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Ronald L. Slaughter, Senior Pastor

Women's Bible Study

Rev. Janelle Y. Greene, Minister to Women
First Lady Kyla Slaughter, Women's Ministry Advisor
Tuesdays at 6:30 PM

October 9, 2018
Rev. Theresa Andrews, Facilitator

Subject: A Small View of God

Distinctly You Trading Comparison and Competition for Freedom and Fulfillment -- Book

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 5:7; Genesis 12:13; Numbers 13:30; Romans 12:2; Isaiah 43:2

2 Corinthians 5:7 NIV)

7 For we live by faith, not by sight.

Genesis 12:13 (NIV)

13 Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you.

Numbers 13:30 (NIV)

30 Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Isaiah 43:2 (NIV)

2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

Book Used for Women's Bible Study this Season:

Distinctly You: Trading Comparison & Competition for Freedom and Fulfillment

by Cheryl Martin, Bethany House Publishers, Minneapolis ©2016

Subject Consideration:

This Chapter focuses on our perspective of God. As Christians, we know that God is all-powerful, all seeing, and every present at the same time. God is sovereign. The Author says that we can determine how we perceive God by *what we see, what we say, what we do* and *what we think*. In our journey of life, we know that *we live by faith not by sight*. (2 Corinthians 5:7).

What we say and do is telling about whether we are dependent on or independent of God. For example, when someone talks negatively and doubtful in a disappointing circumstance, it reveals that she is not talking nor acting in faith. Then, sometimes we talk faith but we do not act in faith. A biblical instance is with Abraham who told Sarah to lie to the Egyptians that she was his sister not his wife to save his life. (Genesis 12:13). Sarah listened and obeyed him. In this instance, Abraham had a small view of God. Yet God was gracious and merciful to them. God intervened and protected them.

As Christians, we should be optimistic. Moses sent twelve spies to explore what the Israelites would encounter going into the Promise land that God had guaranteed them. Ten of the spies feared the inhabitants in the land and gave a bad report. Only Joshua and Caleb were confident that God was on their side. (Numbers 13:30). Unfortunately, the Israelites believed the bad report.

We need to examine our thoughts to determine how we perceive God. The author asks, *Is your mind trained to think the worst and not the best, to see the obstacles, not the opportunities?* She says, *The battle is in the mind*. Paul encourages us to renew our mind. (Romans 12:2). Renewing our minds should be a daily activity.

How do we start our day? Is it with “stinking” thinking? There is a common phrase used by many today, “I can’t, I can’t.” Biblical and positive self-talk is important in our lives. We need to listen to our self-talk and change it if it is not in line with the Word of God. The author asks, *“What are you thinking about when you are thinking?”* We must remember that our God is all powerful and above our circumstances. We must hope and have faith that God will be with us. For instance, we have many single women who want to get married and they limit God by thinking only of men within their own congregation. God is omniscient and intervenes in our lives with the details and the nuances.

How we view God will affect how we view our circumstances. God is sovereign means “having supreme rank, power, or authority; being above all others in character, importance, excellence.” God does not always meet our needs in the way we think but we can always remember that God promised to be with us even through bad situations. (Isaiah 43:2). Our God is able to bring something good out of something that is not good.

The author encourages us that we can resist having a small view of God. She reminds us that God is able to do the impossible and no one can thwart God’s good plans for us. Having the right view of God will cause us to flourish.

QUESTIONS:

1. When has what you said, saw, did, or thought revealed your small view of God?

2. How has a small view of God blocked your distinctiveness?

3. Are you prone to think the worst or the best? To see obstacles or opportunities? Why?

4. What is your constant self-talk about God?

5. What do you need to do to maintain a proper view of God?

HOMEWORK: Read Chapter Five, "A Large View of Yourself." Begin to review the takeaways at the end of each chapter and review the scriptures. You're encouraged to use a notebook or journal to jot down your thoughts.