



Meeting Notes: "I See Me" – Spirit Check
(January 8, 2014)

After taking our holiday break, we have resumed meeting! These notes capture our January 8, 2014 meeting. We opened in prayer and then began our evening. Topic notes from the evening 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.

CURRENT VISION: "The Year of Maturity: Learning how to hear with ears of faith that we may be hearers of the word and not doers only." Scripture Reference: **Mark 4:24.**

Closing the Loop on 2013 - Night of Prayer: We held our final 2013 Night of Prayer on December 4, 2013. Meeting Notes were not sent out; however, the main topics discussed were the blessings of Abraham, fear and faith, faith and trust, lack of trust, and feeling unworthy to accept God's gift of salvation. We noted how faith and trust counteract fear. **Takeaway.** We cannot stress enough how important it is to have faith and trust in God despite what our circumstances look like (i.e. Abraham and Isaac)!

Housekeeping: We distributed updated documents, and an updated calendar is posted to the website. **Takeaway.** If you weren't at group, please make sure you get the updated documents, so you can use them throughout the year.

Fostering Gifts in the Group: Ephesians 4 and Romans 12 discuss how we are to use our gifts to edify the body of Christ. To that end, many of us have taken a gifts assessment test, the results of which have been captured and consolidated into one document. Lately, God has been impressing upon my heart to encourage everyone to use those gifts to edify our small body of believers. As a result, we discussed several opportunities to do just that; those opportunities have been distributed via email. **Takeaway.** Consider volunteering for one of the identified opportunities or suggesting a way you can use your specific gift(s) even if it has not yet been identified.

Exercise – The Purpose of Vision: We did a brief and simple exercise to demonstrate the importance of vision. Simply put, just as the Holy Spirit guides us through life, I guided someone through the room while she had her eyes closed. Since she couldn't see where she was going, she was initially resistant to move at all and then remained hesitant in the steps that followed. However, once we reached our destination and she opened her eyes, she was able to see where she was going and quickly returned to her seat with confidence. However, since one person missed the exercise the first time, after group, we demonstrated it again. This time, since our volunteer had walked the path before, there was more trust as I guided her through the room, and we made the trip in a lot less time! **Takeaway.** Vision gives us the confidence to trust God as He walks us through uncharted territories in life, and even more confidence, when we walk down familiar paths.

Discussion Topic: “I See Me” – Spirit Check

- **Questions.** We answered three specific questions related to vision:
 - **What is your vision?** Faith and trust seemed to be prevailing themes; however, spiritual warfare was also mentioned.
 - **What have you learned thus far from the armor study to help you walk in your vision?** Answers for this question ranged from being able to recognize when our breastplate is damaged, not on, or has been penetrated; when our shield of faith is not with us or not out in front of us; and recognizing the need for the belt of truth!
 - **What hinders you in achieving your vision?** One hindrance to our growth is when we do not understand how to apply the soils. For instance, when we're upset, it's hard to think about where we are in the soils. Additionally, while we may know how to stay in our circle, if we don't know where we are in the soils, it's hard to know what forward looks like. Finally, if we don't know what forward looks like, we end up stuck!
- **Discussing the soils.**
 - **Reviewing the soils.** **Wayside** is when we accept truth, **rocky** is when we obey that truth, **thorny** is when we trust God with that truth no matter what we see, and **good ground** is when we produce fruit on that truth. We also clarified the difference between the rocky and the thorny. Wanting to obey is not the issue in the thorny. Trusting God with the results of our obedience is. In the rocky, we have a desire to obey and we are pretty consistent with our obedience. However, in the thorny, when we lose focus of the results God wants, we get tired of waiting for the results we want. **Takeaway.** Knowing where you are in the soils helps us identify the way forward—accept the truth, obey the truth, trust God with the truth, or manifest fruit on that truth!
 - **The soils and grace.** We discussed how we take two different trips through the soils. The first trip is an “I See Me” trip, where God reveals the condition of our heart. The second trip is an “I See You” journey (a forthcoming study), where God teaches us how to see others through His eyes and not ours. To better understand these two different trips, we revisited a past study¹ we did on grace based on Karl Coke's book, *God is Charismatic* (illustration attached).² The bottom line is the grace process inspires us to have a grateful heart, and a grateful heart opens us up to more of God's grace. **Takeaway.** God purifies our heart the first time we go through the soils so, during our second trip, He can teach us how to

¹ This discussion was during our August 12, 2009 meeting, but the notes are no longer on the website.

