



Meeting Notes: Prayer – The Upper Room Experience – Understanding Unity and Prayer Continued
(June 18, 2014)

These notes capture our June 18, 2014 meeting. We opened our meeting 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.

GOD’S GOAL for the Group: For us to learn how to apply the Word to our lives.

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

Memory Verse: Philippians 4:6-7 – Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God (NKJV).

Discussion Topic: The Upper Room Experience – Understanding Unity and Prayer Continued

- **Review:** We began the evening by reviewing what we learned the week before about The Upper Room and the correlation to our small group. We focused on three specific concepts: vision, purpose, and mission. We noted how the disciples left The Upper Room transformed and went forth to do what God told them to do. Likewise, we are to leave our small group transformed. To that end, we took the concepts of vision, purpose, and mission and related them to our daily lives by looking at two of our visions.
- **Discussing Our Visions:** We examined how someone else can know our vision has transformed us. In other words, how can others tell whether or not we are walking in our vision?
 - **My vision.** My complete vision is attached; however, the short version is to walk in humility, focus, and alacrity. Here’s some of the feedback others gave for how they can recognize if I am not walking in my vision:
 - **Colossians 8:23.** If I’m complaining, I’m probably doing what I do for people and not for the Lord.
 - **James 1:19-20.** Interrupting, having a ready response, and/or being frustrated were given as signs I am not being quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger.
 - **Proverbs 29:18.** One sister pointed out, she couldn’t see me

“casting off restraint,” but she could see me feeling lost. It took me a minute to grasp this, but it eventually made sense. My overall life vision is to diligently seek God; therefore, I am more apt to lose focus of my vision and feel lost than I am to purposely disobey God. Someone else mentioned how this verse applies to my keeping group focused and not allowing our discussions to “get in the weeds,” meaning we’re all over the place with no clear direction!

- **Comment.** Seeing my entire vision helped remind someone to be more sensitive to seeing when “I’m off my game,” per se, so she can have compassion and pray for me.
- **Someone else’s vision.** The other vision we examined was learning to trust God. Her Scripture is Proverbs 3:5-8, “⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. ⁷Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. ⁸This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.” Here’s some of our feedback for her:
 - **Trust.** “I just don’t understand.” “I don’t get it.” “I don’t understand why.” These statements are all indications she is leaning on her own understanding.
 - **Verse 7.** Rationalizing. Trying to fix it. Feeling sorry for self. Seeking revenge. These concepts indicate she is being wise in her own eyes rather than following God’s ways.
- **Other discussion:**
 - **Submit to Him.** Someone asked what does submitting to Him look like. It’s doing what He says even when we don’t understand and **especially** when we don’t want to! When we trust and submit and do what’s right long enough, even when we don’t want to, we’ll find God changes our heart along the way. We referred to this as going through the process, which led us to “The Journey from Logos to Rhema.”¹ We were able to trace one person’s experience through this exercise, which helped those present better understand how to put on our armor!
 - **Good versus God.** We discussed we can sometimes get wrapped up in what sounds good, especially when it agrees with what we already think or feel, but even though it sounds good, that doesn’t mean it’s based on God’s Word or His character. Thus, even though there’s agreement in what we hear, that agreement is not the same as confirmation. Consequently, what’s good is not

¹ “Logos to Rhema” (Mar 2014) can be found under Group Documents on the Documents page of the website: <http://www.wow2women.com/documents.html>.

always what's God. God is the narrow way; good can be broad, and it can actually camouflage evil! We have to remember, the devil knows the Word as well, and he will try to twist the Word to lead us astray.

- **Confirmation.** Someone asked, “How do we know the difference in confirmation that comes from God and agreement that doesn't. Basically, we can apply the same principle we use to examine our thoughts – does it align with God's Word or not? One way to find out is to complete the “Bringing Our Thoughts to Christ” exercise.² This exercise also helps us test God's will. When done correctly, the multitude of questions helps us examine our thoughts against Scripture, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth.
- **Strife vs anxiety.** We discussed being able to tell the difference in strife and the anxiety our flesh feels when we're trying to make a godly choice. The basic difference is strife separates us from others and from God, whereas the anxiety we feel when our flesh doesn't want to die helps us rationalize and justify our actions.
- **Summing up the exercise.** The feedback we were given resonated with both of us. It gave us an opportunity to see ourselves through someone else's eyes! It also gave us an opportunity to consider things we had not considered before.
- **Takeaway.** This exercise highlights what we discussed when studying the role of God's Word in our lives – transformation is not transformation until others can see it. True heart transformation leads to transformed behavior, which can lead to peace!

Homework Assignment: If you don't have a vision, ask yourself, “What do I need to learn in the coming months and what change should what I learn produce in my life?” Your vision should answer the question, “What do I need power from the Holy Spirit to change?”

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 [wow2women.com](http://www.wow2women.com).

² The questions for this exercise can be found in “Bringing Our Thoughts to Christ” located under Group Documents on the Documents page of the website: <http://www.wow2women.com/documents.html>.”



ATTACHMENT: My 2014 Vision

2014 Vision: To learn how to walk in humility, focus, and alacrity [a quick and cheerful readiness to do something : promptness in response : cheerful readiness].

Humility Verse: James 1:19-20: ¹⁹So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath, ²⁰for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

Humility will teach me how to listen more to have a teachable spirit and to be able to hear the other person's needs rather than inflicting my will upon them!

Focus Verse: Proverbs 29:18: Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.

Focus provides me the restraint I need to stay on track with God's vision for the group as well as for me; therefore, rather than just give a lot of information, teach them how to apply the information, so God's Word can create our boundaries.

Alacrity Verse: Colossians 3:23-24: ²³And whatever you do, do it heartily, as for the Lord and not to men, ²⁴knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance, for you serve the Lord Christ.

Alacrity overcomes procrastination! By focusing on doing what I do for the Lord, I can better prioritize what needs to be done. As God spoke to my heart awhile back, priority does not mean only, but it does mean before other things. As result, my ministry priorities are time with God, caring for my husband and our home, and then taking care of the needs of the group and others. Each day, I will create a plan for that day that reflects these priorities remembering I serve the Lord Christ.

Prayer: Father, I come to You in the name of Jesus, thanking You for Who You are, for the blood of Jesus that allows me to come boldly before the throne of grace to obtain mercy and grace to help in my time of need, and for Your love that surrounds me each and every moment of each and every day. Father, today, I pray I will be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath, for my wrath does not produce Your righteousness. As I go through my day, help me to focus on the vision your Word provides and the revelation that comes from the Holy Spirit, because when I lose sight of Your vision and revelation, I cast off restraint, but happy am I when I keep Your law. Father, whatever I do today, I will do it heartily with a quick and cheerful readiness, as for the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord I will receive the reward of the inheritance, for I serve the Lord Christ. I thank You Father for leading me and guiding me through this day that I may bring glory, honor, and praise to Your name! In Jesus' name. Amen!