



Meeting Notes: Moving Forward in the New Year (January 4, 2017)

These notes capture our January 4, 2017 meeting. We opened our meeting in prayer and then began our evening. Topic notes may not be in the order discussed during group, and they are not intended to cover everything. They are intended as highlights to capture the essence of our evening. General notes follow each discussion topic. Documents used or created during this meeting are attached.

Current Vision: “2017 – The Year of Learning how to Walk: Putting on our Shoes of the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace”

Scripture Reference: Ephesians 2:10 – “For we are of God’s making, created in union with the Messiah Yeshua for a life of good actions already prepared by God for us to do” (CJB).

Closing the loop on old Meeting Notes: For those who follow the Notes on the website, previous studies are missing some Notes. Some are missing because for various reasons, we did not meet on those nights. Others are because too much life happened and I got behind with the Notes. However, rather than continuing to try to go backwards posting Notes, I have chosen to move forward with the goal of keeping 2017 current. I have also posted an explanatory Note at the end of each study.

Discussion Topic: Vision.

- **Reviewing the Group Vision:** We began our evening reviewing the October 5, 2016 Meeting Notes so we could reconnect with our current group vision. Here are a few pearls of wisdom from that discussion:
 - **Don’t quit.** Don’t ever give up! It WILL get better. We are so thankful we didn’t give up in 2016. Through all the trials, we made it through to begin a new year with a fresh perspective from the Lord! **Takeaway.** Don’t stop when the going gets rough, but keep going so you can make it through.
 - **Understanding why.** We don’t have to understand “why,” but because we are curious in nature, we have a fleshly desire that wants to understand, and it is that fleshly desire which trips us up sometimes. A few ways it can trip us up are: it could be a test of our faith to not know why, knowing why might scare us, or it might encourage us so we end up going too fast and getting ahead of God. **Takeaway.** Don’t let our fleshly need to understand “why” trip us up when it comes to trusting the Father.
 - **Because I said so.** Sometimes the answer to why is simply because God said so. As we reflected on that, the question arose, “Who is He to me?” We realized that who He is to me determines whether or not I choose to

follow Him. **Takeaway.** Knowing who Jesus is to us impacts our ability to truly follow Him.

- **Finalizing our personal visions:** We each discussed our personal vision and how they connect to us walking in the shoes of the preparation of the gospel of peace. Resolving conflict was a major point from this discussion. We noted our desire to be godly in our response to others as not to be a stumbling block between them and Christ, because all they see in that moment is our actions; they don't see Him. And, if we don't shine His light, how can they see Him? **Takeaway.** Ultimately, we desire for others to see Christ and not us!
- **Looking back at 2016.** As we thought about all the unbelievable crises we faced in 2016, we knew we weathered them because of what we've been learning about the armor. We also recognized that the Father brought us together, so we would not be alone! We had each other! Whether we met during small group or not was irrelevant, because when we needed each other, we were there for each other. So, despite all we experienced in 2016, we have optimism! Even typing this brings an overwhelming sense of gratitude and even a few tears, because just a few years ago, we would not have the perspective we have now! Oh, how the Father brought us through! Thank you, Abba! **Takeaway.** Despite the year we each had, we are optimistic and thankful for how far we have come with wearing our armor in the midst of the trials!

Homework Assignment: Review Ephesians 1 and 2. Feel free to use the Meeting Notes on the website as part of your review!

Next meeting. We are scheduled to meet next week. The current plan is to close the loop on the first two chapters in Ephesians and begin studying chapter 3.

Closing: We closed our meeting with an incredible time of prayer as we basked in the Holy Spirit's presence!

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.