



Meeting Notes: Shield of Faith – Pulling it All Together (August 21, 2013)

These notes capture our August 21, 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:

- **Homework.** We each shared where we view ourselves in the four soils. We clarified we can be in more than one soil at any given time, dependent upon the circumstances of our lives. For this night, we were looking at where we are in our most current growth opportunity. To help those who haven't been in group long better understand the soils, we again summarized each soil: **wayside** is where we are seeking to believe the truth of God's Word; **rocky** is where we are seeking to obey that truth; **thorny** is where we are seeking to trust God with that truth no matter what we see, and good ground is where we produce fruit on that truth. To help illustrate each of these points, I shared how God proved His faithfulness by taking me through these four soils in one day. **Takeaway.** Knowing where we are in the soils helps us know where we are going and what needs to be done to get there!
- **Head knowledge vs heart knowledge.** We likened the thorny ground to a season where we have head knowledge, but not heart knowledge. In other words, we can obey God for a season, but the issues of life will eventually choke out that Word! We also discussed how the thorny ground is when we have to pull down the strongholds that exist within our mind! **Takeaway.** To get beyond the thorny, we have to get God's Word from our head to our heart!

Discussion Topic: Shield of Faith – Pulling it All Together

- **2 Corinthians 10:4-6.** ⁴“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, ⁵Casting down imaginings and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, ⁶and having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled” (KJV).

- **Discussion.** So, we could get to our exercise, we didn't go through all of the definitions, but they along with our other discussion points are contained in the Teaching Notes.
- **“Master, I Have Toiled” Exercise.**
 - **Modifying the “fill-in-the-blanks.”** Over the course of the evening, we made some changes to the original exercise in the Teaching Notes. Here is what we ended up using in group to identify our unseen hope and what actions we will take by faith to bring the unseen into the seen: Master, I have toiled (*with what and for how long*) and (*what has been the result thus far*), nevertheless, at Your Word (*which says*), I will (*what will I do in response to God's Word*).
 - **Implementing the exercise.** We each filled in our blanks with a current growth opportunity. I used my current vision to overcome envy as an example. Thus, my exercise looked like this: Master, I have toiled with my feelings about my husband's relationship with our oldest daughter for 17 years and created division within my family and put my husband in the middle, nevertheless, at Your Word that says love doesn't envy and love thinks no evil, I will create my 21-day prayer, pray it over myself every day and do what the prayer says do. **Takeaway.** This exercise provides us a plan of action to identify our problem, what God's Word says about it, and actions we can take by faith to change the condition of our heart.
- **Understanding our giants.** We spent a brief time looking over the giants and what each represents. Some of us had already begun to identify specific giants at work in our lives. **Takeaway.** One or more of these giants can be active in any given situation. Space has been provided by each giant for us to capture which ones apply and how.
- **Mirror Exercise.** Details are contained in the Teaching Notes. However, during the exercise, we had a small mirror that represented God's Word and a larger mirror that represented Life's Circumstances, because we tend to minimize God's Word compared to our circumstances! In addition, during the exercise, someone noted if we move out of the way (from in between the two mirrors), the truth of God's Word shines on the circumstances of life! **Takeaway.** God's Word is greater than our circumstances!

Homework assignment:

- Continue implanting all of the **memory verses** (Psalm 33:4, Psalm 51:6, Hebrews 11:1, 6; and 2 Corinthians 10:4-6) into our mind and heart, and continue working on our “Master I Have Toiled” Exercise. It is also greatly encouraged that we continue capturing ways God has been faithful!

Next Armor Study: Due to calendar events in September and October,¹ our next armor study will occur on October 9, 2013. That gives us plenty of time to shore up what we've learned about our belt, our breastplate, our shoes, and our shield before moving to the helmet and the sword!

Birthday celebrations: August birthdays will be celebrated during our August 28, 2013 Social. September birthdays will be celebrated during our September 4, 2013 Night of Prayer, and October birthdays will be celebrated during our Anniversary Celebration on October 4, 2013.

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 or complete a Contact Form on our site, www.wow2women.com.

¹ The calendar can be found on the Documents page of the website: www.wow2women.com.



ATTACHMENT: TEACHING NOTES FOR AUGUST 21, 2013

Closing the loop on last week:

- **Questions from last week**
- **Homework:**
 - Where are we in the soils?
 - Anyone want to share an example of how God has been faithful?
- **Review:** Write down one thing you remember about each piece of the armor: belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shoes of peace, and shield of faith.
- **Points of interest:**
 - Interesting to note truth, righteousness, peace, and faith come before the helmet of salvation!
 - Saturating our shield in water is akin to the 21-day focused prayers we have been doing.

Discussion Topic: Pulling it All Together

- **2 Corinthians 10:4-6:** “⁴For the weapons of our warfare *are not carnal* but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, ⁵Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, ⁶and having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled” (KJV).
 - **Defining Key Words in the Memory Verse:**²
 - **Carnal:** (G4559) ... pertaining to flesh ...
 - **Down:** (G2506) ... demolition; figuratively, extinction:--destruction, pulling down.
 - **Strongholds:** (G3794) ... (meaning to fortify), through the idea of holding safely) ...
 - **Imaginations** (G3053) ... computation, i.e. (figuratively) reasoning (conscience, conceit):--imagination, thought.

