



Meeting Notes: March 19, 2024

Topic: 1 Corinthians 1:2v9-11

Current Vision: "Make Room"

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1

WELCOME to Women of Worship, Women of Witness (WoW2). March 5, 2024, was a night of personal discussion, and we did not meet on March 12, 2024. These Meeting Notes capture the essence of our discussion on March 19, 2024. Therefore, some points might be grouped together for ease in reading.

DECLARATION OF FAITH: We will walk by more faith in the things we believe, think, speak, and do to cultivate more wisdom to better put on the whole armor of God!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR EVENING. Our opening song was an expression of gratitude to the Lord for the things He has been doing in my heart. Afterwards, I read Psalm 100 and shared my testimony about being in a place to really and truly love people without all the angst that comes when you dwell on past hurts. That led to an amazing discussion. Here are some of the highlights.

- We discussed the parallel between our lives and the life of a tree, and it turns out "God" and "man" are the only living things mentioned in the Bible more than trees.¹
- We likened the peace and love I'm experiencing to how trees might feel when winter is over and spring is here. There's a newness, a stretching, as it were, and the beauty of feeling the sun again.
- The topic of tress took us to the Garden of Eden where Adam and Eve's decision-making involved the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and the Tree of Life. Like them, rather than lean on God and wait for Him to finish what He started, we tend to take things into our own hands. This is a works mentality that causes us to think we've taken care of something when we've not. Instead, we're butting in and doing what we think will develop the "thing" we're praying for rather than learning how to relax and receive from God! However, just like the tree has to wait on God, it's when we come to a place of total resignation that God steps in.

¹ BibleProject Podcast, Tree of Life, Episode 1, "Humans Are ... Trees?", <https://bibleproject.com/podcast/humans-are-trees/#:~:text=Tim%3A%20Apart%20from%20%22God%22,living%20thing%20in%20the%20Bible.>

- The Tree of Life Is in both the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:9) and Revelation 22:14, "Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates."
- Having an attitude of gratitude to see how far God has brought us and what He has done is important, because He changes us in a way behavior modification can't. Our will can change our actions, but only His Word can change our heart and renew our minds! His Holy Spirit does a work from the inside out, while our works are an outward effort to get something in.
- Sometimes, there a lot of things coming at us at once, so we have to recognize, we can't do it all, but we can focus on what God has us focused on in the season we are in.
- Just like the tree needs nutrients to grow new branches and produce fruit, so do we. The Speak-Life Challenge some of us are doing is like fertilizer to our soil. It's giving us the necessary nutrients, so we can produce buds on our branches. In due season, we will get more branches and more fruit. In the meantime, we can't rush God. Rather, do what He tells us to do and don't be looking at other "trees."
 - "The Master's Garden: An Allegory of Abiding in the Vine," by Rose Nolan is a great read that helps us to learn what it looks like to abide in Christ!²
 - Sometimes, God is calling us deeper, so despite our feelings, we have to shut down the worldliness, whatever that looks like for us, choose to press in, and do what needs to be done. Pressing in requires intentionality! It's not going to happen by accident! Even God is intentional with how He provides rain and other nutrients to the tree.
 - There is a difference in consistency and intentionality. Without intentionality, we can't be consistent! So, we're wasting time trying to be consistent with things we're not intentional about. It's when we don't feel like doing something that the rubber meets the road! Since I've been struggling with being consistent in specific areas of my life, this was a light bulb moment for me.
 - "The Pursuit of God," by A.W. Tozer is a great video series on YouTube.³ This video series was part of our discussion on

² Audio, Kindle, and paperback versions of this book are available on Amazon. See Attachment 1 for a visual of the cover.

³ The first of 13 videos can be found here: https://youtu.be/9qtT5q2VJz8?si=zPt8_1N1pUsXDGrn.

intentionality in our walk with God. Sometimes, we just have to get real and be honest with ourselves! As we look at our walk with Him, what are we doing with our time? Who or what is sitting on the throne of our heart?

- Consistency is the FRUIT of intentionality. If intentionality is a tree, it has a lot of branches. Each branch represents an area of responsibility that requires consistency; each branch also has the potential for the fruit of consistency, but it takes the proper nutrition to produce the fruit!
- We can TRY to grow the tree of consistency and complain about the results when it doesn't happen or we can allow the Holy Spirit to develop our intentionality, and consistency will come! For example, I'm working on being more consistent with cooking, but in order to do that, I have to first be intentional about the process that precedes cooking, so when it comes time to cook, I have all the resources I need to make it happen.
- We discussed the importance of correctly aligning people in our lives, much like Jesus did. He had the three closest to Him, the twelve disciples, the seventy He sent out two-by-two, and then the crowd he taught.⁴ However, His interactions with each group was different. Properly aligning people in our lives helps us and them better manage our expectations.

TAKEAWAYS:

- If we say we're making room for more of God, we have to submit to the work of the Holy Spirit when He is nudging us to be intentional in an area whether we feel like it or not. From that seed of intentionality, we will cultivate the habit of consistency in whatever area we are making room for more of God's fruit in our lives.
- Submission to intentionality will reveal who or what is sitting on the throne of our heart. This aligns with 1 Corinthians 2:9-11, which teaches how the Spirit searches everything and reveals it. Our response is to allow the Holy Spirit to search us and reveal what we need to re-evaluate in our life! Thus, intentionality is the revealing of the Spirit within us and the revealing of the Spirit to us!
- We summed up the circle of life for our tree of intentionality analogy as, "Intentionality breaks old patterns and produces consistency."

⁴ See Matthew 10:1, 17:1, 26:36-38, Luke 10:1-12, and Mark 4:1 for clarity.

Intentionality also builds new patterns and produces consistency in the new!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- We are on Day 8 of our **optional** 21-day fast which began on March 11th. We are fasting; however, the Holy Spirit leads, and if He hasn't led someone to fast, that's okay too!

SONGS FROM THE EVENING:

- Opening: "Don Moen – Thank You Lord | Live Worship Sessions, (<https://youtu.be/sax4aTgZ9dw?si=JsoHdviIwaNT3sbz>)
- Closing: We didn't have a closing song.

NEXT MEETING: March 26, 2024 @ 7:00pm to finish 2 Corinthians 2.

ATTACHMENT 1: Book Cover (The Master's Garden: An Allegory of Abiding in the Vine," by Rose Nolan)

