



Meeting Notes: Anniversary Celebration (October 2, 2013)

The last three meetings have been dedicated to Raising Godly Women (RGW). RGW participants are currently receiving Meeting Notes via email. These notes capture our October 2, 2013 meeting, during which we celebrated our nine-year anniversary and cast vision for the upcoming year, both as a group and as individuals. 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.

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

Social Time: We opened our evening by celebrating October birthdays.

Looking back at Last October:

- **Journal notes.** We revisited my journal notes from last October to jog our memories about our group vision. Some notes we understood, some we did not, but we definitely remembered why overcoming judgment was both a group vision and my personal vision. The notes (as captured in my journal) are attached.
- **Reflections.** We finally remembered “clinical” referred to not feeling a person’s heart for you in a particular situation; this was part of our discussion on having trust and faith in the person giving you advice. We could not reflect on sentences or thoughts left hanging, such as “what you don’t know,” and “two ways to information and knowledge.” The rest of the notes we were able to reflect on what we discussed that evening. **Takeaway:** Meeting Notes will help us do a better review next October!

Discussion Topic: Vision – Past and Present

- **Reflecting on last year:**
 - **As a group.** Our newer members seemed more restricted by the group’s vision last year to overcome judgment than those who had been attending for a while. We noted, however, having a group vision provided more structure for the discussion, as did the discussion format we adopted in April. However, we are continuing to seek the right balance between structure and transparency to maintain the intimacy God has called us to. **Takeaway.** Parameters are not always bad, because they helped one person learn to focus her thoughts on her response to the situation rather than on what the other person was doing.

- **As an individual.** We discussed our vision, where we are now, and our next steps forward. However, one of us never received a vision last year, but what she learned is God was testing what she said was in her heart. Her journey distinguished between what she knew and what she believed, for our actions follow our beliefs! **Takeaway.** There comes a time when we just have to walk in what we know. **Takeaway.** Some visions are “heart visions;” while other visions are goals. For example, judging was a heart vision, but learning how to better manage time is a goal. **Takeaway.** When we don’t have a heart vision, it’s probably time to walk in what we know. It’s also a good time to consider working on some life goals!
- **Casting Vision:** October 2013 – October 2014.
 - **Group’s 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.”
 - **Memory Verse.** Mark 4:24: “²⁴Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you, and to you who hear, more will be given ²⁵For whoever has, to him more will be given, but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him” (NKJV).
 - **Key points.** We read and discussed Mark 4:10-13. Between giving the parable of the sower and the seed and explaining what it means, Jesus discusses how we see and hear. When pondering Mark 4:24, my mind turned towards our T-Time on faith.¹ I shared this modified version of my journal entry during group: “If I hear the seed (Word) with faith, with whatever measure of faith I have when I hear [(going back to the T on faith)], that’s the same measure of faith that will be measured to me, and [when I hear with great faith] even more [faith] will be given on top of what I have. But, if I don’t hear with [great] faith, eventually what Word I do have will be taken away because I didn’t hear with [great] faith!” **Takeaway.** If we hear with ears of faith, we will respond in a way that will help us continue pressing forward to the saving of our souls; however, if we allow fear, doubt, or unbelief to taint our faith, we will eventually draw back to perdition [ruin or loss²].
 - **Individual visions.** Some are continuing visions, others are beginning new visions, and some are in transition and not really sure what’s next. **Takeaway.** Regardless of where you in the process, the most important thing is to have a plan for going forward.

¹ This T can be found in the study on Faith located on the Meeting Notes page of the website: www.wow2women.com. The notes dated August 7, 2013 begin the discussion and more information is given in the notes dated August 14, 2013.

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

- **Additional discussion.**
 - **Why reset in October.** Someone asked why do we reset our visions in October. The answer is because that is when God created the group. That way, we can reset as a group and as individuals and be more in line with God's timing than our own.
 - **Overcoming the pain of obedience.** Someone asked about the times when pain causes us to hesitate in obeying God. We recognized whenever we obey, eventually our heart catches up with our decision to obey, for it's our obedience that helps us learn how to get through the pain! **Takeaway.** The only way to get over the pain is to go through the pain!
 - **Protecting ourselves from our protectors.** After someone shared her testimony, we discussed our friends may sometimes give us advice that comes from their love for us more than it comes from their love of what God's Word says. In those times, our friends just want to protect us from further pain, but we have to make sure we follow where God's Word leads, even when our friends (or family) don't agree. In this instance, the fruit of her testimony clearly glorifies God and His faithfulness!
- **Developing a Plan for Growth:** To help facilitate growth, we are implementing the following changes in group:
 - **Accountability partners.** Each person in the group will have at least one accountability partner. This person will ask you the hard questions, such as are you spending time with the Lord, when was the last time you prayed, and why haven't you been attending group. They are also available to help you through tough times or to help catch you up if you have missed group. The accountability partners are not intended to change the relationship dynamics that already exist within group. They are intended to enhance them by expanding the net of individuals watching over each other!
 - **Using the resources God has given us.**
 - **Website.** We had an instance during group where someone asked a question that was already answered in previous Meeting Notes. Rather than try to explain it (especially since I could barely explain it the first time), I referred her to the specific notes where she can find an answer. If she still doesn't understand after reading the notes, we can go over it together. **Takeaway.** The website will become more of a resource for answering questions and providing clarity for topics we've already discussed.

- **Journals.** For those who journal, whenever we are faced with a challenge, we are encouraged to go back through our journals to see what God has already spoken. Several of us have experienced the benefits of this already. Often times, we will find something recorded in our journal that helps us through our current trial. This doesn't mean to try to go through things alone when we need help. It does mean that after we've talked with our accountability partner to get through our emotions (or someone has spoken with me), we will be encouraged to go back through our journal.

Exercise: We used three different bananas to illustrate various levels of maturity: a green banana, a yellow banana, and a brown banana. We likened each piece of fruit to our level of maturity. The overall message was to share in the right season. We discussed reasons people don't share, such as fear. We also noted sharing creates a connection which completes the transfer of knowledge. For example, in sharing our testimony, we connect with others who relate to our testimony; in the process, they can learn something through us. However, if we hold things in, we impact others, both in their ability to grow and their ability to help others, including us. **Takeaway.** We are only as good as the person next to us, because when one of us suffers, we all suffer!

Group Dynamics: We wrapped up our evening doing a little "housekeeping." We discussed several topics related to group dynamics, i.e. encouraging emails, celebrating birthdays, and snacks. Details were distributed via email to current group members.

Homework Assignments:

- **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.
- **Review the armor.** Focus on the purpose of each piece, how to apply each piece, and how to keep it on.

Next Meeting: We will review the armor in preparation for resuming that study.

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.



ATTACHMENT: JOURNAL ENTRY FROM OCTOBER 3, 2012

- It won't feel good, but it is good.
- God is preparing us to give birth
- What you don't know
- Protecting myself
- Two ways to information and knowledge
- You have to trust and have faith in the person giving you the info
- Intimacy
- Arms open/heart exposed
- Clinical
- Praying in the midst of
- Expectations
- Trusting
- The difference in discernment and judgment
- [We] promise to examine ourselves when something is going on
- Seeking Him and not the answer!
- Difference in examining and judgment
- [T-Times we need to revisit:] Span of Control, The Garden of Eden, What Does it Mean to Be Saved, The Soils
- Don't be the man!
- Love covers a multitude of sins
- You can only examine your own heart – examining someone else's heart is judgment