the six leather layers to us. The visual image that comes to mind is the mustard seed becomes the wood foundation upon which we build. We then grow that seed (build our shield) by adding each of the six layers of leather, with each layer representing a component of the armor. Thus, we grow our mustard seed faith by putting on the armor of God, and the resulting fruit is great faith! Therefore, if faith is a cooperative work between God and man, God did His part by giving us faith; our part is to do the works to grow and maintain our faith! For Jesus tells us if we have “faith as a mustard seed,” we can move mountains (Matthew 17:20), and we can pull up roots (Luke 17:6)! He also tells us “great faith” heals (Matthew 15:28; Matthew 7:10). What a combination! Thus, it is what God gave us that does the work, but it appears our works create great faith within our hearts so we can have faith as a mustard seed!

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<sup>6</sup> This study can be found on the Meeting Notes page of the website: [www.wow2women.com](http://www.wow2women.com). It is the study entitled, “Shield of Faith, Pt. 1”

- **Takeaway.** As we cooperate with the faith God has given us (our mustard seed), our works allow us to witness God's faithfulness, which grows our faith to produce great faith.
- **T-Time to wrap it all up:**
  - **Completing the T:** As is our custom, whenever we have choices placed before us, we like to do T-Time to see what those choices are. The resulting T is attached [along with the updated T].
  - **Explaining the T:**
    - **Title:** We chose the title for the T from the title of the passage in which Hebrews 10:39 is found. We included our Scripture in the title for easy reference on why we created this T.
    - **Left side.** We captured the forms of faith we believe lead to our drawing back into perdition. The Scripture reference for each of these forms of faith was included so we could go back and reference them when needed.
    - **Ride side.** We captured principles we have already learned that can help us believe to the saving of our soul. After overlaying our T onto the parable of the sower and the seed, each line then represented a specific soil. **First line.** This line represents the **wayside**. Originally, we drew a correlation between like phrases in both Hebrews 10:39 and James 1:21, which teaches the implanted word is able to save our souls. However, to know what to "do" to overcome the fear that results in no faith, we chose the word "believe." Believing in the truth of God's Word is how we receive with meekness the implanted word of God. **Second line.** This line correlates to the **rocky soil**. To know what to do here, we progressed to James 2:26, because this verse teaches faith without works is dead; therefore, faith is more than believing. We must also act upon what we believe! Thus, our one word became "obey." Our obedience is how faith becomes an action word! **Third line.** This line correlates to the **thorny soil**. Initially, we had an arrow going from "faith as a mustard seed" to "great faith," indicating "great faith" is the fruit of the "faith as mustard seed" we receive from God. However, Scripture does not identify any hindrances to great faith, so we removed it from this line and our one word became "trust." If we don't trust God's faithfulness and the mustard seed faith He gave us, we will continue to flounder in our faith. **Fourth line.** This line correlates to the **good soil**. Since the parable teaches we produce mature fruit when our heart is good soil, we moved "great faith" to this line as the fruit of our mustard seed faith and how we produce mature fruit in our lives!

- **Takeaway.** Faith is what gives life to our hope, and what we hope in will determine our fruit. If fear, unbelief, or doubt is a contrast to our faith, we are subject to “draw back to perdition.” However, if Jesus is the foundation of our faith, we will develop great faith to “believe to the saving of [our] soul.”

**Other Scriptures to consider:**

- **Hebrews 10:23.** “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful (NKJV).
- **Romans 10:17.** “So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God (NKJV).
- **1 John 4:18.** “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love” (NKJV).
- **Matthew 9:24.** “Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief” (NKJV).
- **Mark 11:23.** “For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says” (NKJV).
- **2 Peter 3:9.** “The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (NKJV).

**Homework assignment.** Continue to capture ways God has been faithful through answered prayers, providing unexpected moments of joy, providing the increase that produces fruit in our lives, and showing us how He worked things out for good even when the answer wasn’t what we expected!





**Original T**  
**The Just Live by Faith**  
 Hebrews 10:39

<b>How Do We Draw Back to Perdition?</b>	<b>How Do We Believe to the Saving of the Soul?</b>
Fear that results in no faith (Mark 4:40)	Receive the implanted word (James 1:21)
Unbelief that battles with faith (Matthew 17:20)	Faith without works is dead (James 2:26)
Doubt that results in little faith (Matthew 14:31)	Faith as a mustard seed → Great-Faith (Matthew 17:20 / Matthew 8:10)

- **Key Points to the T:** This T contrasts the different examples of faith in the Scriptures with our ability to live by faith, because if we are to believe unto the saving of our soul, we need to know how to do that!

**Updated T<sup>7</sup>**  
**The Just Live by Faith**  
 Hebrews 10:39

<b>How Do We Draw Back to Perdition?</b>	<b>How Do We Believe to the Saving of the Soul?</b>
Fear that results in no faith (Mark 4:40)	Believe (James 1:21)
Unbelief that battles with faith (Matthew 17:20)	Obey (James 2:26)
Doubt that results in little faith (Matthew 14:31)	Trust (Matthew 17:20)
	Great Faith (Matthew 8:10)

<sup>7</sup> This T and the appropriate explanation will be posted on the website: [www.wow2women.com](http://www.wow2women.com).