



Meeting Notes: Breaking Down the Vision (January 14, 2015)

These notes capture our January 14, 2015 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. General notes follow each topic that was discussed. Documents used or created during this meeting are attached.

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

Closing the Loop:

- **Homework:** Those who had completed the homework shared how it went. They learned what they knew from memory and what they needed further study on. Everyone was encouraged to continue studying the armor, so she truly can be “Dressed to Kill.”¹ **Takeaway.** Every person needs to understand the armor for herself, lest she find herself unclothed during battle!
- **Whiteboard follow-up:** While doing the Meeting Notes, it occurred to me, since the soil of our heart affects our faith perspective, I needed to swap “good ground” and “great faith” on the whiteboard. I made the correction, and we spent a few moments reviewing this change. Unfortunately, I forgot to take a picture, so the updated whiteboard is not attached. **Takeaway.** We reiterated our faith level is dependent upon the soil of our heart!
- **Other discussion:** I jotted down a few points during our review. **One**, we hide the word in our heart. **Two**, the Word begins as a defensive weapon (the first edge of our sword), and it ends up as an offensive weapon (the second edge of our sword).² **Lastly**, until the Word moves from being defensive to offensive in our lives, it is less effective in spiritual warfare. In other words, rather than let the Word do what it needs to do in our heart (the first aspect of spiritual warfare), we end up swinging a dull sword at our circumstances and wearing ourselves out! **Takeaway.** Know and understand the armor and spiritual warfare!

Current Vision: “2015 - Passing the Test From the Inside Out”

Memory verse: Psalm 51:10, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me " (NKJV).

¹ Rick Renner, *Dressed to Kill: A Biblical Approach to Spiritual Warfare and Armor*, (Tulsa: Teach all Nations, 1991). We relied heavily upon this book during our study our “Armor of God Study”

² For more information on the sword of the Spirit, see our study, “Sword of the Spirit” (Jan 22 2014) on Meeting Notes page of our website: <http://www.wow2women.com/meeting-notes.html>.

Discussion Topic: Breaking Down the Vision Using the IDA Principle

- **Scripture reference:** Habakkuk 2:2, “Then the Lord answered me and said: ‘Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it.’” In keeping with this verse, we used IDA (Identify, Define, and Apply) to break down each element of the vision God gave for the group this year:
- **Identify**
 - **What is the vision?** “Passing the Test: From the Inside Out”
 - **What is the test?** We read and summarized James 1:2-8. The test is of our faith. Stronger faith leads to perseverance. Perseverance helps us become mature and complete, lacking nothing. We also noted, during our test, we have to know what Word we are standing on and that our vision also plays a role in how our faith is tested. In other words, “What am I believing God for (including what’s in my vision) that is being tested?” Furthermore, wisdom is also mentioned in these verses, but we will discuss it later. **Takeaway.** Our faith is what’s being tested!
 - **What does “from the inside out” mean?**
 - As a group, we settled upon the following points:
 - Having a right heart that does the right thing versus doing the right thing, but with a “black” heart.
 - Evaluating the condition of our heart so we do what we do out of love for God and love for people (**Matthew 22:37-40**).
 - Allowing the Word in our heart to guide us instead of reacting to our circumstances.
 - **Other discussion.** We noted, **anytime** we do the right thing, we can consider that a “win,” because we obeyed God. However, because there’s no true heart change, we’re not yet passing the test of our faith from the inside out. As a result, we end up swinging a dull sword, which is how we get to “I’m tired.”
 - **Takeaway.** From the inside out means doing the right thing AND feeling good about it.
 - **How do we get to the point of passing the test from the inside out?** In a word. **Wisdom.** As mentioned earlier, James mentions wisdom in conjunction with going through our trials. The author tells us, if we lack wisdom, ask! However, we have to make sure we are asking for Godly wisdom and not the world’s wisdom (**James 3:13-18** or the “Godly

Wisdom” T).³ **Takeaway.** Learning how to walk in Godly wisdom is how we pass the test of our faith from the inside out!

- **Define**

- **What will the completed vision look like?**

- **Psalm 51:10** tells us to have a clean heart and steadfast spirit; however, we wanted a better understanding of “clean” and “steadfast.” Therefore, we looked up the original definitions in Strong’s,⁴ and then captured the following:

- **Clean heart.**

- **Love.** Walking in what love looks like rather than what love does not look like (**1 Corinthians 13** or the “Love God’s Way” T)⁵
- **Morality.** We all know what we consider to be moral or not, so at the very least, we need to adhere to our own moral code as God aligns our moral code to His.

- **Steadfast (loyal/right) spirit.** “Loyal,” and “right” come from different translations. While all three words are very telling in and of themselves, we again looked up the Strong’s definition for further clarity, which resulted in the following list to describe what our spirit should be/look like:

- Erect (being armored up)
- Stand
- Prepared (having a plan for how we will face our trials)
- Not wavering
- Loyal to God and His Word
- Dying to self.

- **Takeaway.** We summed up having a clean heart and a steadfast spirit as having a pure and fixed heart!

³ The “Godly Wisdom” T (Jun 13, 2013) can be found under Individual T-Times on the Documents page of our website: <http://www.wow2women.com/documents.html>.

⁴ Strong’s Concordance for the iPhone version 1.5.3, Copyright © 2009 Brian Thomas Webb

⁵ The “Love God’s Way” T (Dec 2, 2009) can be found under Individual T-Times on the Documents page of our website: <http://www.wow2women.com/documents.html>.

- **Other discussion.** Someone asked how does each person work towards the group vision. The answer is our personal vision helps us cultivate the soil of our heart to be good ground for the seeds of God's Word, thereby allowing the Word to clean our heart and renew our spirit. Moreover, the Word contained in our personal vision will help us check the motives of our heart! **Takeaway.** Fulfilling our personal vision will help us fulfill the group vision.
- **Apply**
 - **What steps will we take during group towards completing the vision?**
 - Capture our individual visions using the IDA principle. This is our current homework assignment.
 - Study Proverbs to allow God's Word and our vision to become the boundary of our lives so we can walk in His wisdom. Our intent will be to capture Scriptures that will become our **"boundaries"**—**how we respond in a situation no matter how we feel in that moment!** Our memory verse will be **Psalm 90:12**, "So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom" (NKJV). This verse encourages us to recognize our time here is limited, so let's make the most of it! **Takeaway.** No matter when it happens, we are ALWAYS closer than we have ever been before to the return of Jesus. Thus, if we learn to number our days, we will be less prone to procrastinate or take our spiritual walk for granted!
 - Study other references to wisdom in the Bible. This will help us solidify the things we learned in Proverbs.
- **Summation.** At the end of this journey, we should have transformed hearts! **Takeaway.** The test is faith. The fruit of that test is patience. The transformation from our test is we are mature and complete, lacking nothing! Yes, Lord! So, let it be written. So let it be done!

Homework: Complete our vision using the "My Vision Worksheet."

Next Meeting: Connect the dots between the group vision, our vision, and Proverbs.

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.



ATTACHMENT 3: My Vision Worksheet

MY VISION

NAME _____

DATE: _____

IDENTIFY your vision and the Scripture(s) you are standing on

DEFINE what your completed vision should look like

APPLY: What steps will you need to apply to fulfill your vision?
