



Meeting Notes: The Year of Becoming (January 6, 2016)

Our holiday break has ended and our meetings have resumed! These notes capture our January 6, 2015 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 discussed. They are intended as highlights to capture the essence of our evening. General notes follow each topic that was discussed. Documents used or created during this meeting are attached.

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

Housekeeping: The calendar is on the website and it was distributed via email to those currently attending small group. We discussed changes in small group going forward. These changes were included in the email when the Meeting Notes were distributed. In addition, we acknowledged Notes from 2014 and 2015 are still behind. We may or may not be able to get them caught up, but the essence of our armor study is on the website, so for now, we will just continue going forward.

Current Vision: “2016 – The Year of Becoming Women of Worship Women of Witness”

Memory verse: Ephesians 6:11 – “Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (NKJV)

Discussion Topic: Vision

- **Group Vision:** Using the attached worksheet, we reviewed the group vision for 2016.
- **Personal Visions:** We reviewed our personal visions, and those present all had a general vision, but unlike in times past, we do not have specific steps for what the outcome will look like. In our discussion, we noted, this year, we’re walking by faith and not by sight. In other words, we are learning how to be responsive to where the Holy Spirit leads rather than having our own plan for how to fulfill our vision.

Nuggets from the Night. Below are some nuggets I captured during the evening.

- **Not knowing the big picture is okay.** There are times we have to walk and feel our way through a situation versus those times when we know what going forward looks like. In those moments, we have to accept we won’t know what our next steps will be or how things will look, while still being okay. It’s in these moments we will have the big picture, but lack the details of how that big picture

will come to pass.

- **Resting in God.** One way to rest in God is to rest in what we know, so when the lies from the devil come, we can rest in the truth we know. The lies make us want to worry, and they are just distractions to keep us from resting in God's truth that has been planted in our heart.
- **Discernment.** We are learning how to see the devil's arrows coming.
- **Results of obedience.** Obedience helps us develop roots for the seeds of God's Word that's been planted in our heart. While we did not mention this during small group, obedience is one of the ways we till our heart to be good soil for the seeds of God's Word.
- **Natural trials that highlight spiritual lessons.** I shared one of the many spiritual lessons I have learned from my shoulder injury is when we can hit a point of critical pain (it hurts so bad we can go numb and not know how we're going to make it), on the other side we find a strength we didn't know we had. As one sister put it, this strength comes because in our weakness, God is made strong. That resonated very well!
- **Walking on the water.** We discussed all Peter knew is what Jesus said – "Come!" We have to CHOOSE to walk towards God. As He calls, we must go!
- **Defining faith.** One sister shared Charles Stanley's definition of faith: "walking in the confidence that God will fulfill His Word in our life."
- **Being a witness for Christ.** Sometimes we don't realize how many people are watching us, which helps us realize just how important it for us to be obedient to God.
- **Consequences.** It's important to understand the consequences of our obedience are for God to deal with. Not us. In other words, our responsibility is to obey God and leave the rest up to Him.
- **Be still and know that I am God.** We discussed "When we can't obey, BE STILL until we can." Being still cuts down on the journey! We gave the analogy of walking downstairs and heading towards the door, but then detouring to go the kitchen. Every step we take towards the kitchen gets us off track and the further we go, the more ground we have to recover to get back to where we were. The same is true spiritually. Every step we take away from obeying God gets us off track and the further we have to go to get back to our last place of obedience.
- **Giving God our pain.** It's important to learn how to go to God in the pain rather than avoiding the pain or even getting stuck in the pain.
- **God's wisdom.** We noted it's important to seek Godly wisdom and Godly

counsel; however, not everyone is equipped to give these to us. And unfortunately, there are times we're not equipped to know we need to go elsewhere to find them. May the Holy Spirit direct our steps to receive the wisdom and the counsel God has for each of us!

- **Living life or letting life live us.** When we live life reactionary, we are allowing life to live us. However, when we learn how to make plans for our lives, we begin to live life!

Homework: Read Ephesians 1:1-14 and write down any observations and/or questions you have

Next Meeting: We will begin breaking down the message the apostle Paul conveyed in the first section of Ephesians.

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.



ATTACHMENT 1: Group Vision Worksheet

NAME: WoW²

DATE: 10/21/2015

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

To become a woman of worship and a woman of witness

Ephesians 6:11

NKJV – Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil (NKJV)

CJB – Use all the armor and weaponry that God provides, so that you will be able to stand against the deceptive tactics of the Adversary.

DEFINE what your completed vision should look like

(Based on Strong's definitions of worship (Genesis 2:25 and John 4:24) and witness (Acts 1:8 and Hebrews 12:1))

- A person who worships is one who bow down to and respects God; a witness is one who spectates OR "those who after [Jesus'] example have proved the strength and genuineness of their faith in Christ by undergoing a violent death
- Thus to be woman of worship is to be one who respects God and to be a woman of witness means the outflowing of that respect leads us to prove the strength and genuineness of our faith in Christ by dying to self! The result is we become women who are wearing our armor to bring glory, honor, and praise to the name of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.

APPLY: What steps will you need to apply to fulfill your vision?

Study Ephesians to understand spiritual warfare and the armor

Apply the principles we learn in Ephesians to our daily lives

Apply the principles of the armor to our trials

ATTACHMENT 3: My Vision Worksheet

MY VISION

NAME _____

DATE: _____

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

DEFINE what your completed
vision should look like

APPLY: What steps will you
need to apply to fulfill your
vision?
