
MEETING NEWSLETTER

Night of Prayer

Welcome to WoW², Women of Worship, Women of Witness. This newsletter captures our first 2020 Night of Prayer held on March 3rd. 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. We held our first Night of Prayer. To keep things simple, the topics below consolidate what I captured as we discussed revelations received during and after we prayed. This helps us be transparent while still maintaining our confidentiality.

- **“Everything is not about you.”** This was a very powerful statement spoken early on in the evening. It also included the admonition to **surrender**. Some things that hinder our ability to surrender are when we don't recognize our need for Him. Instead, we try to do it all, by doing things all alone. In addition, there are times when we're being distracted without realizing it. **Takeaway.** In order to surrender to the Lord, we have to first acknowledge everything isn't about us!
- **Truth and trust.** We talked about receiving the truth of Romans 8:28, that God is truly working things out for our good. We also talked about how trusting God and not leaning on our own understanding, keeps us from assuming and jumping to conclusions, thereby creating chaos! We also noted we can have truth, but not trust. **Takeaway.** Knowing the Father really is working things out for our good helps us trust Him instead of leaning on our own understanding.
- **The benefits of our current study.** The lessons are helping us to get through life's circumstances. One thing we've learned is that it's okay to ask God for things. In

James, we are taught, we have not because we ask not! However, in asking, we need to check our motives! We also learned we have to examine our thoughts, because our thoughts control our emotions. **Takeaway.** Asking with the right motives is okay!

- **Processing our emotions in a healthy way.** Learning how to deal with our emotions when we've had them stuffed in a box can be challenging. We have to learn how to embrace our emotions, without being overly guarded in an effort to self-protect, without allowing the intensity of them to "make us crazy." **Takeaway.** If we've shut our emotions down for too long, when we start to feel again, it can be overwhelming.
- **Planting seeds.** The Father expects us to remember what we heard, and we expect Him to always remind us. A great nugget I wrote down to help with this is to "actively listen for His guidance." In addition, it's important to always go back to the Word and what He said; it also helps to pray for clarity about what we heard! Moreover, we learned there are times seeds are being planted and we don't even realize it! Likewise, even when we don't think we're getting what we're learning, we are! **Takeaway.** We know what to do, because the seeds are there, even when we don't know it!
- **Full circle.** We discussed the song, "Just Be Held," by Casting Crowns. It was a moment that brought me back full circle to when I was ready to give up on group! **Takeaway.** The Lord has a way of reminding us of moments when He sustained us!
- **A rebuke and encouragement from the Lord.** Before we started group, I prayed Psalms 95:8 over us, and then again just before we began Night of Prayer. After praying and preparing my heart to receive, I was led to read Jeremiah 13:1-11 (attached). I encourage you to read it for yourself, but what initially stood out to me is the commonality between v11, "but they would not hear" and the admonition in Psalm 95:8 to "not harden your hearts as Israel did in the wilderness" (NLT). As I followed where I was being led, here are the most prevalent things I made note of:
 - **Our pride.** To gain a better understanding of the verses in Jeremiah, I looked at the notes in the Life Application Bible and found this, "...Although the people had once been close to God, their **pride** had made them useless. Proud people may look important, but God says their pride makes them look good for nothing, completely useless. Pride rots our hearts until we lose our usefulness to God" (13:1-11) (emphasis added).

- **The sash/loincloth.** I also looked at the sash. It's the equivalent of a loincloth, which reminded me of the armor of God and how we are to have our loins gird about with truth (Ephesians 6:14). The armor begged the questions, "How useful is our loincloth?" and "Is the truth in our belt that of God or that of our own making?" We also discussed how we need to fortify our armor, but it's not ours. It's His, because He gave it to us, and we also need His help to wear it.
- **The place.** God told Jeremiah to take the sash/loincloth to "Euphrates," which Strong's application defines as meaning "to break forth" and "fruitfulness."¹ That meant, at God's direction, Jeremiah took the sash to a place that represented fruitfulness, hid it in a hole, and when he went back to get it, "it was **profitable** for nothing."
- **The outcome.** I also looked up "profitable" in Strong's application and found "to push {forward},"² which led to this, "If I were to sum up what I take from all of this it would be that, even though we can be in a place of fruitfulness, our pride can cause us to not be fruitful!" That thought brought several Scriptures to mind: Proverbs 16:18, 2 Corinthians 10:4-5, and Proverbs 31:24-25. For space, I won't record them here, but I do encourage you to look them up.
- **Summing up our prayer time.** Our themes from the night were pride, surrender, truth, and trust. **TAKEAWAY.** We began with "Everything is not about you," and ended up with "We can be in a place of fruitfulness, but our pride can cause us to not produce fruit!" The key to fruit is to ensure we surrender our pride and examine our thoughts.

Homework Assignment(s): Finish lesson 3 and listen to the official lyric video of "Fear No More," by Bldg 429: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3cJFAGw3OaQ&feature=youtu.be>.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting is March 10th.

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 www.wow2women.com.

¹ Strong's with KJV iPhone Application, H6578

² Ibid, H6743

NIGHT OF PRAYER SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JEREMIAH 13:1-11

Symbol of the Linen Sash

13 Thus the Lord said to me: “Go and get yourself a linen sash, and put it around your waist, but do not put it in water.” ² So I got a sash according to the word of the Lord, and put *it* around my waist.

³ And the word of the Lord came to me the second time, saying, ⁴ “Take the sash that you acquired, which *is* around your waist, and arise, go to the Euphrates, and hide it there in a hole in the rock.” ⁵ So I went and hid it by the Euphrates, as the Lord commanded me.

⁶ Now it came to pass after many days that the Lord said to me, “Arise, go to the Euphrates, and take from there the sash which I commanded you to hide there.” ⁷ Then I went to the Euphrates and dug, and I took the sash from the place where I had hidden it; and there was the sash, ruined. It was profitable for nothing.

⁸ Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ⁹ “Thus says the Lord: ‘In this manner I will ruin the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem. ¹⁰ This evil people, who refuse to hear My words, who follow the dictates of their hearts, and walk after other gods to serve them and worship them, shall be just like this sash which is profitable for nothing. ¹¹ For as the sash clings to the waist of a man, so I have caused the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah to cling to Me,’ says the Lord, ‘that they may become My people, for renown, for praise, and for glory; but they would not hear.’