

A blue door with a golden handle, slightly ajar, revealing a bright sky with white clouds. The door is made of dark blue wood with a golden handle. The sky is bright blue with white, fluffy clouds. The sun is visible in the upper left corner of the sky.

Open Heaven

Word of Life Ministries
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Open Heaven's

What is Revival? What does it look like? Scripturally speaking, a description of what Revival is and what it looks like would be > Revival is and looks like the Spirit of God is free to work and move on a people or an area/region.

Revival comes, a Move of the Spirit comes > when God opens up the realm of the Spirit - removes the obstructions - and manifests in Power and Might. This can be a sovereign act of his will. Or it can be in response to his people pulling on him for it.

When Open Heaven's truly manifest in a person, church, region - there you will find the thing that seems so elusive to most christians. There you will find a Moving of the Spirit of God, or what we often call - Revival.

Lord, our Heart's Cry is that either sovereignly, or because of our hunger and longing to see you show yourself strong in this earth - Our Heart's Cry is: Move Among us in Power, Might, Signs, Wonders, Miracles, and the Super-Natural. We're not content to mostly talk about the awesome God we serve, and occasionally see you do something. We yearn for the God we talk about to really DO all the things you said you desired to do among your people.

We Invite You, Come and Visit us with your Glory.

I. What is an Open Heaven?

- An open heaven is when God is spiritually unrestricted in his ability to move and work in our lives. His Blessing Flows Freely. The Land is Free from Curse. Things of the Spirit are easily brought into the physical realm.

II. What is a Closed Heaven?

- A closed heaven is when God is spiritually restricted in his ability to move and work in our lives. Curse Develops. The Land and Heaven become Hard and Unresponsive. Prosperity wanes. Demonic activity becomes strong and seemingly unbeatable.

III. How Can God Be Restricted Spiritually?

He's God, isn't he? He can do what he wants, can't he? Isn't what he wants to do up to him? Well, the answer to the first question is: Yes. The answer to the next two questions is: No. God has set up principles, guidelines, and rules. We call them 'Spiritual Laws'. He operates under laws the same way he expects his creation to.

One of his greatest laws is: he gave man a free will. He's created us with the right to choose our future and destiny - both physically and spiritually. God will never violate a human beings free will. He won't force us, stop us, restrain us, push us, over-rule us, take our choices away and make them for us. He gave us the right to Freedom of Choice. He will never do anything to violate our Freedom of Choice.

When we choose life, blessing, obedience, love, doing it God's way - he is FREE, UNRESTRICTED to work in our lives. By our choices and actions, we've invited him in to our life to help us with it. However, when we choose death, curse, disobedience, ungodliness, etc. - he is BOUND, and RESTRICTED from being able to work in our lives. By our choices and actions, we've refused him access to our life. He can't and won't help us.

Our choices of Obedience or Disobedience, Stubbornness or Submission, Humbleness or Pride, Love or Hate, Etc. is what will cause the Heavens' to be Closed. (God is restricted from working in our lives) Or our choices will cause the Heaven's to be Opened. (God is free to work in us)

IV. Scriptural Basis for Open and Closed Heaven.

- A. As you study these scriptures, you will quickly find that there are two realms of open and closed heavens spoken of in scripture. The spiritual and the physical. They work together very closely. Some places in scripture we see the activity that goes on between the two separated. In other places they are referred to as almost being one in action and reaction.*
- 1. The Spiritual heaven is dealing with the spirit realm. (2nd and 3rd Heavens)*
 - a. 2nd Heaven - The demonic realm of principalities, powers, rulers. (Eph. 6)*
 - b. 3rd Heaven - The Godly realm. (II Cor. 12:2)*
 - 2. The Physical deals with the Physical realm. (Includes the 1st Heaven)*
 - a. 1st Heaven - The physical sky, clouds. Can include the sun, moon, etc.*

(Genesis 1:6-10; Acts1:10-11)
- B. What happens in the spirit realm plays out in the physical realm. If the heavens are closed in the spirit realm, they will close in the physical. (And Vice/Versa) For now, just realize there is a difference between the spiritual and physical heavens. The context of the scripture will tell you which heaven is being spoken about.*

C. Scriptures.

1. **Genesis 7:11 - Heaven opened for Noah's Flood.**
2. **Genesis 8:2 - Heaven Closed after Noah's Flood.**
3. **Genesis 28:10-17 - Pronouncement of Covenant and Ladder of Angels.**
4. **Leviticus 26:18-20 - Sin, and refusal of repentance closes the heaven (made like iron) and affects the ground/land. (made like bronze)**
5. **Deuteronomy 11:11-17 - Obedience, Love for God, and Service opens the heavens. The opposite closes the heavens.**
6. **Deuteronomy 11:18-21 - If we will follow and obey God, teach our children to do so when we're at home, when we go somewhere, when we rest (lie down) and when we get up, marking our homes and property with following and obeying God & his word - he will open the heavens to where it will be like heaven on earth.**
7. **Deuteronomy 28:12 - The storehouse of his bounty is in heaven. God's Blessing opens the heavens to send rain on the land and bless the work of our hands.**
8. **Deuteronomy 28:23-24 - Disobedience brings a curse. The heaven will be made as bronze, and the ground/land as iron. No rain, just dust.**
9. **II Samuel 22:10 - God parted the heavens and came down in warfare for David.**
(Ps. 18:9)
10. **I Kings 8:35-40 - Sinning against God closes the physical heaven. Prayer and repentance causes God to hear from the spiritual heaven, and come and heal the land which means the physical heaven must again be open.**
(II Chron. 6:26-31)
11. **I Kings 22:19 - Micaiah saw the Lord and the host of heaven.**
12. **II Chronicles 7:13-14 - If God's people will humble themselves, pray, seek God's face, (his presence & being in his face go together) and turn from wickedness, then the heavens will open, and the land will be healed.**
13. **Psalms 78:23-25 - God commanded the physical heavens and opened the door to the spiritual heaven and rained down angels food. (Manna)**
(Ps. 105:40, Exodus 16:4 - this was a test of their obedience)
14. **Isaiah 24:18-23 - How the heavens and earth interact together. (49:13; Lev. 26:18-20; Deut. 28:23-24; Rev. 6:14-17)**
15. **Ezekiel 1:1 - Heavens were opened and visions were seen.**
16. **Malachi 3:8-12 - Obedience opens the floodgates/windows of heaven and blessing flows and affects the land. (Includes income production)**
17. **Matthew 3:16-17 - Jesus at his water baptism. (Mark 1:10-11)**
18. **Luke 3:21-22 - Heavens opened at Jesus water baptism. From it came the Holy Spirit which rested on Jesus.**

19. *Luke 4:23-27 - Jesus states that some individuals live under a closed physical heaven because of a lack of accepting a prophet (or God working through someone) who came from their home town/area. . (Spiritual attitudes/actions close the heavens)*
20. *John 1:51 - Heaven opened on Jesus and the angels ascended and descended on him. (This is the New Test. counterpart to Jacob's experience)*
21. *Acts 7:54-56 - Stephen being killed, and him seeing the heavens opened.*
22. *Acts 10:9-16 - Peter sees a vision (v. 17, 19) of an open heaven and the sheet of unclean animals. (Depicting freedom to eat them - v. 13-15. As well as symbolically calling the Gentiles clean - v. 19-23) (Acts 11:4-18)*
23. *Rev. 4:1-2 - An open door in heaven. Allowed an out of body experience.*
24. *Rev. 6:14-17 - Spiritual heaven opened, and the land immediately affected.*
25. *Rev. 11:6-7a - Two witnesses can close the physical heaven. (Again, their purpose is to prophesy, give testimony, and confront the sins of man)*

