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## MEETING NEWSLETTER

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### VISION CHECK...

Welcome to WoW<sup>2</sup>, Women of Worship, Women of Witness. This newsletter captures topics discussed during our meeting on May 6th. 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:

**Vision Check in Relationship to Lesson 6 – Connecting the Dots.** Last week's homework was to evaluate where we are with our visions in light of the reflections we received while Connecting the Dots between the first five lessons. Here are some nuggets from that discussion:

- **The Power of Progression (attached).**<sup>1</sup> God is using this document to teach some of us how to get beyond what they see, feel and want.
- **Themes.** We can **trust** what God does and says (**Psalm 33:4**). We can learn how to walk by **faith** and not by sight (**2 Corinthians 5:7**). We can learn how to be fully committed, for we could surely not do what we're doing otherwise. Our lives can reflect the same **forgiveness** God has extended to us (**Ephesians 4:31-32, Colossians 3:13**).

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<sup>1</sup> This document can also be found on the website: <https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/d82758d1-df55-463e-9474-96fcc1d61ef9/downloads/The%20Power%20of%20Progression.pdf?ver=1589222251678>. If the link doesn't work, go to [www.wow2women.com](http://www.wow2women.com), "Newsletters," "Reflections," and select "The Power of Progression," date 10/01/2020.

We're to not only ask God for forgiveness for what we've done, but we're also to forgive others as Christ has forgiven us! However, we can only do this if we're walking in **love** (**1 Corinthians 13:4-8**), for love covers a multitude of sins (**1 Peter 4:8**). We will walk in "Peace, be still" as the reality in our lives by **committing** to the Lord whatever we do (**Psalm 16:3**). We also recognize the Lord is our "rock" (**Psalm 18:2**).

- **Forgiveness.** We discussed what forgiveness looks like. The phrase we often use in small group is "I forgive (insert name) for (insert what they did), and I release them from everything I think they owe me, including an apology."
- **Recognizing the blessing.** Sometimes, when we have a lot on our plate, it can cause us to judge others and feel things are "unfair," until we realize God has equipped us to be a blessing! Had He not gifted and equipped us to do what we do, things around us might have crumbled, thereby creating a ripple effect. This helps us realize how we've been blessed to help others, which is why we're here. Once we figure out what our gifts are, it makes it easier for us to know why we're here. However, we have to be fully committed to do the work God has assigned to us! Unfortunately, there are times when self-doubt gets in the way, because we think we have to be ready, when in reality, our part is to lean on Him and not on our own understanding. Therefore, we don't have to worry, because He will ready us.
- **Seeds we're cultivating.** We're seeking to open our heart to God as He teaches us patience. However, for growth to happen, our desire to change has to be greater than our desire to stay the same. We're learning to analyze our emotions, asking ourselves the hard questions, and being honest and transparent with ourselves about what we're really feeling. We discussed not blaming others; instead, try to understand ourselves.
- **Preparation.** When we get in a bind because we're feeling attacked by the enemy of our soul, it helps to have our resources readily available, rather than trying pull things from the website or look things up. **RECOMMENDATION.** Print out the resources we need to get through our trials and put them in our study binder; this will decrease our anxiety when we're trying to work our way through the soils.
- **Other nuggets.**
  - **Reminder of the rocky.** What springs up quickly usually is not sturdy. The rocky ground springs up quickly, but has no roots, so the seed doesn't last!

- **Renewing our mind.** Our study focuses on renewing our mind.
- **The benefits of being thankful.** Praying with thankfulness helps us overcome. After all, we can't have "bad" motives or focus on other things besides God when we're being thankful!
- **The importance of a name.** As one of us thought about the meaning of her name, we recognized the meaning of our names is not happenstance; therefore, we have to accept the character of our name even if we don't want to.
- **Vision.** When we live by vision, it gives us direction, provides focus, and helps us pull away from distractions, because not every good thing is a God thing, nor is every God thing our thing. In other words, just because it's good, doesn't mean it's from God. And even if it is godly, that doesn't mean it's our current assignment.
- **The right treasure.** We are laying up our treasures in Heaven! (Matthew 16:19-20)

**Song for the week:** "Moving Forward" by Victory World Music featuring Montell Jordan Ricardo Sanchez & Israel Houghton ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAkt\\_9yaZc8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAkt_9yaZc8)) is our song for the week.

**Homework Assignment(s):** We chose to meditate on what we discussed tonight instead of moving on to Lesson 7. Towards that goal, we are to pray and ask God:

- I have my vision,
- I see where I'm at,
- What is my next step forward?

**Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 13th via Zoom. The current plan is to finish our vision check.

**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.*



## VISION CHECK ATTACHMENT: Reflections and Revelations Newsletter (October 1, 2010)

### THE POWER OF PROGRESSION<sup>i</sup>

**2 Peter 1:5-9 (NKJV):** <sup>5</sup>“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, <sup>6</sup>to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, <sup>7</sup>to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. <sup>8</sup>For if these things are yours and abound, *you will be* neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

I don’t know about anyone else, but I’ve been doing a lot of thinking lately, I’ve been thinking there are a lot of wonderful insights in the Word of God we can miss by reading it in a linear fashion. For instance, 2 Peter 1:5-9 is one of many verses, until recently, I have read in the Bible, but missed the richness of what it is saying! Lately, however, I have been seeing God’s Word through a different filter. One thing that has helped changed how I view God’s Word is what I like to call T-Time.

T-Time is where I take the Word of God and break it down. Sometimes, the result clearly outlines the choices we are presented. Other times, like in this T, we see the progressive nature of God’s Word. The format for breaking down the Word is based on a capital T, hence the name, T-Time. Using T-Time has been very rewarding, because it helps me to more clearly see God’s Word when I am studying Scripture. To illustrate, let’s use a T-Time to show the power progression in our verse above.

### FRUITFUL GROWTH IN THE FAITH (2 Peter 1:5-9)

The Seed	The Fruit
Faith	Virtue
Virtue	Knowledge
Knowledge	Self-Control
Self-Control	Perseverance
Perseverance	Godliness
Godliness	Brotherly Kindness
Brotherly Kindness	Love

**How** – through diligence

**Y** - “For if these things are [mine] and abound, [I] *will be* neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Life)

**Y** – “For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed. (Death)

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Now, let me explain what I just did. I took my title from how these passages of Scripture are labeled in the New King James Version (NKJV). This way, when I look at this T, I know I am looking at fruitful growth as it relates to my faith. For quick reference, I also included the passage of Scripture I used, so if I need to go back and look at the verses in the context of which they are written, I can easily find them.

I then decided how I wanted to label each side of my T. I chose “the seed” and “the fruit” for a couple of reasons. One, I am a huge lover of the parable of the sower and the seed (Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, and Luke 8:4-15). Simply put, when we plant the seed of God’s Word into our heart, when it falls on good ground, we produce fruit. Thus, my second reason for my choice of labels is in order to produce fruit, we typically need to plant a seed. In this particular passage of Scripture, Peter is telling us what seed we can plant to produce what fruit. The most beautiful aspect of this passage is the fruit is progressive!

For instance, when we plant faith, we can produce virtue, which is added to our faith! We can then plant our virtue to produce knowledge, which is added to our virtue and our faith, and so on and so on. Do you get the picture? Nothing is taken away from us in this process; however, as we are diligent in our pursuit of growth, we gain additional attributes that will enable us to live in a way that brings glory, honor, and praise to the name of Jesus.

Moreover, the progressive nature of this verse helps me to understand where I am and what I need to do to grow in my walk with Christ. For instance, through my studies, I know if I am struggling in a trial, I lack perseverance. I can then back track in my T to find out what seeds I need to plant and cultivate in order to gain the perseverance I need to withstand during the trials of life. Okay, so let’s take a moment to do that.

When we look at our T, we find perseverance on the right side four lines down. This tells me I need to build upon my faith, my virtue, my knowledge, and my self-control before I can ever hope to persevere. All too often, I have found myself trying to persevere without the necessary ammunition, as it were, to withstand in the evil day. As a result, I would end up worn, weary, and confused! Now, by being able to look at God’s Word and clearly see my choices, or the progressive nature of His Word, it helps me to strengthen myself, as I seek to glorify Him in all that I think, speak, and do!

Something else this T shows me is how I walk out this verse, and why it is important to do so. I walk out this verse by being diligent in planting each seed and cultivating each fruit listed. Or, as we are told in Scripture, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (**2 Timothy 2:15 NKJV**), or as another version says, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (**KJV**).

If I am diligent, our opening verse says the result is I am not barren in my knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the flip side, if I am not diligent, then I’ve forgotten I have been cleansed of my sins. So, I now hear the question, “Why is it important to know the two whys listed in the T?” I am a firm believer that if I don’t know why I am doing something, I cannot make that same

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decision when faced with similar circumstances. Knowing why we act the way we do helps us gain wisdom to be able to change the way we act when it does not glorify God!

Moreover, **Deuteronomy 30:19** tells us our two choices are life and death, and we are to choose life so we and our descendants may live. If we want to choose life, then we will be diligent in our studies so we can produce fruit. If we remain shortsighted and blind, we will not be diligent, which can lead to spiritual death. For me, anything that separates me from walking in God's love and extending that love to others is spiritual death, because I am told to love God and to love others!

I pray this T-Time journey through 2 Peter 1:5-9 will bless all who read it. Holy Spirit, I ask that You will be the Teacher to help every soul glean what You have for them as they read. May every eye be opened and every heart made flesh to receive what the Spirit of the Lord seeks to impart that each may be fruitful in Your Kingdom! In Jesus name, I pray. Amen!

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<sup>i</sup> Minor edits were made to this document to fix typographical and content errors on January 11, 2015.