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## MEETING NEWSLETTER

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### My Heart Might Be By The Wayside If ...

Welcome to WoW<sup>2</sup>, Women of Worship, Women of Witness. We did not meet on February 11<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>; therefore, this newsletter captures our discussion on February 25<sup>th</sup>. The newsletter does 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: Thriving in the Wilderness. We will cultivate** a safe place to grow in a peaceful environment by preparing the soil of our heart to receive and respond to God's guidance, anchoring ourselves in the Holy Spirit. **We will operate** according to the established guidelines of our group, all of which will bring to light the changes we need to make in our lives, so we can gain the nourishment necessary to grow as individuals and as a group.

**Thriving**, while in the Wilderness, **will be the outcome of our growth.**

**TOPICS DISCUSSED.** During this meeting, we discussed the following:

**Lesson 2 – My Heart Might Be By the Wayside If.** Since we had not met in two weeks, both attendees emailed me a copy of their Takeaway page. I consolidated their answers into a single document (see attached) and sent it to them to look at before group. We were all surprised at the harmony of their answers. Below are additional notes I took while discussing their responses:

- **God expects us to struggle.** Even though we know God wants us to obey, we discussed how He knows us well enough to actually expect us to struggle, but we expect Him to help us through. We looked at the analogy of, because we know our children's weaknesses, there are times we expect them to struggle, but at some point, we also expect them to learn. God is no different with us. **Takeaway.** It's okay to struggle while we're learning!
- **The enemy knows our weaknesses.** Not only does he know our weaknesses, but he uses them against us. Thus, we should try to remember what our weaknesses are and how they are leading into our circumstances. Moreover, we all have different strengths and weaknesses, so when we come together, we get to see a much bigger picture! And, that's why we should go into battle as an army to bring our strengths together to

cover each other's weaknesses! Coming together is how we lock our shields together to cover each other in battle! **Takeaway.** When we come together as an army, we can use our strengths to help each other! Therefore, we all need each other!

- **Every. Time.** I shared someone asked me does the enemy come to steal the Word every time we hear it, and the answer is yes! Not only is he trying to steal the written Word, he is also trying to steal what the Father speaks in that still small voice He uses to communicate with us. Thus, if I hear something and doubt creeps in, that doubt is from the enemy, because he is not going to attack what he said. Think about the Garden of Eden and when Jesus was in the wilderness. He attacked what God said. **Takeaway.** The enemy will not attack what he said. He will only attack what God said!
- **Different responses.** There are times we don't need to hear something specific from the Lord, because we already know what to do, but are struggling with doing it. Other times, we will hear something specific in a situation. Either way, the ultimate goal is to obey what we heard, for obedience leads to breakthrough! **Takeaway.** There are times we already know what to do and there are other times God will give us a specific Word for the situation. Either way, our obedience will lead to breakthrough!
- **Different types of offenses.** We noted two different types of offense and that we can be in one or both of them at any given time:
  - **Offense that makes you angry.** If offense makes us angry, we're sitting in pride. We may say we've forgiven, but we really haven't. We have to let the anger go in order to fully forgive.
  - **Offense that leads to hurt.** When offense creates hurt in our heart, we can forgive, but because we're grieving the loss of what was, we can still have pain.
  - **Takeaway.** It's easier to be angry than it is to be hurt, because hurt makes us feel weak. But, in order to truly forgive we have to let go of the anger, and we have to release that person from any debt we feel they owe us, to include an apology!
- **Knowing what to do vs Knowing how to do it.** One of the things we can do is to ask ourselves what do we know from God's Word about our situation? If it's something we know how to do, but don't want to do it, we're in disobedience, which means the Word

fell on rocky soil. In those times, we can ask God for His grace to help us in our time of weakness. However, if it's something we don't know how to do, we lack the understanding we need to obey God, which means the Word fell by the wayside. In those times, we can ask God for understanding. **Takeaway.** When the word falls by the wayside, we don't know HOW to do something, so ask God for understanding. When the Word falls on the rocky, we know what to do, but DON'T WANT to, so ask God for grace to obey. Thus, the wayside is a matter of gaining understanding, but the rocky is gaining God's grace to obey.

- **Peeking ahead to the good ground.** We discussed two keys to the Word falling on good ground: we have to accept it AND not reject it!
- **Peeking ahead to lesson 3.** Lesson 3 was passed out between meetings, so in order to help with a specific challenge one of us is facing, we looked at page 22:

“...until we are in obedience to Him, our circumstances will always have the upper hand. That's why it's important to not dwell on why something is happening to you, because it does not help you move forward; instead it keeps you tied to your pain and trapped in your trials. Trust me on that one. Please. I went through it enough while overcoming my outbursts of anger.”

“I've also walked through the healing process enough times to know, if the Father wants us to know why something happened, He'll reveal it. Otherwise, we have to trust Him and leave all those whys in His hands. Instead, we can ask Him to reveal the trigger—our why—causing our reaction. Then, we can turn to Him and His Word, prayerfully seeking His answer and His help to respond in a way that honors Him.

- **When seeking confirmation.** We have to be able to discern between earthly (worldly) confirmation and godly confirmation. We especially have to be careful when receiving confirmation from our friends, because if they are trying to protect us, they may unintentionally give us worldly confirmation. However, if it's Godly confirmation, it will line up with His character **Takeaway.** Ensure any confirmation we receive lines up with God's character.
- **Free will.** We're still growing in understanding how to be okay with how other people's free will impacts us.

**Homework Assignment(s):**

- Finish lesson 3, which was distributed between meetings.

**Next Meeting:** Our next meeting is Night of Prayer on March 3rd. In addition, we moved our first social up to April 7th; we will have a night of cooking to prepare one meal in the Instant Pot and one in the Air Fryer! The updated calendar has been placed on the website.

**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](mailto:wow2@wow2women.com) or complete a Contact Form on our site [www.wow2women.com](http://www.wow2women.com).*

## LESSON 2 - WAYSIDE ATTACHMENT: CONSOLIDATES RESPONSES

### TAKEAWAY: What is the one thing that stood out to you in this lesson?

*\* The enemy manipulates my emotions to distract me and my thoughts towards circumstances and away from God, His Word, and His love.*

*\* That your heart has to be open and you have to be vested in God. Look to Him and not your circumstances.*

### Now, let's submit our H.E.A.R.T. to the Lord:

#### H – As you reflect on this lesson, what, if anything, do you HEAR from the Lord?

*\* Allow the Holy Spirit to redirect your thoughts. Be still and quiet. Try to remember that you are so loved.*

*\* Don't allow Satan to have your focus on your circumstance. Ask the Holy Spirit for understanding, connect with other believers to keep you focused.*

#### E - What does He EXPECT of you and what do you EXPECT of Him?

*\* He expects me to struggle. I expect Him to help me through.*

*\* He expects me to trust Him. I expect Him to show me the way and clearer understanding of His way for me.*

#### A – What do you need to do to ACT upon what you heard, so it will become part of your daily living?

*\* Make time for that quiet time every day.*

*\* Stop listening to outsiders, stop sharing with outsiders. Stop letting my emotions run me.*

#### R - What disturbs your ability to REST in what you heard?

*\* The cares and desires of the world. Distractions and other things that pull on my time.*

*\* Me, standing in my own way.*

#### T - What disturbs your ability to TRUST what you heard?

*\* Weariness → Stress makes it hard to remember that I do trust Him.*

*\* I trust what I heard. I just need to be obedient and not selfish.*