V. What Causes the Heavens to be Open, or Closed?

A. OPEN HEAVENS COME FROM:

1. *Faithfully Obeying God. Loving and Serving God with All our heart and soul. (Deut. 11:13-15)*
2. *Obeying God. Carefully Following his commands. (Deut. 28:1-2, 12)*
3. *I Kings 8:35-40 - Prayer and repentance causes God to hear from the spiritual heaven, and come and heal the land which means the physical heaven must again be open.*
4. *II Chronicles 7:13-14 - If God's people will humble themselves, pray, seek God's face, (his presence & being in his face go together) and turn from wickedness, then the heavens will open, and the land will be healed.*
5. *Malachi 3:8-12 - Obedience to God.*

B. CLOSED HEAVENS COME FROM:

1. *Not listening to God. Not doing his commands. Rejecting his laws. Violating Covenant. Stubbornness toward God. Pride. (Leviticus 26:14, 18-20)*
2. *Turning away from God. Serving other gods and worshipping them. (Deut. 11:16-17)*
3. *Not Obeying. Not Following. (Deut. 28:15, 23-24)*
4. *I Kings 8:35-40 - Sinning against God closes the physical heaven.*
5. *Revelation 11:6 - To be a witness to (get the attention of) the rebellious unbeliever.*

VI. Examples of Open & Closed Heavens where the exact term is not used in the scripture.

A. Old Testament.

- 1. I Kings 16:29-33, 17:1-2 - Because of Ahab's sin, the heaven's were closed at Elijah's word.***
- 2. I Kings 18 - The heavens opened after Elijah's sacrifice and the people repented.***
- 3. Daniel 10:1 - 11:1 - Daniel's vision and the 21 day fast. (The angel was delayed by a spiritually closed heaven)***

B. New Testament.

- 1. Matthew 23:13 - Hypocrisy in spiritual leaders, closes the heavens.***
- 2. Matthew 24:30-32 - People will see into the spirit realm. (Mark 13:26-27)***
- 3. Ephesians 6:10-18 - The armor of God and demonic forces in heavenly realms.***
- 4. Rev. 19:11 - Jesus coming back for the Battle of Armageddon. (II Thes. 1:7)***

VII. Our access to Open Heavens.

- A. Even in the Old Covenant, God wanted the people to live in a perpetual state of "Open Heavens". It was never his will that access to God and the things of God be closed to his people. This came as a result of sin. (Specifically willful pride, disobedience, and rebellion) (Leviticus 26:18-20; Deuteronomy 11:11-21; 28:23-24; Malachi 3:8-12)***
- B. In the New Testament, it is clear we've not only been given access to the heavenly realm, but we're to live in what has been granted.***
 - 1. Matthew 6:10 - We're to believe for God's will to be done on earth as in heaven.***
 - 2. Matthew 6:20 - We have the ability to store up treasures in heaven. (Matt. 19:21)***
 - 3. Matthew 7:11 - When we ask, we get good gifts from the Father in heaven.***
 - 4. Matthew 7:21 - We are to know and live in the will of our Father in Heaven.***
 - 5. Matthew 11:12 - In forcefulness men lay hold to the kingdom of heaven.***
 - 6. Matthew 13 - Principles of how the kingdom of heaven operates, that we are to flow in.***
 - 7. Matthew 16:17 - Peter heard from the Father in Heaven. (Matt. 20:1, 22:2)***
 - 8. Matthew 16:19 - Binding and Loosing gives us the ability to restrain or release things in the heavenlies. (Matthew 18:18)***
 - 9. Matthew 18:19-20 - Two or Three in agreement causes movement in Heaven.***
 - 10. John 3:27 - We can only receive what is given us from heaven.***
 - 11. Acts 2:2 - The sound of a blowing violent wind came from heaven.***
 - 12. Romans 1:18-32 - God's wrath is being revealed from heaven against wickedness.***

13. *Ephesians 1:3 - We are blessed in Heavenly Realms with every spiritual blessing.*
14. *Ephesians 1:10 - All things in heaven and on earth are to be brought together in Christ.*
15. *Ephesians 1:20 - Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father in heavenly realms.*
16. *Ephesians 2:6 - We are seated in heavenly realms in Christ (The Anointed One and his Anointing) Jesus. (Salvation)*
17. *Ephesians 3:10 - Through us, the wisdom of God is to be made known to the rulers and authorities in heavenly realms.*
18. *Ephesians 6:10-18 - We are to take an active stand against the demonic powers that close the heavens.*
19. *Philippians 3:20 - Even though we live on earth, our citizenship is in heaven.*
20. *Colossians 1:5 - We have a hope stored up for us in heaven.*
21. *Colossians 4:1 - Our Master is in Heaven.*
22. *Hebrews 12:22-24 - In the New Covenant, and as the New Test. church, (Mount Zion) we have been brought to:*
 - *The heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God.*
 - *Countless Multitudes (Amp.) of angels are gathered.*
 - *The church of the First Born. (Jesus)*
 - *Our names are written (registered as citizens - Amp) in heaven.*
 - *God, the judge of all people.*
 - *The spirits of the righteous. (Redeemed in heaven - Amp)*
 - *Jesus, who mediated the new covenant.*
 - *To the sprinkled blood that speaks a word on our behalf.*
23. *Hebrews 12:25 - Jesus warns us from heaven. We hear from heaven and are not to refuse what he's saying. If we do, we won't escape judgment.*
24. *James 3:17 - The wisdom we live in is to come from Heaven.*
25. *I Peter 1:4 - Our inheritance is being kept in Heaven for us.*

VIII. Things that happen when there is an Open Heaven.

A. The Various Aspects of Covenant are Reinforced.

1. *Genesis 28:10-17; Matt. 3:16-17; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:21-22; Acts 10:9-16; 11:4-18;*

B. High Angelic Activity.

1. *Genesis 28:10-17; I Kings 22:19; John 1:51*

C. Dreams & Visions.

1. *Genesis 28:10-22; Ezekiel 1:1; Acts 10:9-16; 11:4-18*

D. Hearing the Audible Voice of God.

1. *Matt. 3:16-17; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:21-22; Acts 10:9-16; 11:4-18 II Peter 1:18*

E. Rain Comes.

1. *Deut. 11:11-15; 28:12*

F. Heaven's Storehouses are opened.

1. *Deut. 28:12*

G. The work of our hands is Blessed.

1. *Deut. 28:12*

H. Financial Prosperity.

1. *Deut. 28:12; Malachi 3:8-12*

I. Rulership.

1. *Deut. 28:13*

J. Healing of the Land.

1. *I Kings 8:35-40; II Chron. 6:26-31; 7:13-14; Malachi 3:8-12*

K. Manna Appears.

1. *Psalms 78:23-25*

L. Freedom for the Holy Spirit to Move.

1. *Matt. 3:16-17; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:21-22*

M. Spirit Realm clearly seen.

1. *Genesis 28:10-17; I Kings 22:19; Ez. 1:1ff; John 1:51; Acts 7:54-56*

N. Out of Body Experiences.

1. *Rev. 4:1-2*

IX. References to God and the Heavens.

A. There are numerous references to: (They're easily found with a good concordance)

1. *God being the creator/maker of heaven.*
2. *God of Heaven.*
3. *God in Heaven.*
4. *God's throne is in Heaven.*

