

Welcome to WoW2, Women of Worship, Women of Witness. We returned from Summer Sabbatical on June 7th; however, there are meetings before and after our return where we did not publish Notes. See Closing the Loop below for more information. In the meantime, this newsletter captures topics discussed during our June 14, 2022, 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 gain emotional wellness and strength for the Promised Land by believing, receiving, and obeying the truth of God's Word when it comes to deliverance from bondage, deliverance through sanctification, and deliverance from bitterness and doubt.

CLOSING THE LOOP

On April 5, 2022, we had a scheduled night off for Spring Break.

On April 12, 2022, we had a time of personal ministry to meet the needs of one of our sisters.

The beauty of being a small group is that **on April 19, 2022**, we were able to take an unscheduled night off to accommodate a family celebration.

On April 26, 2022, we held our second social of the year.

In May, we took our summer break. Some observations about the month: it was brutal, painfully liberating, mostly enjoyable with a couple of rough days, and it included silent revelation!

On June 7, 2022, enjoyed Night of Prayer.

OPENING

We opened our evening with the song "In Spite of Me, by Tasha Cobb and then began our Vision Check.

Upcoming Events

July 26

Social

August 2

Raising Godly Women Prayer

September 6

Night of Prayer

Current Vision

Revive! Restore. Refresh.
Renew – Emotional wellness
in the wilderness and
strength for the Promised
Land.

Scripture(s)

Isaiah 57:15; Isaiah 43:19

Additional Verses: Romans 8:15, Romans 6:4, 2 Timothy 2:15, Ephesians 4:23, Romans 12:1-2, Hebrews 12:14-15, James 1:5-6, and John 6:29

Inspirational Song(s)

"On Our Way" by MercyMe
feat. Sam Wesley

"Revive" by WorshipMob

Current Study:

Ecclesiastes

DISCUSSION

To facilitate Vision Check, we went down the items from our Vision Worksheet (attached) to assess group and individual progress.

During our Discussion on Identify

Isaiah 57:15 and 43:19. Since this verse addresses being "contrite" and having a lowly spirit, we asked ourselves, "Have you been feeling lowly in spirit and have you noticed anything new about yourself in the process?" Some words/phrases that were highlighted during this discussion: "not getting the whole harvest, but getting some fruit resulting in patience," "being more peaceful," "not limiting God on how He defines good," "strength," and "trust."

Trust. We discussed the difference between faith and trust. Since you're trusting in something, trust always has to have an object. For example, when you get on a plane, you're trusting the pilots and that the plane will stay in the air under their guidance. Whereas with faith, faith is believing in something that we may not be able to prove exists. Thus, trust is dependent on an object, but faith is not. We don't physically see God, but we place our faith in Him during the good times and the bad. One way to do this is to be thankful He doesn't change. His consistency is something tangible we can place our trust in, which allows us to place our faith in Him despite what we see in our circumstances and that we can't physically see Him.

If I want a different result, something has to change. I shared a recent event where I was really struggling in an area, and because I wanted a different result than what I'd experienced in the past, I knew I had to do something different. So rather than trying to force the issue at hand, I chose to listen to God who was telling me to be still and know that He is God! It wasn't easy, but it made a huge difference in how things turned out.

We discussed having a different perspective about our **purpose being defined by activity.** In my recent trial, I stopped defining my purpose by what I do or don't do, and instead by who I am. What I learned is that God has gifted me in certain ways to help others, and that's what I need to focus on.

Our relationship with God is the most important thing! As Scripture puts it, our righteous acts are like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6).



Homework

Ecclesiastes 5

Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 28, 2022 @ 7:00pm.

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

Since the theme of the last WoW2 retreat and our current vision are related to **emotional wellness**, we noted it's not surprising our emotions are being tested! The good news is there's been breakthrough when we weren't looking for it, and God's been revealing the root of things, so we've also experienced a renewal and a reset in some areas.

During our Discussion on Define

We discussed how **deliverance** is not just about what we come out of, but what we go into. Moreover, when God delivers us from something He paints a picture of what He's bringing us into. For example, He gave the Israelites a general description of what the Promised Land would look like. And during my recent trial, God showed what I needed to be delivered from as well as where He was taking me. I thank God, because He brought me out of doubt, bondage to fear, and a few lies of the enemy that were creating chaos in an area of my life, so He could take me into a place of recognizing how He has gifted me for the task He called me to. In the process, He sanctified and renewed my mind to give me a whole different perspective!

