
MEETING NEWSLETTER

Ephesians 1:11-14

Welcome to WoW², Women of Worship, Women of Witness. This newsletter captures topics discussed during our January 19, 2021 meeting. The newsletter may not capture everything, and the topics may not be in the exact order discussed. The newsletter is intended to capture key points from our evening together, with like topics being grouped together for convenience. We hope you are blessed as you join us on our journey.

CURRENT VISION. “*Grace Like a Flood.*” We will learn how to approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so we will be able to obtain mercy and grace to help in our time of need.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE. **Hebrews 4:16:** “Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need (NIV).”

DECLARATION OF FAITH. **We will** cultivate a safe place to grow in a peaceful environment by embracing our diversity, so each of us can learn according to her need, so we can operate in our gifts. **We will** operate according to the established guidelines of our group, all of which will help us to go boldly before the throne of grace to obtain mercy and grace to help for the transformation that comes as God sanctifies us through and through. **The outcome** of our sanctification will be a deeper level of trust in God, so we are not leaning on our own understanding, but acknowledging Him in all our ways, so He can direct our paths.

Opening. We opened our evening with “Redeemed,” by Big Daddy Weave.

TOPICS DISCUSSED. We discussed Ephesians 1:11-14.

Ephesians 1:11-14. We summarized these verses with we received an inheritance; He chose us in advance; we heard the gospel, we believed, and we were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit; the Jews trusted in Him first, and they were to bring praise and glory to God. Through the Jews, the nations would be blessed.

Other nuggets from our discussion:

- We talked about the mystery of the Gentiles was always a part of God’s plan, the concept of being chosen, and how some will reject the Word of God.

- God has buried wisdom in us.
- The apostle Paul was laying out a deeper understanding. God had a plan. He laid it out. The believers were now getting the plan, because God chose to lay it out.
- The general mystery ... God sent His Son to redeem us. Believers understand that.
- The more we connect with the Spirit, the more He opens up the mystery to us. The Holy Spirit will reveal deeper mysteries to those who choose to go deeper.
- In verses 11-13, we noted how we received an inheritance. After hearing the truth, we believed it, and we're now sealed and have obtained an inheritance.
- We discussed being prechosen/predestined. This is something that can make those who don't know Christ feel left out. So, we had an in-depth discussion on that. We looked at the history of Abraham. That Abraham was a Gentile is not something we often think about. While he was still a Gentile, God had an encounter with Abraham (then Abram), and set Abraham and his descendants apart as a chosen people. Not because of what Abraham did, but because of God's plan. Scriptures teach us about Jewish people who did not believe in or accept Jesus while He was on earth. Even now, not all those of Jewish descent choose to believe in Jesus. Likewise, we as Gentiles have to choose. God places the opportunity before us. We have to choose to accept it. The simplest example is the visual of a marriage. The man proposes, but that doesn't always mean she says yes.
- We discussed it's very important to read Scripture in context. That means, at a minimum, read before and after. It's best to read Scripture in its fullness, and to explain it in its fullness. In its fullness, we learn that those who reject Jesus are making a choice to do so. More importantly, we know from 2 Peter 3:9, that God doesn't want anyone to perish.
- We discussed how genuine repentance always precedes change.
- We discussed in v14 the Spirit is a down payment/guarantee of our inheritance. We also looked at Romans 6:23, 2 Corinthians 1:22, and 2 Corinthians 5:5.
- Because the wages of sin is death, there is always a cost involved in sin; however, Jesus paid that cost when He redeemed us.

- We looked at 2 Corinthians 5:5 and how we are fashioned for a purpose. This brought to mind the song, “Built for This,” by Maverick City.
- We discussed how with each generation, God got closer and closer until He was finally living in us. It began with God’s Spirit being with the Hebrews. Then, Jesus came and dwelt among man. Those generations communed with Him as He revealed Himself as the Son of God. When Jesus left, He gave His Spirit within us. We are the generation of the Holy Spirit! Thus, we have the ultimate intimacy with him!
- We reiterated the Holy Spirit is the down payment on our inheritance.
- We discussed whether or not we’re communing with the Holy Spirit. Are we acknowledging Him? Are we communing with Him?
- The value we place on our inheritance determines what we do with it. What we do with our inheritance determines how it develops. How our inheritance develops impacts whether or not we receive the fullness of our inheritance. In other words, do we inherit all the spiritual blessings God intends for us?
- Our ultimate inheritance is eternal life. The same Spirit that rose Jesus from the dead will raise us up from the dead as well!

Nuggets from our Takeaways.

- In every generation (pre-Christ, Christ, post-Christ), God got closer and closer! Yet each generation seems to go further from Him and reject Him more! Thankfully, where sin abounds grace abounds much more also, and we have His grace to help us.
- We have to realize we have the Holy Spirit as our inheritance. What does that really mean? God reveals to us through the Spirit, and He is the one who brings the change. So, let’s not underestimate the Holy Spirit’s importance in our lives as we seek to know and to understand Him better!
- It’s important to remember, God fashioned us. He made us for a purpose.
- When it comes to inheritance, we have to know we have it, and we have to cash it in. Spiritually, we have to know we have an inheritance in Christ and then access the blessings that are ours through that inheritance.

Closing our discussion. We collected our prayer requests for the evening, and then played “Built for this” before closing in prayer.

Song(s) for the week: “Redeemed” by Big Daddy Weave, (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzGAYNKDylU>) and “Built for This” featuring Bishop Brian Moore and Chandler Moore, (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzGAYNKDylU>).

Homework Assignment(s): If possible, read through Ephesians 1:15-22.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 26, 2021. This will be our first 2021 Social!

Closing: We closed in prayer for the needs 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.