5. *The Father is in Heaven.*
6. *God's voice from Heaven.*
7. *The Heaven's belong to God.*
8. *Heaven being God's dwelling place.*
9. *God possesses Heaven.*

B. *The 3 Heavens.*

1. *First Heaven - Heaven of the Physical Realm. (Genesis 7:11, 8:2)*
2. *Second Heaven - Demonic/spirit realm activity. (Ephesians 1:20-21; 6:12; Col. 1:16)*
3. *Third Heaven - God's dwelling place and spirit realm activity. (II Corinthians 12:2)*
- Also referred to as the Highest Heaven. (I Kings 8:27; II Chron. 2:6; 6:18,26; 7:13; Nehemiah 9:6; Psalms 115:16; 148:1-6)

C. *Some of the things in Heaven.*

1. *Hosts. (Deuteronomy 17:3; I Kings 22:19; II Kings 17:16; 21:5; 23:4-5; II Chron. 2:6; 7:1; 18:18; 33:3; Isaiah 34:4; Jeremiah 33:22; Dan. 8:10; Luke 2:13; Acts 7:24)*
2. *Fire. (Genesis 19:24; II Kings 1:10,12,14; I Chron. 21:26; Luke 9:54; 17:29; Revelation 20:9)*
3. *Blessings. (Ephesians 1:3)*
4. *God. (I Kings 8; II Chron. 6; Matt. 5:16,45; 6:1,9)*
5. *Bread. (John 6)*
6. *God's Dwelling. (I Kings 8:30,39,49; II Chron. 6:21; 6:30; 30:27)*
7. *God's Throne. (Psalms 11:4; Acts 7:49; Revelation 4:2)*
8. *The Settled Word of God. (Ps. 119:89)*
9. *Signs/Wonders. (Daniel 6:27; Luke 21:11; Acts 2:19)*
10. *Storehouses.*
 - *Deuteronomy 28:12 - His Bounty.*
 - *Job 38:22 - Snow.*
 - *Psalms 33:7 - The Deep.*
 - *Psalms 135:7 - The Wind. (Jeremiah 10:13; 51:16)*
11. *Waters. (Job 10:13)*
12. *Great & Least. (Matt. 5:19; 18:1,4)*
13. *Treasures. (Matthew 6:20; 19:21; Luke 18:22)*
14. *God's will is done. (Matt. 6:10)*
15. *Good things. (Matt. 7:11)*
16. *Angels. (Matt. 18:10; 22:30; 24:36; Luke 22:43)*
17. *Power(s). (Matt. 28:18; Luke 21:26; Eph. 3:10)*
18. *Rewards. (Luke 6:23)*
19. *Written Names. (Luke 10:20; Hebrews 12:23)*

20. *Land of Heaven. (Luke 10:21; Acts 17:24)*
21. *Joy. (Luke 15:7)*
22. *Peace. (Luke 19:38)*
23. *Sound of Wind. (Acts 2:2)*
24. *Light. (Acts 9:3)*
25. *Dwellings. (II Cor. 5:2)*
26. *Mansions. (John 14:1-2)*
27. *Family. (Ephesians 3:15)*
28. *Hope. (Col. 1:5)*
29. *Things. (John 3:12; Phil. 2:10; Col. 1:16,20; Hebrews 8:5; 9:23)*
30. *The True Tabernacle. (Heb. 9:29)*
31. *The New Jerusalem. (Hebrews 12:22; Rev. 3:12; 21:2,10)*
32. *Covenant. (Heb. 10:34)*
33. *Inheritance. (I Peter 1:4)*
34. *Spirit, Water, Blood. (I John 5:7)*
35. *Creatures. (Rev. 5:13)*
36. *Temple of God. (Rev. 11:19; 14:17; 16:17)*
37. *Calling of God. (Hebrews 3:1)*
38. *Gifts. (Hebrews 6:4)*
39. *The 4 Winds. (Zechariah 6:5)*
40. *Everything that God is and does. (Light, Love, His Voice, Face, Decisions, Judgment, Ruling, Authority, Joy, Splendor, Glory, Creating, Infinity, Etc. Etc. Etc.)*

X. Some fallacies about an Open Heaven.

- A. **Having an Open Heaven does not mean that a person can have a Vision, Out of Body Experience, Go Into The Heavens, See Angels, See Into The 2nd or 3rd Heavens - BY OUR CHOICE, OR BY OUR WILL.** *I haven't found any scripture to support that. Our ability to interact with the spirit realm around us - IN ANY WAY - has to be done by the power of God, or the Demonic. Without supernatural help, it's not possible. Much of what we experience as christians must come under the gifts or manifestations of the Holy Spirit. I Corinthians 12 specifically states that those things happen as the Spirit determines.*
- B. **An Open Heaven means we have reached a realm of God's favor that can never be lost.** *Again, that is not scriptural. The scriptures in this study deal with the issue that an Open Heaven can become a Closed Heaven. Not because God wants to close it. But because of our sin.*

- C. **Open Heavens must be earned, or there must be some important reason that God would establish them for you.** *Not Scriptural. As humans, we can't earn anything from God. His salvation, promises, and gifts are freely given. God wants us walking under an Open Heaven because it is part of Covenant. As Christians, we are not of this world and the world's kingdom - therefore, we shouldn't be limited to it or governed by it. God wants us walking in the supernatural because he created us supernatural beings, and it's part of the 'Splendor' he desires to lavish on his people - simply because that's the kind of God he is. He's not performance orientated. We don't have to earn or be good enough to receive from him.*

Do not confuse 'Hunger and Thirst' - 'Longing' - 'Yearning' - 'Seeking After' - 'Believing For' - 'Pulling On' or 'By Faith, Going After' the things of God; do not confuse those with earning the things of God. We must avail ourselves, and get in the right position to receive the things of God. But that is not earning them.

Angels & Open Heavens

I. Scripturally, there is a lot of angelic activity that takes place in Open Heaven situations.

- A. *In the Old Testament, we see this in connection with an Open Heaven and Jacob. (Genesis 28) It's often referred to as 'Jacob's Ladder'. The emphasis is typically placed on the angelic activity, but in reality - the emphasis was on the establishment of the Covenant of Abraham and Isaac - with Jacob. That was the central theme of this Open Heaven encounter. There are some things we can learn from this happening.*
- 1. Angelic activity takes place around Covenant based situations. They were in attendance for establishing and supporting the extension of the Covenant. (Acts 7:53; Galatians 3:19; Hebrews 2:2)*
 - 2. It has to be about the Word of God and Covenant. NOTICE: The Covenant was being extended on to Jacob BY GOD SPEAKING. HIS WORDS WERE BEING SPOKEN. Angels obey God's commands and hearken to the Word of the Lord. (Psalms 103:20-21) That scripture says Angels OBEY GOD and do HIS WILL. They are not as interested in what we want as what God wants. Angels respond to us when we are proclaiming the Word of God.*

3. *There was a flow happening here. It was an extension of Covenant between heaven & earth. (Specifically: God and Jacob) The angels were working with that flow and anointing by ascending and descending between heaven and earth. (John 1:51) The exact mission that is being carried out is not stated.*
4. *It is never to become about angels. IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT GOD. Jesus takes center stage in everything. He's the Healer, Restorer, Baptizer, Savior, Our Hope, Life, Etc. NOT ANGELS. They are fellow-servants of God with us. (Rev. 19:9-10; 22:8-9)*

B. What I believe the New Testament counterpart to this is found in John 1:50-51. Jesus just had a word of knowledge and/or a vision of Nathanael. But when Jesus talked to him about it, he told Nathanael that he would see a greater demonstration of the supernatural than a word of knowledge or vision. Nathanael would see an open heaven over Jesus with angels ascending and descending on him.

