



A newsletter from On Wings Like A Dove Ministry

April 2018 Vol. 14 Issue 4

455 South Church Street
Office Hours:
Tuesday-Thursday 10am-2pm
or by appointment 336-829-5060
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Prayer Support Groups

First Monday of each Month
On Wings Prayer Support:
455 S. Church Street
beside "God's Acre" Old Salem
Winston-Salem, NC
6:30 to 8:00 pm

April 2
Cynthia Moore
will share on Psalm 23

May 7
Counselor Jeanette Weygandt
will share with us

River Oaks Church, Clemmons
Meet in Room #4
2nd & 4th Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm
Led by Jeff and Sherye Hall
Currently studying
Anxious for Nothing
by Max Lucado

First Baptist Church, Sparta
Wednesday nights @ 6:30 pm
Led by Joseph & Carolyn
Caldwell Currently studying
Overcoming Addictive Thinking
by Abraham Twerski M.D.

Fellowship Baptist Church, Ellerbe
Meet in Fellowship Hall
2nd & 4th Mondays @ 6:30 pm
Led by Elaine Martin

Ladies Bible Study

Each Tuesday
at On Wings Office
from 12:30 to 2 pm

Discussion based on the book
Reaching Your Prodigal
by Phil Waldrep

Spiritual Gifts Study

by Sandra Kearns

We have been studying spiritual gifts in our weekly bible study. I think it is important to know what your spiritual gift is so that you can step into God's design for you and learn what He created you to be and do. Otherwise we tend to flounder around in life trying everything under the sun to find our purpose. Discovering your gift helps you to have a foundation from which to operate in God's unique design for your life.

We learned four truths:

1. You are uniquely you. You are special. Read Psalm 139:13-16. God was intentional in His design of you and has given you a unique "spiritual DNA" so that you can be who he wants you to be and allow Him to do what He wants to do through you.
2. You are uniquely you for a purpose. Nobody can take your place in your world. Read Ephesians 2:10. God uniquely made you to be the person you are for His good purposes. You are designed to be a part of His bigger story.
3. You are uniquely crafted and placed in this time in history and in this certain place. Read Acts 17:26, Esther 4:14. God has placed you in your place for such a time as this.
4. You are uniquely gifted and needed by those God has called you to be with.

Read 1 Peter 4:10-11, Romans 12:4-5, 1 Corinthians 12:12-25.

Read Romans 12:6-8 to see a list of the foundational gifts. In the book we studied the gifts were listed as prophet, servant, teacher, exhorter, giver, ruler, and mercy. It was fun to read through each of the profiles, checking the characteristics we felt we had. We found that we had checks in all the gifts, but one or two gifts had more checks than the others showing us our dominate gift.

Some of the questions we asked ourselves were: "Where do I come alive? What leaves me drained?" If you are a servant, you would feel drained if someone tried to put you in the spotlight, but the exhorter would be energized. Do you find yourself taking up for the underdog and being irritated with those who don't take up for them? Are you upset with a prophet or exhorter who is not picking up on another person's emotional pain? If so, then you might have the gift of mercy. Ask God to reveal and affirm His design for you. Ask Him His perspective. Understanding your design and developing the potential God has placed in you is a lifelong process. Your gift may change along the way and hopefully you will step into other gifts as the Lord calls you.

We can learn from other gifts. A prophet may speak the truth but not do it in love. So, a prophet can learn love from the mercy gift. The teacher needs to learn from the exhorter how to make the truth practical in everyday terms. Each gift has strengths and weaknesses. It is wise to study over these weaknesses and work on strengthening them. God has uniquely designed each of us and wants His design to guide our footsteps.

So, do you know what your gift is? Are you operating in it? How are you using your gift to minister to those God brings to you? How are you using your gift in your church body or in a ministry capacity? The gifts are not for your honor or your power. They are to help you serve and bless others and mostly to glorify Christ.

Materials taken from *Designed for Fulfillment* by Charles R. Wales, Jr.

Faith is being
sure of what we
HOPE FOR
and certain of
what we do not
SEE
Hebrews 11:1

Prayer Thoughts

by Janet Linville

Hidden From View

Oregon residents can experience heavy rains from October to April each year and they may not be able to see the sun, moon or stars for days.