² Karl D. Coke, *God is Charismatic* (Redding: Re-Direction Publications, 1983).

pour out His grace to others in the form of a gift.

- **The armor and the soils.** If you're not in good ground in a situation, you are missing a piece of your armor! For instance, one of the things we previously learned is a combustible arrow is when the devil's wiles inflame our emotions. When our emotions are inflamed, somehow our breastplate is either not on securely or the enemy found a gap, much like the king in 1 Kings 22:31-35. Even though he had on his breastplate, a stray arrow still penetrated! **Takeaway.** When our emotions are inflamed, check our breastplate—has offense or hurt crept in to weaken it, are guilt or shame somehow causing us to no walk in our righteousness with God?
- **A nugget.** One of the things God has been impressing on my heart is to view spiritual growth as a lifelong journey with an eternal perspective. **Takeaway.** Don't rush what God is doing, but don't lose sight of our eternal destination.

Homework Assignments:

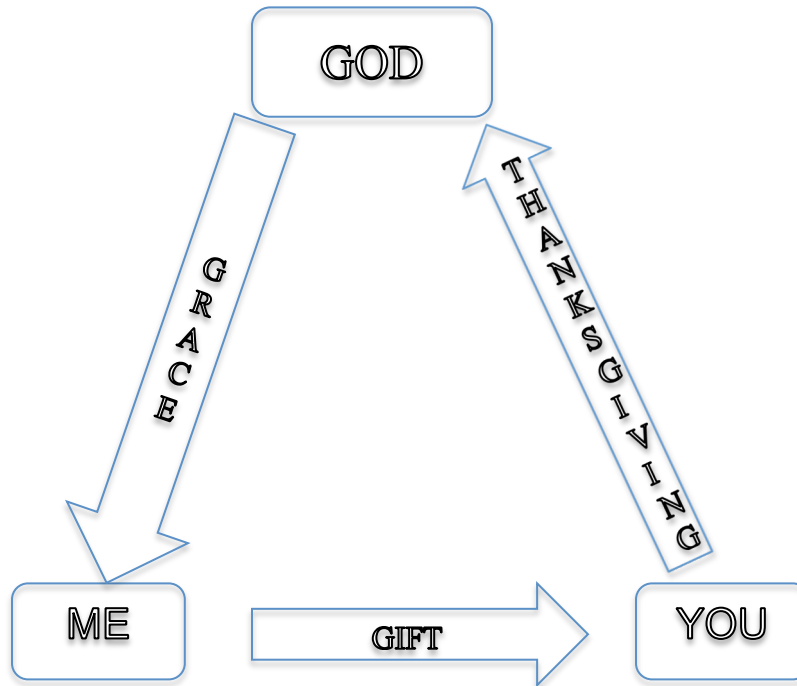
- **Completing our Vision.** Finish clarifying our vision, be able to describe what the finished product will look like, and develop a plan for achieving said vision.
- **New Memory Verse:** In preparation for our study on the sword, please begin learning **Hebrews 4:12** – For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (NKJV).
- **Previous Memory Verses:** Please continue to work on all the memory verses: **Psalm 33:4, Psalm 51:6, Hebrews 11:1, 6, 2 Corinthians 10:4-6, and Mark 4:24.** The more we sow the Word in our hearts, the more it will help reveal and push out the lies the enemy uses to torment us.

Next Meeting: We will seek to finalize our vision and our plan of action to achieve our vision.

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.

A TTACHMENT: God is Charismatic³



Explaining the illustration:

- This illustration demonstrates how God’s grace flows. It flows from God to “me” in the form of *grace (charis)*. As it passes through “me,” it becomes a *gift (charisma)* to meet the needs of “you.” When “you’s” need is met, “you” thanks God (*eucharista*). Same root word applies in each situation!
- As noted in our August 12, 2009 meeting, “In other words, God’s grace flows TO us and does what it needs to do IN us, so that we can become an open vessel for His grace to then flow to others, the “you” in the triangle. His grace then becomes a gift to meet their need. Once their need is met, they thank God! The key is, the longer it takes for God to work on us, the longer it takes His grace to flow to others and for Him to receive the thanks!”
- In our January 8, 2014 meeting, we likened the *grace* portion of the triangle to our “I See Me” exercise. During this part of the triangle, God’s grace works in us. We likened the *gift* portion of the triangle to an upcoming teaching we will do entitled, “I See You.” If we are to meet the needs of ‘you,’ we have to be able to see “you” through God’s eyes and not through our eyes!

³ Karl D. Coke, *God is Charismatic* (Redding: Re-Direction Publications, 1983), p. 94.