We don't know when that happened, or if it happened more than once. But if I were to take a guess, I would say it happened when Jesus was hanging between heaven and earth on the cross establishing the new covenant. The cross could be viewed as the ladder that was planted on earth, but via what was being done on it - reached to heaven. (just like the ladder in Jacob's dream)

What would the angels have been doing ascending and descending on Jesus. Doing what they are given to man to do - Ministering To Him. Exactly what was being done, again that's not stated. But if the truth be known, in my opinion, even when we're trying to sense what's happening around us, 99.9% of angelic ministry to us - goes undetected by us. So the fact that their work is not always stated, makes sense. We usually aren't even aware they are working. And even if we were, they're not suppose to get the credit anyway.

C. The first chapter of Hebrews gives us some insight into what angels are to do.

1:4 - Recognize their position. Jesus is superior to them. His name is superior to any name given to an angel.

1:5 - They are not considered begotten or Fathered by God. They are a created class of beings.

1:6 - Angels are to worship Jesus. (That speaks of full surrender to him)

1:7 - They are "ministers". (#3011 - See Def. below)

- They are made 'spirits' (KJV) 'winds' (NIV). The Greek word is 'Pneuma', so either rendering is correct. What it's saying is that they are spirit beings as much as any other being from the spirit realm. It's the same word used to refer to God, the Holy Spirit, humanity, angels, demons, the spoken word of God, etc.

- They are made 'flame(s) of fire'. The Greek meaning is: "Flash, Flame, or Fiery Flame; literally a flame of fire".

1:13 - Angels have no ruling authority. They don't rule in this world. (2:5)

1:14 - They are "ministering spirits sent to serve (minister to) those who will inherit salvation".

- "Ministering" (#3010) - "Functional Publicly; Beneficent" (Same as #3008)
- (#3008) - "To be a Public Servant" (From #3011)
- (#3011) - "A Public Servant, i.e. a functionary in the temple or gospel; a Worshipper of God; a Benefactor of Man"
- "Minister" (#1248) - "Attendance, Aid, Service" (From #1249)
- (#1249) - "To run on errands; an attendant, a waiter"

D. There is no scriptural evidence that angels become visible to humans every time the Heavens Open. There is little doubt that they are there ministering. But we don't always see them when they're at work.

II. Examples of Angels and Humans.

A. Old Testament.

- 1. Genesis 16:7-12 - "Angel of the Lord" (Pre-incarnate Jesus?) and Hagar.*
- 2. Genesis 19 - The angels and Lot in Sodom.*
- 3. Genesis 22:11 - Angel talks to Abraham.*
- 4. Exodus 14:19-20 - The angel and the pillar of cloud/fire.*
- 5. Exodus 23:20-23 - The angel that went with the Israelites on their journey.*
- 6. I Kings 19:5-8 - The angel ministering to Elijah.*
- 7. Psalms 91:11 - Angels commanded to guard man.*
- 8. Daniel 3:28 - Angels sent to Shadrach, Meschah, and Abednego in the fiery furnace.*
- 9. Daniel 6:22 - The angel that shut the lions mouth.*
- 10. Daniel 10:5-21 - The angel sent to give the message to Daniel.*

B. New Testament.

- 1. Matthew 4:11 - They ministered to Jesus at the end of the wilderness experience.*
- 2. Luke 22:43 - They ministered to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.*
- 3. Matthew 1:20-21 - The angel appears to Joseph in a dream and tells him what to do.
(Also: Matt. 2:13)*
- 4. Luke 16:22 - They carried Lazarus to Abraham's bosom.*
- 5. Acts 5:19-20 - Angel releases the apostles from jail and gives them instruction.*
- 6. Acts 8:26-40 - An angel works with the Holy Spirit in Philip's ministering to the Ethiopian.*
- 7. Acts 10:3-6 - An angel tells Cornelius what to do.*

8. *Acts 12:7-11 - The angel that got Peter out of jail.*
9. *Acts 12:23 - Angel struck Herod down for not giving praise to God.*
10. *Acts 27:23-24 - An angel of the Lord encourages Paul before the shipwreck.*
11. *Revelation 19:10, 20:8-9 - An angel ministering to John.*

III. Angels are to be highly active in the New Testament church.

- A. *The above scriptures are only a few. Look up the rest to confirm their activity.*
- B. *Hebrews 12:22 - “Thousands upon Thousands of Angels in Joyful Assembly” (NIV), “an innumerable company of angels” (KJV), “to countless multitudes of angels in festal gathering” (AMP) are gathered with the church of the firstborn. (Jesus’ church) This is speaking of their involvement with the New Testament Church.*

The angels are with us to minister to us, and they’re excited & joyful about the whole thing.

IV. In what areas can Angels minister - when they are ministering to man?

- A. *They do the bidding of the Lord. They obey His Word. They do His Will. I like how the Amplified Version states it:*

“Bless (affectionately, gratefully praise) the Lord, you His angels, you mighty ones who do His commandments, hearkening to the voice of His word.....all you His hosts, you His ministers who do His pleasure.” (Psalms 103:20-21 - AMP)

The KJV also says: “...his angels....hearken unto the voice of his word”.

That’s really important for two reasons:

1. *They don’t do what you command them to do. They’re not under your authority. They do what God tells them to do. I find no scripture that tells man that we have the authority or right to tell the angels what they are to do. For us to command or tell the angels what to do is unscriptural.*
2. *Pay close attention to what it did say. They are listening for the WORD to be spoken/ given a voice. Notice, it didn’t say they only listen for God to speak. When we speak*

the word of God, they move into action. For What? To “HEARKEN UNTO THE VOICE OF HIS WORD”. Whatever the word says God wants for you, your life, your family, your health, your finances, your ministry, your giftings, FOR YOU - They work with God as he is performing it in your life - IF YOU, THROUGH FAITH, CONFESS THE WORD!!!!

They are listening for the voice of the word of God. There are many things that God has already spoken concerning his will for his people. He may not say it again. He’s given the word of faith to us. It’s in our mouths. We need to get in agreement with what God has already said in HIS WORD, BELIEVE FOR IT TO HAPPEN IN OUR LIVES - AND BEGIN SPEAKING IT. It’s the confession of our faith. That sets the angels into action.

- B. So any area that the scripture says God wants to work in our lives, the “Innumerable company of angels” is in attendance. Ready to “Function Publicly” for us. Be “Beneficent” to the cause. “Be a Public Servant, i.e. a functionary in the gospel”. They will worship with us as “A Worshipper of God”. With their ministry focusing on being “A Benefactor of Man” -- A “Minister” to us. Being in “Attendance, Aid, Service” to us so the word of God gets performed over us. Ready “To run on errands” and be “An attendant”, or “A waiter” to us and for us.*

WOW!!!! They’re joyful and excited to do it. We should be joyful and excited to have them as “Fellow-servants” of the Most High.