We asked ourselves, "**Will we recognize our Promised Land when we get there?**" For instance, the children of Israel scouted out the Promised Land, but what they saw caused them to doubt God which resulted in 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. Like the Israelites, when we have expectations of what our Promised Land should look like, we might not realize we may have to do something to achieve the promise. Again, like the Israelites, we might not know there are giants in the land and that we may have to fight some battles we were not expecting to fight.

We do **God a disservice** if we get to the promise, but have the wrong mindset. For instance, He gave the Israelites an idea of what they could expect, "but" they were focused on the giants in the land. What's our "but?" If we are to possess what God has spoken to us, we have to sever our agreement with any thoughts that create giants in our mind!

We each answered **three different questions**:

"**What** does emotional wellness look like?"

"**Where** does our relationship with God fall when it comes to the 'thing' that is affecting our emotional wellness?"

"**What** are we coming out of and what are we going into?"

We talked about being "**doers**" and that sometimes, we have to walk through the soils found in the parable of the sower and the seed until we get to the good ground, which we call Good Ground Gabrielle, or GiGi.¹

¹ In our 1/6/2021 Meeting, "The Women of the Parable of the Sower and the Seed," the Holy Spirit led us to name each of the soils and then describe what they might look like. GiGi is the nickname we gave to "Good Ground Gabrielle." You can access these notes at <https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/d82758d1-df55-463e-9474-96fcc1d61ef9/downloads/Meeting%20Notes%2001-26-2021%20-%20The%20Women%20of%20The%20Pa.pdf?ver=1649883087222>.

We noted **emotional wellness requires** our willingness to be transparent with God! He knows our failings; they're in the plan, so we don't have to walk in doubt. Instead, we can trust Him! We may have to fight the battle, but it's a battle that's already been won in Him!

Happily, we were in agreement that we are continuing to move forward in each of the areas listed. Collectively and individually, **we're not stuck** where we were in January! However, we did note we are having to do a lot of things afraid. Thankfully, the God in us is rising above the fear so we can act even when we're afraid. Acting can include being in the Word, singing that song that rises up in us to overcome our flesh and our fear, and/or walking in faith even if we fear the unknown. So, even though we're adventurous, we're still aware of the possibility of what could come! In other words, we're not reckless!

During our discussion on steps to fulfill our vision

When being **delivered from bondage**, the fear is natural, so we can still do things afraid, which actually pushes us to trust God.

We learned several lessons from a **faith-filled story** one of our sisters shared about a little girl she met who was learning how to swim. The same way the little girl needed to trust her earthly father to help her learn how to swim, we have to trust our Heavenly Father when He's teaching us something new. When learning how to swim, we can fight against the water or we can work with it. If we expect to succeed, we have to work with the water. Likewise, we have to work with and not fight against God! Just like the little girl didn't see her progress, sometimes we don't see ours. And, as a reminder, even when it doesn't feel like it, our Father is with us holding us just like the little girl's father was right there holding her.

Being **delivered through sanctification** is about looking inside, because what's in our heart is all about where we are with God. What does He want to do in the soil of our heart? Moreover, if we look to Him, He will reveal everything we need to know.

I shared how one of the ways God answered me in my trial was with **Psalms 119:116**. As I reflected on this verse, He reminded me of all the times He sustained me in the past. Then, He reminded me I needed to be still long enough for Him to send His Word to heal me from my destruction rather than trying to figure things out or forcing the issue! He also reminded me His Word contains life; ours does not!

We discussed when we're **being delivered from bitterness**, the replacement is love! Because when our heart is full of love, it's hard to be bitter. As Scripture says, love covers a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8). In essence, the quality of love triumphs over the quantity of the hurt. It only takes being loved by God right one time to overcome the hurt to the point that "thing" doesn't even hurt anymore, and we wonder why we felt like we did!

God is our vindicator! He's the one that removes the sting of the offense!

