
MEETING NEWSLETTER

MY HEART MIGHT BE THORNY IF...

Welcome to WoW², Women of Worship, Women of Witness. This newsletter captures topics discussed during our meeting on March 24th. 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: 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 4 – My Heart Might be Thorny If... We finished going over everyone's verses for what came to mind regarding cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desire for other things. Some of these verses are a review from last week. Moreover, some can apply to more than one topic; however, to keep things simple, I left them where they were introduced:

- **Cares:**
 - **Proverbs 3:5-7:** The primary focus from these verses is to not lean on your own understanding, because it's so easy to do.
 - **Matthew 4:10.** This verse is about Jesus not worshipping Satan, which reminded us of a sermon by Dr. Tony Evans, "Divine Disruption" based on 2 Chronicles 15:5-6.¹ The overall message is learning how to discern the spiritual behind what we see in the physical.
 - **1 Corinthians 15:58 (AMP).** This verse highlights that walking in our calling has

¹ Evans, Tony. "Divine Disruption." *YouTube*, March 22, 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZYSxs5pS0M>

purpose, especially when we are “going over and above.” This knowledge reminded us that learning your “why” changes our perspective! When we know we’re walking in our calling, things don’t seem as hard.

- **Romans 12:1-2.** When we renew our mind, we change our perspective on a situation, which helps us overcome our cares.
- **Hebrews 12:1.** The word “witness” in this verse inspired us to remember someone is always watching us, especially our children. We can see the value in our children watching the Father parent us!

- **Riches:**

- **Philippians 4:19.** God is the one who supplies all our needs out of His riches, not ours!
- **Matthew 6:19-21.** These verses teach us the importance of not laying up our treasures here on earth, but in Heaven! This reminded me of a verse my Mom taught me, “Cast your bread upon the waters, For you will find it after many days” (Ecclesiastes 11:1). In other words, be generous on earth and focus on our eternal treasures in Heaven.

- **Pleasures:**

- **Galatians 5:16:** This was a reminder that if we walk in the Spirit, we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.
- **James 4:2.** We reiterated, Father is not just there to teach us and for us to lean on, but He’s also there to provide for us. We actually had to learn it’s okay to ask God for provision.
- **1 John 2:17.** This verse brought to mind a ripple effect. When we’re doing the Father’s will, others can learn from our growth. They, in turn, can pass on what they learn to someone else, who also learns and shares with someone else. That “ripple effect” can last forever!

Highlights from discussing the lesson:

- **Being mindful of how we communicate.** There’s a difference in being a “grumbler and complainer” and acknowledging where we are. If we vent our raw emotions to the Lord, it helps in our response to others, which should help us learn how to practice the fruit of the Spirit and stop pointing the finger at others.
- **Seeking GODLY counsel.** We recognized the trusted friend we seek counsel from

needs to be a “godly” friend. We admitted we usually know who to call and whom to avoid when it comes to godly advice. Also, we have to be willing to listen to their perspective, and not get offended by what they say!

- **Seeking vindication.** When we’re in our feelings, we want someone to justify our feelings. In essence, we’re seeking vindication.
- **Two ways to recognize we’re holding onto anger.** It’s possible to learn from a situation and let go of the anger even if we don’t remember what we were upset about! That way, we stay focused on our actions without grumbling or complaining about others. However, if we always remember what happened OR we can’t think about the person without feeling some kind of angst (even if we’ve forgotten what happened), we’ve not yet let go of our anger!
- **Distractions.** We allow the cares of this life and the constant distractions to keep us from resting in the truth of God’s Word. Unfortunately, we can get caught up in what we see even when God has told us the end. Hopefully, once this pandemic is over, we’ll not get overwhelmed with life as we return to more “normal” routines. Hopefully, we’ll keep our focus on Christ.
- **Getting in our own way.** Sometimes, it’s hard to rest in or trust God’s truth, because we get in our way by the things we think, speak, and do. Other times, we trust what He says, but we’re still working on trusting ourselves to not get lost along the way. Other times, we get caught up in what we see, even when the Lord has told us the end!
- **Trusting God.** When cares weigh heavy on our heart, rejoice for Christ has overcome the world!
- **Knowing God’s timing.** Imagine you are a stop sign with the Lord. It’s great to be still and know He is God, but when He says move, we need to move. However, if we move too soon, we can get t-boned. If we move too late, we can get rear ended! That’s why listening is so important.
- **Takeaways from the lesson.** When learning to produce mature fruit, don’t give up, don’t overthink, express your feelings, don’t worry about stuff outside your control, and stay grounded in Christ. As we mature, we can expect God to help, all the while showing us the way. Our part is to keep our emotions from getting involved. We also need to understand if our fruit hasn’t matured yet, it doesn’t mean we’re not producing fruit. Whenever we make progress, we’re producing fruit. It’s just not ripe yet!

Homework Assignment(s):

- Complete Lesson 5.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on March 31st.

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.