V. The Fire and the Wind of Angels.

- A. Fire is something that is very clearly connected with God in the scripture.*
- 1. God is a consuming fire. (Hebrews 12:29)*
 - 2. Jesus has eyes that are like fire. (Revelation 1:14; 19:12))*
 - 3. We are to be Baptized in the Holy Spirit and Fire. (Matt. 3:11; Luke 3:16) I believe that is what Jesus was referring to in Luke 12:49 when he said he came to bring a fire on earth, and he wished it would have already been going when he was on earth. In I Thess. 5:19 Paul said that we should not quench, or put out the Holy Spirit’s fire.*
- B. So when it speaks of being baptized in the Holy Spirit and Fire. I believe it is talking about the Holy Spirit’s Fire. Not some other fire. I bring that up because there is some teaching that says the baptism with fire was talking about being baptized with angels because they are made flames of fire. And that the tongues of fire that came to rest on all the believers and the wind that blew in Acts 2, was really a manifestation of angels.*

I don't find any scripture to support that view. I can find scripture that says the angels are flames of fire and wind do work with the Holy Spirit, but I can't find anything to say they are the fire and wind of the Holy Spirit.

- C. *Why are they made 'Flames of Fire' and 'Wind'? So they can work closely and easily in concert with the Holy Spirit. (Who is God) They're able to flow easily with the Spirit, because they're of the same substance. Both fire and wind are connected with the working of the Holy Spirit in scripture. (John 3:5-8; Matt. 3:11; Acts 2:3; I Thess. 5:19)*

With that in mind, I have had many experiences where I've felt angels move among us in services. I could feel the brush/movement of air as they passed me - and no physical person was there. I've also seen the light of angels - the light of their fire. And there have been times when I physically felt the heat, or the hot tingling of their presence as they were working around me. BUT THE FOCUS MUST REMAIN SQUARELY ON JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT. We are not to always be drawing attention to the angelic activity going on around us. If the angels are being used in ministry situations with people, they are only doing it under the power and ability given to them by the Father. They cannot do it on their own. Therefore, ALL GLORY, HONOR, PRAISE, AND WORSHIP BELONGS TO GOD. AND A TRUE ANGEL OF GOD WOULD BE THE FIRST ONE TO AGREE WITH THAT. So, when I sense them ministering with me, I rarely publicly acknowledge that it's even happening. Because people, (Esp. the Immature) will start focusing on the angels and not on Jesus and the Holy Spirit. That will quickly take us into Deception and False Doctrine.

VI. Some Fallacies about Angels.

- A. *We can tell angels what to do, give them our commands, use them as our servants. That is a twist on scripture. Angels are ministering spirits sent to minister to those who inherit salvation. (Heb. 1:14) They are servants of God. They minister to us, (Hebrews 1:14) and with us, (Rev. 19:9-10; 22:8-9) according to His Will and His Command. The only way they will do what we're saying & commanding is if we are **SPEAKING THE WORD OF GOD BY FAITH.***
- B. *We are to Worship Angels. That is False. (Rev. 19:9-10; 22:8-9) That is making them idols.*
- C. *By speaking about them, we are worshipping them. Also not scriptural. If that's true, then Jesus, Paul, Peter, etc. worshipped angels, because they spoke **TO** them, **ABOUT** them, and at times they'd say **WHAT** the angel SAID. They are fellow-*

servants. Just because they're in the spirit realm - DO NOT MAKE A BIGGER DEAL OUT OF THEM THAN WHAT THEY ARE. But also, recognize the fact they are fellow-servants. BE WILLING TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND WORK WITH THEM.

D. You can only tell if Angels are present by seeing them. That is not true. Under the Gift of the Discerning of Spirit, we can discern any type of spirit. Demonic, Angelic, Human, etc. Have we ever seen the Holy Spirit? If we haven't seen him, how can we know if he's there? You can sense his presence. (Besides the fact that the word says he is always with us) That same principle of sensing their presence is true for any spirit. They are all called "Pnuema". If they're all of the same substance, and we can sense one, then we can sense any of them.

Repentance

Disobedience, Selfishness, Pride, Arrogance, Stubbornness, Sin - closes the heavens. To open the heavens requires repentance. We must turn from the sin to: Obedience, Humility, Submission and Teachableness, Righteousness. To do justice to this study, it's a necessity to take a look at repentance.

There are qualities that go with repentance. Jesus was referring to them when he said:

"I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 18:3-4

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Luke 18:16-17

What is the quality in a child that Jesus is looking for? All undamaged children carry the same quality. That's why Jesus was so adamant in Matthew 18, that a child be left undamaged. Because when a person is marred as a child, it damages their ability to flow in the things of God for the rest of their lives. So what is the quality that children carry?

Humble(ness) > Humility makes us Teachable & Lowly (See def. for Humble)

Repentance requires these qualities be present. People do not repent unless they are humble enough to realize they have sinned and are sinners. Out of that humbleness comes teachableness and lowliness. To live under an Open Heaven, these qualities must be present. Why? “For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” And the only way to get out from under the restrictions of sin - is to repent.

Below are listed the definitions for the word ‘Repent’:

Title: Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

[H5162](#) (Old Testament)

A primitive root; properly to sigh, that is, breathe strongly; by implication to be sorry, that is, (in a נחם favorable sense) to pity, console or (reflexively) rue; or (unfavorably) to avenge (oneself):—comfort (self), .)ease [one’s self], repent (-er, -ing, self

Title: Brown-Driver-Briggs' Hebrew Definitions

H5162 (Old Testament)

1) to be sorry, console oneself, repent, regret, comfort, be comforted

1a) ([Niphal](#))

1a1) to be sorry, be moved to pity, have compassion

1a2) to be sorry, rue, suffer grief, repent

1a3) to comfort oneself, be comforted

1a4) to comfort oneself, ease oneself

1b) ([Piel](#)) to comfort, console

1c) ([Pual](#)) to be comforted, be consoled

1d) ([Hithpael](#))

1d1) to be sorry, have compassion

1d2) to rue, repent of

1d3) to comfort oneself, be comforted

1d4) to ease oneself

Title: Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

[G3340](#) (New Testament)

From [G3326](#) and [G3539](#) ; to *think differently* or *afterwards*, that is, *reconsider* (morally to *feel compunction*):—repent.

Title: Thayer’s Greek Definitions

[G3340](#) (New Testament)

Thayer Definition:

1) to change one’s mind, i.e. to repent

2) to change one’s mind for better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one’s past sins

A good Layman's Definition of the word Repent comes out of the definitions for repent/repentance given in the AMP Bible. It is:

"To get new information, Regret the old way, Make the Change"

There are numerous scriptures listed at the beginning of this study that deal with what we must do to live under an Open Heaven. They all deal with the realm of repentance. I'm going to key in on one of them, because it puts everything together in a single passage.

"I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices. When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there."

