

**Welcome to WoW2**, Women of Worship, Women of Witness. This newsletter captures topics discussed during our March 21, 2023, meeting. It seeks to capture some, but not all, key points from our evening together, with like topics being conveniently grouped together. We hope you are blessed as you join us on our journey.

**Declaration of Faith:** We will be mindful of what we are believing, what we are saying, what we are doing, and what tools we are using as we continue moving forward.

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## OPENING

**We opened** with a video clip, "Ask Me Who I Am," from the movie, "Overcomer." After prayer, we began our discussion. The "Ask Me Who I Am" video was chosen because chapter 1 contains a lot about our identity in Christ. Therefore, our desire is to work from the end backwards by focusing on the armor, especially the belt of truth. In other words, "What truth can we take from this chapter to put in our toolbelt?"

## DISCUSSION

### Ephesians 1.

**In v1**, Paul begins with his **identity**, which led us to ask, "Do we know who we are?" Some know, some are still learning, and some are still learning, but know more than before.

**In v1**, the word "**faithful**," stood out. We are called to be "faithful in Christ" (v1).

**In v3-14, we captured our spiritual blessings in Christ:**

**V5. Sonship (Predestined & Adopted).** God predestined us for adoption through Jesus according to His perfect will, and **in His love. How much love is that?** And, we have the full rights of a "biological" child!

**V7. Redemption.** We have been redeemed through the blood of Jesus.

## Upcoming Events

### April 4

Spring Break

### April 25

Social Week

### April 29

Painting Party

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## Current Vision

Moving Forward: Walking by faith in the things we believe, think, speak, and do to cultivate wisdom and put on the whole armor of God!

## Scripture(s)

2 Corinthians 5:7; Proverbs 4:7; Ephesians 6:10-18; Hebrews 6:19-20

**Additional Verses:** Mark 9:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; Ephesians 4:29; Psalm 19:14

## Inspirational Song(s)

"Moving Forward" by Israel Houghton

## Current Study:

Ephesians

**V7. Forgiveness of sins.** Forgiveness comes through the **grace** God has given us.

**V6-8. Grace.** He has **FREELY** given us His grace. Not only has He given it, but He has **lavished** it on us!

**V8-9. Knowledge of the mystery of His will.** He made His mystery known to us **with all wisdom and understanding**. His will was purposed in Christ.

**10. Unity.** There is now **unity** between Jews and Gentiles; this happened when God ordained it to happen, so He could bring unity "to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ."

**V11. Chosen.** We were chosen **by God** as His own (Amplified).

**V13. Sealed.** We were included in Christ **when we heard the message of truth**, the gospel of our salvation. When we believed, we were marked with a seal, "the promised Holy Spirit." And **repentance is the adoption certificate** to the gospel of our salvation! Sometimes, we need to go back to our adoption certificate to remember who we are and to repent for going astray!

The **unique thing about the blessings in Christ**, is they show our **identity**. The Holy Spirit reveals to us what it means for Him to choose us. While each blessing is collective to the whole body, each is also personal to us, and everyone receives their own revelation in their own time.

One sister shared, **the revelation of these blessings changed** her perspective on how God sees her, how she thinks He sees her, and how she sees herself. We then added how we see our circumstances.

**In v13**, we are "sealed" by the Holy Spirit "**when**" we believe really stood out!

**In v14, because we are His**, we have **an inheritance**! Since, we are sealed in the Holy Spirit, the inheritance is not an option, but a right. As His, we get (fill in the blank with God's blessings). Moreover, if we can begin to see the inheritance, it will change our perspective and our prayers!

**Sometimes, we approach God like the prodigal son** thinking begging Him and expecting to live in the barn is humility, but this section combats that! **When we "mess up", we can repent.** We don't have to beg God nor sleep in the barn!



## Homework

Each week, collect our takeaways in one spot, so you'll have them when we hit the armor, so we can determine where they fit.

## Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 11, 2023 @ 7:00pm.

*If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about information contained in this document, please email us at [wow2@wow2women.com](mailto:wow2@wow2women.com) or complete a Contact Form on our website.*

In v15-23, Paul prays a beautiful prayer over the Ephesians. Our application of this prayer is to ask God to open our eyes as well! In His prayer Paul:

**Gives thanks,**

**Asks God**

- To give them the **spirit of wisdom and revelation**,
- For their **hearts to be enlightened**
  - to know the **hope** to which He called them,
  - the riches of God's glorious **inheritance** in His people,
  - and His incomparably great **power** for us who believe.

In v19, "[So that you will begin to know] (Amplified) speaks to **the personal aspect of God's power in us**. In this verse, Paul

**Describes** the power, and

**Christ's position** as a result of Him being raised from the dead--He is seated over every rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked!

**In every age, God is I AM.** He was, He is, and He is to come. No matter where you're seeing Him, He has authority across time, which gives a different perspective of our future, because He has authority there too!

**God knows** everything we go through and yet He still created us, so we are not a mistake! If we're still here, we have a purpose, and as long as we're here, we're not done yet. He still has something for us to do!

### Some highlights from our takeaways

The simplicity of the gospel and the simplicity of being adopted lies in **repentance**.

Being **adopted** as a child of God is very powerful! As His adopted children, we've been chosen; we were given a purpose, and there's a destined, preplanned pathway laid out for us. Moreover, not only did He choose us, but we chose Him as well!

Being **predestined** "in His love," **marked** with a seal, and the **Holy Spirit** being given when we FIRST believed all stood out.

**Repentance** being our certificate of adoption was very enlightening!

## RESOURCES

**Links to our inspirational Song(s)** supporting our vision:

"Israel Houghton - Moving Forward"

([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVEFGlyx1o&list=RDCVEFGlyx1o&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVEFGlyx1o&list=RDCVEFGlyx1o&start_radio=1)).

**Link to the video clip from this meeting:**

"Ask me who I am - Overcomer Movie Scene,"

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8wW6T4Vhko>)

## CLOSING

We collected our **praise reports** and **prayer requests** and then closed in prayer while listening to "In Jesus Name."