When we're being **delivered from doubt**, it's important to note all arrows point to Jesus, even the ones that are designed to harm us. In other words, the devil is aiming at vulnerable areas of our

heart not realizing that those areas are ones we need to surrender to Christ! So, the devil is really helping us draw closer to God! Like the child's saying goes, "whatever you say/do to me bounces off me," but in this case, it rolls onto Jesus!

Some highlights from our takeaways

We noted if what we've gone through hasn't killed us, we should be **grateful**. We also recognized He's not put us in harm ways to the level we feared, nor are our circumstances out of His control. God is constantly working the foreground and in the background!

RESOURCES

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

"MercyMe feat. Sam Wesley - On Our Way (Official Lyric Video)," (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9R8x5YlbQQQ>).

"Revive," (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYEOCM9rbMg>).

Links to the Song(s) from this meeting:

"Tasha Cobbs Leonard - In Spite Of Me (ft. Ciara) [Lyric Video],
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gE15aoHyll8&list=PLPrL7uz5HpPHQU2D-Gsw9MXymYSkXZkc6&index=15>

"In His Presence: 4 Hour Piano Worship Music for Prayer & Meditation,"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9CObzDdNKWM&t=2223sCLOSING>

CLOSING

We collected our **prayer requests** for the evening and then closed in prayer while listening "Loved by the FATHER."



ATTACHMENT: Vision Worksheet 5782 (2021-2022) Vision

NAME: **WoW²**

DATE: **19 October 2021**

IDENTIFY your vision and the Scripture(s) you are standing on

Revive! Restore. Refresh. Renew, so that we will have emotional **wellness** in the wilderness and **strength** for the Promised Land.

- **Isaiah 57:15:** "For this is what the high and exalted One says –he who lives forever, whose name is holy: 'I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite."
- **Isaiah 43:19:** "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." (NIV).

DEFINE what your completed vision should look like

Our completed vision looks like knowing we are walking in emotional wellness and have strength for the Promised Land, because we are walking in deliverance from bondage, deliverance through sanctification, and deliverance from doubt.

From this place of emotional wellness and strength, as a group we are able to:

- Fulfill God's vision to take a Bible-based, practical application journey through the Word of God (Habakkuk 2:2)
- Create an atmosphere that fosters transparency, discipleship, and the outpouring of God's love (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- Disciple women of God in the practical application of God's Word (Matthew 28:19)
- Be doers of the Word and not hearers only (James 1:22)

From this place of emotional wellness and strength, as individuals we are able to:

- Allow the Word of God to correct and direct us
- Uplift, encourage, and strengthen others
- Understand our emotions, but not be led by them
- Pursue peace and holiness (Hebrews 12:14-15)

- Partner with God to nurture those who may be growing weary (Psalm 145:14, Galatians 6:9, 22-23)
 - Walk in faith and not fear, even if that means moving forward even when we're afraid (Romans 8:15)
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APPLY: What steps will you need to apply to fulfill your vision?

We will gain emotional wellness and strength for the Promised Land by believing, receiving, and obeying the truth of God's Word when it comes to deliverance:

- **From bondage.** By understanding that in Christ, we did not receive the spirit of bondage that creates fear, but we received the Spirit of adoption by whom we are able to call upon our "Abba, Father." **Romans 8:15:** "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.'"

- **Through sanctification.** By understanding the Red Sea was a type and shadow of baptism and the newness of life that comes through sanctification; likewise, through our baptism into Christ, we too might walk in newness of life. **Romans 6:4:** "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." (ESV)

- **From bitterness.** We do this by studying the Word (2 Timothy 2:15), letting the Word renew us in the spirit of our mind (Ephesians 4:23), and letting the Word transform us, so we will know God's good, pleasing, and perfect will (Romans 12:1-2). **(Hebrews 12:14-15:** "14Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord; 15looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.

- **From doubt.** We overcome doubt by trusting and believing that He will do what He said He will do. **James 1:5-6:** "5If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind." **AND John 6:29:** "Jesus replied, "This is the work of God—that you believe in the one he has sent."

KEY NOTES to this vision worksheet: This worksheet is called IDA (Identify, Define, Apply). We use it to identify our group (and sometimes personal) vision. When we complete Vision Check, we refer to this document to assess our progress.