II Chronicles 7:12-16

I. The Old Testament Types. The New Testament Realities.

- A. To really understand how this scripture applies to us in the New Testament, we need to see what this is picturing for us. REMEMBER: Everything that happened in the Old Test. is a picture, type, or shadow of the reality found in the New Test. (I Cor. 10:1-11) Let's look at a few of the types in II Chron. 7, and brush up on some of the basic pictures of the Old Test. and how they apply in the New Test.*
- 1. The Old Testament Promised Land pictures our Physical Body/Flesh in the New Test.*
 - a. The O.T. Promised Land was made of dirt/land.*
 - Our physical bodies are made out of dirt/land.*
 - b. The O.T. Promised Land was to be lived in, ruled, subdued, and all enemies killed and gotten out of the land.*
 - In the N.T. we live in our physical bodies, we are to rule the old nature/flesh, subdue it, and kill all the evil and sinful desires (spiritual enemies) that live in it.*
 - c. The O.T. land was to be cultivated and made fruitful.*
 - Our N.T. land, (Our body) is to also be worked with/cultivated (trained, disciplined, controlled, brought into subjection, matured) until we are fruitful as we live in it during our time on this earth. (John 15:16)*

- d. *The O.T. land would suffer if the people living in it got into sin. Rain would be withheld, wild animals would invade and multiply, it would no longer produce crops, the people in it would starve, be controlled by other nations, etc.*
-- In the N.T., we suffer if we don't rule and reign over the flesh. For instance, if we don't seek the kingdom of God first, a lot of things are never added to us. We will struggle as a christian. (Matt. 6:33) Another example: if we as men don't treat our spouses correctly, our prayers are hindered. That causes a drought in answered prayer. (I Peter 3:7) Example: What we sow, we reap. If we sow to please our sinful nature, from that nature/flesh we will reap destruction. If we sow to please the Spirit, from the Spirit we will reap eternal life. (Gal. 6:7-8)
****** There are many examples of this. But suffice it to say - The Old Testament Promised Land was a picture of our body/flesh/old nature in the New Test.*

2. *The Old Testament temple was a physical building.*
-- The New Testament temple is our body. (I Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19)
3. *In the Old Test. the temple was designed for sacrifices.*
-- In the New Testament, our body is to be offered in sacrifice. Not being conformed to the world, but being transformed so we are pleasing to God is the heart and soul of the sacrificing that goes on with our temple. (Romans 12:1-2)
4. *Rain: It is what waters the land so it can produce crops. In the New Testament, we are the land. So as God has poured out his rain, (Rain is water. Jesus said water was a symbol/type of the Holy Spirit - John 7:37-39) or his Spirit on us - so we can be fruitful and produce 30 - 60 - 100 fold.*

However, when the Heaven's close - the moving of the Spirit becomes minimal in our lives. As a result, not much super-natural is taking place in us.

II. HERE'S A BIG ONE!!! THE KINGDOM.

Shutting up the heavens in the Old Test. is the counterpart of the Kingdom of Heaven/God in the New Testament. The Kingdom in the N.T. enlarges and develops on the principle of the Open Heavens. Jesus especially uses it to show us how God and Heaven operate; and what we need to do to get into sync. with that operation. (Get in step with the Spirit) The same way sin, disobedience, and living by the sinful nature shut up the heavens in the Old Testament >>> They will keep us from having free/unrestricted access to the Kingdom of Heaven/God, and the things of that Kingdom, in the New Testament.

A. Here is a listing of just a few of the scriptures that deal with our being restricted access to the things of the Kingdom. It's the counterpart of Heaven being Shut to us.

Matthew 3:2; 4:17 - "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near"

Matthew 5:20 - "Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees.... you will certainly not enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

Matthew 7:21 - "Not everyone who says to me Lord, Lord, will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father..."

Matthew 23:13 - "Woe to you teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the Kingdom of Heaven in men's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to."

Mark 4:11 - "...the secrets of the Kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parable so that they may be every seeing but never [perceiving, and ever hearing but never...."

Luke 9:62 - "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the Kingdom of God."

Luke 18:17 - "...anyone who will not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Luke 18:25 - "...it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

John 3:3 - "I tell you the truth, unless a man is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God."

I Cor. 6:9 - "Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolators, nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the Kingdom of God." (Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:3-7)

B. However, we've already learned that it was never God's desire/design to have the Israelites live under a Shut or Closed Heaven. They were to continually live under an Open Heaven. If they lived in obedience, the heaven remained open. When they refused, it was closed to them.

In the New Test. it is God's desire that we CONTINUALLY live in the good things of the Kingdom of Heaven/God. But just like in the Old Test., we are the ones who determine that - Not God. Here are a few scriptures that state that.

Matthew 4:23 - "Jesus went throughout Galilee....preaching the good new of the kingdom...."

- Matthew 6:33 - "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*
- Matthew 12:28 - "But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."*
- Matthew 16:19 - "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*
- Matthew 19:14 - "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*
- Matthew 25:34 - "...come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world."*
- Luke 8:10 - "...the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you."*
- Luke 12:32 - "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom."*
- Luke 17:20 - "...The kingdom of God does not come visibly, nor will people say, Here it is, or There it is, because the kingdom of God is within (or among) you."*
- Luke 22:29 - "..I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me"*
- Colossians 1:13 - "For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves."*
- I Thessalonians 2:12 - "...God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory."*
- Hebrews 12:28-29 - "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire."*
- James 2:5 - "Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?"*
- Revelation 1:5-6 - "...to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father - to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen."*
- Revelation 5:10 - "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."*
- Revelation 12:10-11 - "...Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."*

FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE - WE ARE TO LIVE IN THE KINGDOM ON AN ON-GOING BASIS. Remember: the Kingdom is a further developing on and fulfilling of the Open Heaven Principle. **WE ARE INTENDED TO LIVE UNDER AN OPEN HEAVEN - CONTINUALLY.**

III. Back to II Chronicles 7. Let's take that scripture apart to see Repentance.

"I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices. When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there."

II Chronicles 7:12-16

A. "If my people, who are called by my name"

- 1. This thing starts with the people of God. The Christian.**
- 2. The unbeliever does not have the ability to live under an Open Heaven, until they get saved. Born Again. (John 3:3,5)**

B. "Will Humble themselves".

- 1. We know that fasting is a form of humbling ourselves. (Isa. 58) However, it goes much deeper than that.**
- 2. Hebrew and Greek Definitions of the Word - "Humble":**

Title: Brown-Driver-Briggs' Hebrew Definitions

H3665

- 1) to be humble, be humbled, be subdued, be brought down, be low, be under, be brought into subjection
 - 1a) ([Niphal](#))
 - 1a1) to humble oneself
 - 1a2) to be humbled, be subdued
 - 1b) ([Hiphil](#))
 - 1b1) to humble
 - 1b2) to subdue

Title: Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

H3665

A primitive root; properly to bend the knee; hence to humiliate, vanquish:—bring down (low), into subjection, under, humble (self), subdue

Title: Brown-Driver-Briggs' Hebrew Definitions

H6031

Qal) to be occupied, be busied with () **עָבַד**

2) to afflict, oppress, humble, be afflicted, be bowed down

2a) (**Qal**)

2a1) to be put down, become low

2a2) to be depressed, be downcast

2a3) to be afflicted

2a4) to stoop

2b) (**Niphal**)

2b1) to humble oneself, bow down

2b2) to be afflicted, be humbled

2c) (**Piel**)

2c1) to humble, mishandle, afflict

2c2) to humble, be humiliated

2c3) to afflict

2c4) to humble, weaken oneself

2d) (**Pual**)

2d1) to be afflicted

2d2) to be humbled

2e) (**Hiphil**) to afflict

2f) (**Hithpael**)

2f1) to humble oneself

2f2) to be afflicted

Title: Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

H6031

A primitive root (possibly rather identical with [H6030](#) through the idea of *looking down* or *browbeat*—ing); to depress literally or figuratively, transitively or intransitively (in various applications). (sing is by mistake for H6030.):—abase self, afflict (-ion, self), answer [by mistake for H6030], chasten self, deal hardly with, defile, exercise, force, gentleness, humble (self), hurt, ravish, sing [by mistake for H6030], .speak [by mistake for H6030], submit self, weaken, X in any wise

Title: Brown-Driver-Briggs' Hebrew Definitions

H6041

poor, afflicted, humble, wretched)לנפ

1a) poor, needy

1b) poor and weak

1c) poor, weak, afflicted, wretched

1d) humble, lowly

Title: Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

H6041 & H8213 & H8217: (Other Heb. words that carry the same connotation)

From [H6031](#) ; *depressed*, in mind or circumstances (practically the same as [H6035](#) subjectively and לנפ

Title: Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

G5013 (New Testament)

ταπεινός

tapeinoō

tap-i-no'-o

From [G5011](#) ; to *depress*; figuratively to *humiliate* (in condition or heart):—abase, bring low, humble (self).

