



Meeting Notes: Gifts, Unity, and Vision (June 25, 2014)

These notes capture our June 25, 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: Gifts, Unity, and Vision

- **Overview:** This was our final June 2014 Raising Godly Women (RGW) session, so both RGW and WoW² small groups came together to share about their gifts, to ask questions as needed, and to share experiences. Gifts assessments were passed out to WoW² ladies who had not previously received one.
- **Sharing our gifts:** The RGW ladies began by sharing their gifts. Interestingly, everyone present had mercy and compassion in common. Next, the WoW² ladies discussed their gifts. Since it has been awhile since we did our assessments, we had to be reminded of what our gifts were! Of particular interest (in both groups) is many were surprised by their gifts, but others could see how the gifts fit the surprised person. Finally, the older women encouraged the younger ladies to recognize there are times we are afraid to operate in our gifts, because they seem too big for us! While being afraid is normal, don't get stuck there. As was shared, walk in obedience to God's Word and the gifts will reveal themselves. **Takeaway.** Let God work the gift in us, rather than us trying to work the gift.
- **Purpose of God's gifts in the body.** In short, God's gifts are meant to edify and mature believers in the body of Christ. We looked at Ephesians 4:11-16. The mothers were charged with discussing Scriptures of how the gifts are used in the body with their daughters. Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-25, and Ephesians 4:1-6 are some suggested Scriptures.
- **How to use our gifts in daily living.**
 - **Within our family:** One way all of us can use our gifts in our daily living is

to use them within our families. As someone pointed out, our family is our training ground. For example, since all the younger ladies had gifts of mercy and compassion, we asked how they could use those gifts in their family. Honoring their parents was one suggestion. We had a very meaningful discussion about what that looks like. We began by defining "honor." Short version is it means to value. In applying this concept, they shared several ways they could value their parents: listen to them, do what they teach them, and pay attention to them. As part of the discussion, the question arose, "How do you handle it when your parents are doing what they tell you not to do?" We encouraged them to communicate with their parents in a calm tone of voice, for Proverbs 15:1 says a soft answer turns away wrath. We also encouraged them to use their gifts of mercy and compassion to change how they interact with their parents. For example, rather than letting anger boil over, pray about the situation before talking to their parents. We also talked about not making assumptions that their parents know how they feel. Instead, communicate those feelings to them in a respectful way.

- **Compassion to anger:** We talked about how compassion can turn to anger, especially when we feel like someone is being mistreated. Since mercy and compassion are such strong motivating factors, those gifts need to be tempered. Walking in the gift of wisdom is one way to temper compassion so it doesn't turn to anger.
- **Gifts vs fruit.** Spiritual gifts are not the same as the fruit of the Spirit. Spiritual gifts are from God. The fruit of the Spirit comes from our obedience to God.
- **Unity and gifts.** We discussed how walking in our gifts helps create unity. Each of us has specific gifts; each gift is like a puzzle piece. When we use our gifts, all the puzzle pieces fall into place, but when we don't, the puzzle remains incomplete and we fail to mature.
- **Unity and vision.** We discussed if the vision is not shared, you can't get help achieving the vision. But, if everyone knows the vision, we can move together in that direction. For example, if we all know the vision for WoW2 is for us to be able to apply the Word to our lives, then we can all work towards that common goal during our meetings. The result is we go from having a corporate vision to having an individual vision that produces growth in each of us.
- **Closing out the evening.** We closed out the evening with each person sharing her takeaway. In addition, the WoW2 ladies shared what we have learned about our spiritual gifts to encourage the RGW ladies. Here are some takeaway nuggets:
 - Even if our family doesn't have a vision, they can benefit from the growth we experience as a result of our personal vision.

- Don't try to take your gift and manipulate it to look like something from the world. Look to the Holy Spirit for your example, not the world.
- Learning our gifts are not just character traits, but are something God deposits in us, brought awareness and appreciation for our gifts.
- Gifts can create unity because we are all part of one body.
- Trust in the Lord when something related to a gift seems too big for us.
- Ask when we need understanding.
- Gifts are not always comfortable. Sometimes, we have to learn how to embrace our gifts as the Holy Spirit matures us in using them.
- Gifts can be good or bad, and we get to choose how to use them. For example, a good gift like compassion can turn bad if we allow it to become an anger that controls us.

Homework Assignment: Mothers are to talk with their daughters about how to use their gifts in their family and in the body of Christ. WoW² women are to prepare for our Spirit Check in July.

Next Meeting: We will be off on July 2, 2014 for the 4th of July Holiday. Our next meeting will be a Spirit Check on July 9, 2014.

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