Although these sources of light may be hidden by the clouds or rains, they know these sources of light still exists behind the clouds and rainy days.

Is it harder for us, as children of God, to still see and feel the 'Light' when we encounter 'clouds' such as death, disease, depression and war? Does it seem that God is hiding from our view on gloomy days? Jesus said "I am with you always even to the end of the world" (Matt 28:20). God never hides from His children. I Peter 3:12 says, "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayer".

Stay in God's Word every day and memorize scriptures on God's presence. It can act as an umbrella for us. Sheltering us from the elements but protecting us as we go about our daily lives.

Thank you God for keeping us under the care of Your umbrella.

Jesus looked at them
intently and said,
"Humanly speaking,
it is impossible.
But with God
everything
is possible."

Matthew 19:26

Forgiveness Is Waiting

A mother called me yesterday distraught over her daughters addiction and her choices. She sobbed as she began to share that she knew she was not where she needed to be in her own spiritual life. She knew she was being disobedient to her Lord as she found herself living as the world. She felt guilty and knew she needed to make a change but there were things that held her bound to the sin in her life. She had a choice. We talked for a while but as we hung up I wasn't sure she would follow through on what she knew to be God's call to her. I prayed for her to find the strength to obey God and I continued that prayer the next morning in my quiet time with the Father. I started reading my Bible where it opened to Job 5. It was for my friend. It read as follows: "Misery comes upon them to punish them for sowing seeds of sin. Mankind heads for sin and misery as predictably as flames shoot upwards from a fire. My advice to you is this: Go to God and confess your sins to Him. For He does wonderful miracles, marvels without number. He sends the rain upon the earth to water the fields, and gives prosperity to the poor and humble, and takes sufferers to safety".

There it was in bold print. Go and confess your sins to Him. Then turn from your wicked ways and He will restore you to fellowship with Him. We can't be in fellowship with God when we are living in disobedience to His will for us. He gives us guidelines to make our lives better, not to oppress us. His commands actually give us freedom and help us to live in the joy of our salvation. I called her to share the passage with her and left the choice to her. She and I hung up rejoicing that God had given her the very words she needed. I pray she will accept the call to follow the Lord in this matter.

Maybe you find yourself in this dilemma right now. No joy, no peace and feeling condemned as you continue in the path you know is against God's principles for you as His child. My advice to you is to go to God, confess it, and turn in the opposite direction. Then you can experience His peace that passes all understanding. Why don't you answer His call to you today? Bend down on your knees and release it all to Him. As you do that, His forgiveness will flood your soul and He will remember it no more.

~ Sandra

I will search for my lost
ones who strayed away,
and I will bring them
safely home again.

Ezekiel 34:16

Hope Will Not Disappoint

When our kids were little and they got hurt or scared or something threatened their health like a flu or virus, we as parents could fix it almost 99% of the time. We love our children and our natural instinct is to make everything better. It's what we do.

When these same kids grow up and get involved in things they shouldn't (accidentally or on purpose) like the wrong partner who ends up being abusive, ending in a destructive relationship or they begin to abuse alcohol or drugs, prescription or illegally - once again, our natural instinct is to fix it. However, our new reality is that 99% of the time - we CAN'T... because now, they are adults!

We can beat ourselves over the head and ask a million different questions like "why" or "how did this happen" or we can accept the truth that these kids are now grown and us getting in the way will only hinder their chance to find God - just like we did when we came to our own crossroads of faith.

There is a little group of ladies who meet at the On Wings office on Tuesdays and all of these ladies have adult children who we WISH we could fix - yet we realize we can't.

Our meetings remind us that God is in control of these adult children and He has a plan. Our meetings remind us to pray for these adult children and underline the truth that prayer is powerful. Our meetings remind us that God cares more about these adult children than we do.

In these meetings, we carry the pain of a broken adult child - fully aware that someone we love dearly is hurting...and we can't fix it.

And so we wait for these adult children of ours to find the Great Healer, the only Physician who can heal them - His name is Jesus and when He fixes them, they will be complete and whole in Him.

In these meetings, we have a common bond that unites us and that is **HOPE** for our prodigals.

~ Written by One of those Ladies (Waiting)

And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

Romans 5:5