Title: Thayer's Greek Definitions

G5013 (New Testament)

Thayer Definition:

1) to make low, bring low

1a) to level, reduce to a plain

1b) metaphorically to bring into a humble condition, reduce

Title: Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

G5011 (New Testament)

ταπεινός

tapeinos

tap-i-nos'

Of uncertain derivation; *depressed*, that is, (figuratively) *humiliated* (in circumstances or disposition):—base, cast down, humble, of low degree (estate), lowly.

Title: Thayer's Greek Definitions

G5011 (New Testament)

Thayer Definition:

- 1) not rising far from the ground
- 2) metaphorically
 - 2a) as a condition, lowly, of low degree
 - 2b) brought low with grief, depressed
 - 2c) lowly in spirit, humble
 - 2d) in a bad sense, deporting one's self abjectly, deferring servilely to others

3. *To Humble ourselves in layman's terms is simply to quit taking a stand against God, his desires, rules, commands, what pleases him, his way of doing things, his attitudes, etc. - Submit yourself to him, lower yourself below him via who is actually ruling your life, and start doing it his way - no matter how painful that may be to the flesh/old nature.*
4. *This whole thing starts with us Humbling Ourselves. The average christian doesn't see where they have become hard, independent, disobedient, proud, etc. We make excuses for the way we live, and the choices we make. **(THAT SHOULD BE THE FIRST SIGN TO US THAT WE'RE IN SIN - WE MAKE EXCUSES FOR WHAT WE DO, HOW WE THINK, OUR ATTITUDES, AND HOW WE LIVE!!!)** If we haven't hardened our heart too much, Deep Down Inside, we know we're wrong!! We just choose to view it as "Not that big of a thing". **WE MUST GET HONEST AND REAL WITH OUR LIFE AND GOD!!!***

C. "And Pray".

1. *For the most part the American Church has become a prayer-less Church.*
2. *How often is the whole church in Corporate Prayer Meetings? (Why do so few attend)*
3. *How many of us have a habitual, daily, prayer time where we're doing nothing but spending time in prayer?*
4. *How many of us have gone days and weeks without ever getting into a substantial prayer time, or getting into the presence of God?*
5. *How many of us have been Baptized in the Holy Spirit and can pray in another tongue?*
6. *How many of us pray in that Tongue?*
7. *How many of us have ever interceded in prayer (Rom. 8:26-27) with groans that words could not express? (When's the last time you prayed that way?)*
8. *How many of us struggle to pray in public? (We don't do very well at it, because we don't practice praying. It doesn't flow out of us)*
9. *How PRAYER-LESS are we?*

****** Yet, we expect an Open Heaven, and the Kingdom to manifest in our lives in an unrestricted manner.**

D. “And Seek”.

1. Hebrew Definitions for ‘Seek’:

Title: Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

[H1245](#)

A primitive root; to search out (by any method; specifically in worship or prayer); by implication toִקַּבֵּץ strive after:—ask, beg, beseech, desire, enquire, get, make inquisition, procure, (make) request, require, seek .)(for

Title: Brown-Driver-Briggs' Hebrew Definitions

[H1245](#)

to seek, require, desire, exact, request)1קַבַּל

1a) ([Piel](#))

1a1) to seek to find

1a2) to seek to secure

1a3) to seek the face

1a4) to desire, demand

1a5) to require, exact

1a6) to ask, request

1b) ([Pual](#)) to be sought

2. A layman’s definition of ‘Seeking’ is to go after something with all that is within you, until you find it. No letting off. No giving up. No time limits. STAY WITH IT!!

3. Here are a couple of New Testament examples Jesus gave in an effort to describe seek.

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness...” (Matt. 6:33; Luke 12:31)

**Parable of the Lost Sheep. Parable of the Lost Coin. Parable of the Lost Son.
(Matt. 18; Luke 15)**

E. “My Face”.

In v. 14, this word is #6440. It is the main word used for face in the Old Testament. It is defined as:

“Face; before; presence; sight; the look on ones face, or countenance”.

In scripture, when it’s referring to being before the ‘Face’ of God, it’s talking about being in his presence. When God asks us to ‘Seek His Face’, he’s asking us to seek his presence.

The New Testament does a much better job of showing what God is desiring from us in the words “Presence” and “Face”.

NOTICE: The references to ‘Face’ in the definitions of “Presence” in the N.T.

Below are listed the definitions of ‘Presence’ in the New Testament.

NOTICE: there are 3 levels of ‘Presence’ described in the N.T. (Level #1 being the closest and most intimate. Level #3 being the furthest away and least intimate)

You will quickly notice by the definitions that being in someone’s presence has to do with them having their face (attention) turned toward us.

Please pay special attention to the last Greek word given. (#4383) It is also the same Greek word that is translated “Face” most of the time.

*Level #3 - The MOST DISTANT description that is still considered being in someone’s presence
This is speaking of being in front of the face as in the direction of. When you turn toward the moon, it is now in your presence because it is in front of your face. You are looking in that direction, and can see it.*

Title: Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

G1715

From [G1722](#) and [G4314](#) ; in front of (in place [literally or figuratively] or time):—against, at, before, (in presence, sight) of.

Title: Thayer's Greek Definitions

[G1715](#)

Thayer Definition:

- 1) in front, before
 - 1a) before, i.e. in that local region which is in front of a person or thing
 - 1b) before, in the presence of, i.e. opposite to, over against one
 - 1c) before, in the sight of
 - 1d) before, denoting rank

Title: Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

[G1722](#)

A primary preposition denoting (fixed) *position* (in place, time or state), and (by implication) *instrumentality* (medially or constructively), that is, a relation of *rest*

Title: Thayer's Greek Definitions

[G1722](#)

Thayer Definition:

- 1) in, by, with etc. a primary preposition denoting (fixed) position (in place, time or state), and (by implication) instrumentality (medially or constructively), i.e. a relation of rest

Title: Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

[G4314](#)

A strengthened form of [G4253](#) ; a preposition of direction; *forward to*, that is, *toward* (with the genitive case *the side of*, that is, *pertaining to*; with the dative case *by the side of*, that is, *near to*; usually with the accusative case the place, time, occasion, or respect, which is the *destination* of the relation, that is, *whither* or *for* which it is predicated):

Title: Thayer's Greek Definitions

[G4314](#)

Thayer Definition:

- 1) to the advantage of
- 2) at, near, by
- 3) to, towards, with, with regard to

1 Thessalonians 2:19

Level #2 - This is speaking of being closer than #3 - But still not near-by. This is speaking of someone being near-by. Maybe they are in your distant vision, maybe they aren't. They are closer than the moon, and they are approaching - coming closer.