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

- **Obedience** (G5218) ... attentive hearkening, i.e. (by implication) compliance or submission:--obedience, (make obedient), obey)-ing).
 - **Christ** (G5547) ... anointed, i.e. the Messiah, an epithet of Jesus:--Christ.
 - **Revenge** (G1556) ... to vindicate, retaliate, punish:--a (re-)venge.
 - **Disobedience** (G3876) .. inattention, i.e. (by implication) disobedience:--disobedience.
- **Key points.** One, we are in a war. Two, the only way to win the war is to change how we think so our thoughts can flow in the anointing of Jesus. Three, God is waiting on us to renew our minds so we can think and act according to His Word BEFORE He vindicates us! Takeaway. If we want to win the battle, we have to renew our mind and then act differently than we acted before! Period. Bottom line. No other option!
 - **Pulling it All Together:**
 - **Our choices.** We can continue in our current thought process and draw back to perdition OR we can renew our minds and believe to the saving of our soul
 - **Our thoughts.** They either align with the truth of God's Word OR they exalt themselves against the truth of God's Word.
 - **Our weapons.** We can choose God's armor OR we can choose carnal weapons!
 - **Our faith.** The actions we take by faith determine the path we choose!
 - **Putting our faith into action:** What is the hope (unseen vision) and what actions will we take in faith to bring the unseen into the seen?
 - **Exercise:** Based on Luke 5:5 – Master, I have toiled (*how long*) and (*what has been the result thus far*), nevertheless at Your Word, I will (*what will you do in response to God's Word*). God's Word is the hope; by faith we take action!

Homework assignment. Continue implanting all of the **memory verses** (Psalm 33:4, Psalm 51:6, Hebrews 11:1, 6; and 2 Corinthians 10:4-6) into our heart and mind.

Next meetings: Our September 4, 2013 meeting is our third Night of Prayer (NOP)! Following NOP, we will have our final 2013 Raising Godly Women (RGW) session, where the mothers bring in the daughters so we as older women can teach the younger women!



Attachment: Mirror Exercise

Purpose: The purpose of this exercise is to help us learn how to examine ourselves in the mirror of God’s Word and in the mirror life.

Foundational verse: ²²But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was” (James 1:22-24 NKJV).

Participants: Three people are involved: one person holding a mirror labeled God’s Word, another person holding a mirror labeled Life’s Circumstances, and the third person who is seeking to self-examine, hereafter called Self-Examinee.

Exercise:

- Self-Examinee stands in the middle of the two mirrors. She begins by facing the mirror labeled “God’s Word.”
- Self-Examinee then turns and faces the mirror labeled “Life’s Circumstance.”
- Self-Examinee is now faced with a decision: is she going to respond according to what she saw in the mirror labeled “God’s Word” OR will she respond according to what she sees in the mirror labeled “Life’s Circumstance.”
 - **Responding according to God’s Word:**
 - Implementing Luke 5:5. Master, I have toiled (*how long*) and (*what has been the result*), nevertheless at Your Word I will (*what will you do in response to God’s Word*).
 - Putting faith to her commitment. Self-examinee then puts her faith into action by doing whatever God’s Word tells her to do about her circumstance.
 - **Responding according to the life’s circumstances.** Self-Examinee continues to do whatever it is she has always done and will continue to get the same results she has always gotten!
- **Hope and faith.** In Luke 5:5, what God’s Word says provides Self-Examinee her hope, and her faith is based on the actions she will take to bring her hope from the unseen into the seen.



Attachment: Recognizing Our Giants³

| The “Ite” | What it Represents in Our Lives | Question(s) to ask Ourselves | How is this Giant Active in Your Circumstance? |
|------------------|--|---|---|
| Canaanites | Represents a “peddler.” | What lies is the devil “peddling” to us to replace the truth of God’s Word? | |
| Hittites | Represents “terror.” | What are we responding to out of “terror” instead of faith in God? | |
| Hivites | Represents a “villager.” | What strongholds, “living places,” are we creating in our lives to house the enemy’s lies? What behavior in us is those strongholds “giving life” to? | |
| Perizzites | Represents “open country” or a place “without walls.” | What areas of our lives are “without walls,” because our spirit does not have control? In what ways are we walking in the flesh rather than in the spirit? | |
| Girgashites | Represents the “unknown.” | What areas of our lives are we struggling in but can’t identify where it’s coming from? | |
| Amorites | Represents “publicity,” or “prominence” as in a “mountaineer.” | What areas in our lives are we giving publicity and making more prominent, thereby making “mountains out of molehills?” | |
| Jebusties | Represents the “threshing place.” | What circumstances in our lives are causing us to be “sifted” where the wheat is being separated from the chaff--the useful being separated from the useless? | |

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