
MEETING NEWSLETTER

Ephesians 2

Welcome to WoW², Women of Worship, Women of Witness. This newsletter captures topics discussed during our February 9, 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 “Spirit Move,” by Kalley Heiligenthal.

TOPICS DISCUSSED. We discussed Ephesians chapter 2.

Ephesians 2. We summarized these verses with humility, stewardship, gratitude, hope for eternity, along with working in unity. In unity, we’re stronger together. Moreover, our purpose starts here, and it continues into eternity.

Nuggets from our discussion: These nuggets are our Cliff Notes, as it were. So, if something is too vague or just doesn’t make sense, compare it to what the Scripture says. That way, you’ll be able to distinguish our revelations from what is in the Bible. Even with that, we encourage you to pray about our revelations, for they are simply that—revelations we received to help us apply what we are learning to our everyday lives.

- V1-3.
 - We were once like the world, dead in our transgressions and sins. At that time, we all were following the ways of the world and the “ruler of the power of the air,” meaning this ruler was our lord, and we were his children. In addition, some translations identify this ruler as Satan. Furthermore, this ruler is still at work in those who are disobedient to God. Paul goes on to describe how all of us, to include him, used to live gratifying the cravings of our flesh following its desires and thoughts.
 - Because of Adam and the Fall of Man (Genesis 3), we were born into a sin nature, making us children of wrath, and thus deserving of God’s wrath.

- V4-7.
 - It’s because of God and not because of us that we have salvation. Through God’s great love for us, we gained salvation; we are now alive and no longer walking around dead, and even when we were out here causing a ruckus, it’s like He said, “I got you!”
 - Positionally, Christ is in the heavenly realms, and when we are in Christ, we are also in the heavenly realms with Him; this positioning is part of the spiritual blessings mentioned in Ephesians 1:3.
 - V7 tells us the purpose for why we’re raised in heavenly places.
 - While discussing and reflecting on God showing the surpassing riches of His grace, we noted, if we’re smart, we’d see how to treat others, but instead, the enemy uses us to attack others. As one sister said, it’s like God is saying to us, “Listen, children of wrath. Let me take you off this path and put you on another path that would be better for you, and all you have to do is believe, repent, and praise.”
 - Everything the apostle Paul is sharing is all a part of God’s plan for Him to be glorified. God’s plan points others to Him, which took us back to the phrase in Ephesians 1:14, “to the praise and glory of God” (CSB). As He pours out His grace on us, we send Him the praise He is due. Because we are so in awe of who God is and so undeserving of His grace, we give Him praise and glory.

- Salvation is not about the goodness in us, but the goodness in God’s Son.
- God has the bragging rights! However, those that don’t want to submit to Him will find the gospel hard to believe, because it is all about Him and not about us. Therefore, if you’re looking at the gospel on a surface level, you don’t see how it’s about Him. And, knowing someone has the upper hand can make it hard to yield to God.
- One of our sisters shared something she had tweeted, “In order to crave Him, you have to taste Him.” That thought comes from Psalm 34:8.
- V8-10.
 - Salvation is a gift. We can’t earn it. We can’t work for it. It had nothing to do with us, so we shouldn’t get the big head.
 - We were created with a purpose, which cross references to Ephesians 1:11. Moreover, God prepared in advance the things He created for us to do. It’s also probable the good works don’t end here. Because of the book of Revelation and what it says about our lives in eternity, we may well have roles in Heaven. There, all the nations and the tongues come together in eternity, making our time on earth just a continuum, or a point in the journey! So, we concluded, God is training us now for eternity.
 - There’s no time stamp on v10. The open-endedness of this verse reminded us of “teach me to number my days” found in Psalm 90:12.
- V11-13
 - We once had no hope, but in Christ, we now have hope.
 - Paul specifically called out the Gentiles, because Israel already had the covenant promises of God.
- V14-18.
 - There shouldn’t be any division within the body of Christ.
 - Christ is our peace between Jews and Gentiles.
 - God’s purpose was to create one new humanity; the two become one. He brought two **pieces** together to make one **peace**.

- Abraham was a Gentile first. God then called him out of everything he knew. Abraham's calling led us back to the plan of saving all humanity. Since Abraham was a Gentile before God chose Him, that led us to believe, even then, God was thinking about His plan of salvation for the Gentiles.
- There are those who choose to accept Jesus and those who don't. This reminded us of Luke 12:51-53 which tells us how households and families will be divided because of Christ, and John 14:6, which tells us everyone needs Christ to have access to the Father. Thus, this division happens when families divide over who will believe in Christ and who won't; it's not a division between Believers.
- V19-22
 - We, as Gentiles, have joined the Jewish people as part of God's family.
 - God's household is built on the foundation of the apostles, prophets, and Christ as the chief cornerstone. The Old Testament prophesied about Christ. The New Testament disciples met Christ. Christ became the chief cornerstone, and the disciples became the apostles that shared Christ with the world.
 - Since, the Ephesians were builders, Paul's analogies made sense to them. In essence, like any other building, God's people are coming together. Each of us becomes a brick in the spiritual temple He's now building. Therefore, if we're all bricks, but have the big head, how can we come into unity. Moreover, the whole building gets wobbly when a brick is out of place. Furthermore, if we're built as a temple, and we're not taking care of our body, we can't support other bricks, and the whole building gets weakened!!

Nuggets from our Takeaways.

- The seeds of God's Word planted in our heart came out, so we were able to cross reference certain passages in Ephesians with other passages we already know.
- If we're not taking care of our body as His temple, it can impact our ability to do the work He created us to do.

- We're no better than anyone else. Salvation was a gift, but we need to take care of our faith, so we don't lose hope. Besides, who wants to lose their hope. But sometimes, we don't understand hope is what we're losing.

Closing our discussion. We collected our prayer requests for the evening, and then closed in prayer.

Song(s) for the week: "Spirit Move" by Kalley Heiligenthal, (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tbdSQ8MLnYs>), and "Because of Who You Are" by Martha Munizzi, (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owxwoWXoKWY>), and "Reasons" by Unspoken (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3vTmjcv1fk>).

Homework Assignment(s): Listen to the words to "Man of Your Word," (live version) by Maverick City (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TrVCZF-4pl>).

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. The current plan is to begin discussing Ephesians, chapter 3.

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.