Title: Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

[G3952](#)

From the present participle of [G3918](#) ; a *being near*, that is, *advent* (often, *return*; specifically of Christ to punish Jerusalem, or finally the wicked); (by implication) physical *aspect*:—coming, presence.

Title: Thayer's Greek Definitions

[G3952](#)

Thayer Definition:

- 1) presence
- 2) the coming, arrival, advent
 - 2a) the future visible return from heaven of Jesus, to raise the dead, hold the last judgment, and set up formally and gloriously the kingdom of God

II Corinthians 10:10; Philippians 2:12

Level #1 - This is the closest, most intimate level. In this realm of being in someone's presence, you are so close to them you are their attention. You are occupying that space. You are directly in front of them, and up against them. You are now staring into the eyes.

Title: Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

[G1799](#)

Neuter of a compound of [G1722](#) and a derivation of [G3700](#) ; *in the face* of (literally or figuratively):—before, in the presence (sight) of, to.

Title: Thayer's Greek Definitions

[G1799](#)

Thayer Definition:

- 1) in the presence of, before
 - 1a) of occupied place: in that place which is before, or over against, opposite, any one and towards which another turns his eyes

Luke 1:19; 13:26; 14:10; 15:10; John 20:30; Acts 27:35; I Corinthians 1:29; Revelation 14:10

Title: Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

[G2714](#)

From [G2596](#) and [G1799](#) ; *directly in front of*:—before (the presence of), in the sight of.

Title: Thayer's Greek Definitions

[G2714](#)

Thayer Definition:

- 1) over against, before the face of, before the presence of, in the sight of, before
 - 1a) referring to places
 - 1b) metaphorically
 - 1b1) having one as it were before the eyes, before one as witness
 - 1b2) before God as judge

Jude 24

Title: Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

[G561](#)

From [G575](#) and [G1725](#) ; *from in front*, that is, *opposite, before* or *against*:—before, contrary, over against, in the presence of.

Title: Thayer's Greek Definitions

[G561](#)

Thayer Definition:

- 1) over against, opposite
- 2) in sight of, before
- 3) in opposition to, against

Acts 3:16

Title: Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

[G4383](#)

From [G4314](#) and ὤψ ὀψ (the *visage*; from [G3700](#)); the *front* (as being *towards view*), that is, the *countenance, aspect, appearance, surface*; by implication *presence, person*:—(outward) appearance, X before, countenance, face, fashion, (men's) person, presence. The part around the eye, the face; the countenance; the part toward the eyes. Outward appearance. Of the look i.e. the face, which by its various movements affords an index of inward thoughts and feelings.

Title: Thayer's Greek Definitions

G4383

Thayer Definition:

- 1) the face
 - 1a) the front of the human head
 - 1b) countenance, look
 - 1b1) the face so far forth as it is the organ of sight, and by it various movements and changes) the index of the inward thoughts and feelings
 - 1c) the appearance one presents by his wealth or property, his rank or low condition
 - 1c1) outward circumstances, external condition
 - 1c2) used in expressions which denote to regard the person in one's judgment and treatment of men
- 2) the outward appearance of inanimate things

Acts 3:13; 3:19; 5:41; II Cor. 10:1; I Thess. 2:17; II Thess. 1:9; Hebrews 9:24

This word (#4383) that is translated "Presence" in the KJV, is also translated "Face" in the KJV. Below is a listing of the scriptures where it's translated "Face".

Matthew 6:17; 11:10; 16:3; 17:2,6; 18:10; 26:39,67

Mark 1:2; 14:65

Luke 1:76; 2:31; 5:12; 7:27; 9:51,52,53; 10:1; 12:56; 17:16; 21:35; 22:64

Acts 6:15; 7:45; 17:26; 20:25,38; 25:16

I Corinthians 13:12; 14:25

II Corinthians 3:7,13,18; 4:6; 11:20;

Galatians 1:22; 2:11

Colossians 2:1

I Thessalonians 2:17; 3:10

James 1:23

I Peter 3:12

Revelation 4:7; 6:16; 10:1; 12:14; 20:11; 22:4

Looking at the number of times the various words are used in scripture, IT IS OBVIOUS that God is interested in close, intimate, right up against each other "Presence" and "Face" encounters.

Back to II Chron. 7:14:

F. “And turn from their wicked ways”

- 1. Here the definitions for the word ‘Turn’, are clearly stating we need to repent. The ‘Turn’ carries many of the same meanings as the word ‘Repent’.**
- 2. Hebrew definitions for the word ‘Turn’:**

Title: Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

[H7725](#)

יָשׁוּב primitive root; to *turn* back (hence, away) transitively or intransitively, literally or figuratively (not necessarily with the idea of *return* to the starting point); generally to *retreat*;

Title: Brown-Driver-Briggs' Hebrew Definitions

[H7725](#)

יָשׁוּב) to return, turn back

1a) ([Qal](#))

1a1) to turn back, return

1a1a) to turn back

1a1b) to return, come or go back

1a1c) to return unto, go back, come back

1a1d) of dying

1a1e) of human relations (figuratively)

1a1f) of spiritual relations (figuratively)

1a1f1) to turn back (from God), apostatise

1a1f2) to turn away (of God)

1a1f3) to turn back (to God), repent

1a1f4) turn back (from evil)

1a1g) of inanimate things

1a1h) in repetition

1b) ([Polel](#))

1b1) to bring back

1b2) to restore, refresh, repair (figuratively)

1b3) to lead away (enticingly)

1b4) to show turning, apostatise

1c) ([Pual](#)) restored (participle)

1d) ([Hiphil](#)) to cause to return, bring back

1d1) to bring back, allow to return, put back, draw back, give back, restore, relinquish, give in payment

1d2) to bring back, refresh, restore

- 1d3) to bring back, report to, answer
- 1d4) to bring back, make requital, pay (as recompense)
- 1d5) to turn back or backward, repel, defeat, repulse, hinder, reject, refuse
- 1d6) to turn away (face), turn toward
- 1d7) to turn against
- 1d8) to bring back to mind
- 1d9) to show a turning away
- 1d10) to reverse, revoke
- 1e) ([Hophal](#)) to be returned, be restored, be brought back
- 1f) ([Pulal](#)) brought back

3. As you read the definitions for ‘Wicked’, you’ll see it covers everything that is Ungodly, or displeasing to God. Any and every form of sin is covered.

Hebrew definitions for the word ‘Wicked’:

Title: Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

[H7451](#)

From H7489 ; bad or (as noun) evil (naturally or morally). This includes the second (feminine) רע רע form; as adjective or noun:—adversity, affliction, bad, calamity, + displeasure (-ure), distress, evil ([-favouredness], man, thing), + exceedingly, X great, grief (-vous), harm, heavy, hurt (-ful), ill (favoured), + mark, mischief, (-vous), misery, naught (-ty), noisome, + not please, sad (-ly), sore, sorrow, trouble, vex,].wicked (-ly, -ness, one), worse (-st) wretchedness, wrong. [Including feminine ra’ah; as adjective or noun

Title: Brown-Driver-Briggs' Hebrew Definitions

[H7451](#)

- 1) bad, evil (adjective)
 - 1a) bad, disagreeable, malignant
 - 1b) bad, unpleasant, evil (giving pain, unhappiness, misery)
 - 1c) evil, displeasing
 - 1d) bad (of its kind—land, water, etc)
 - 1e) bad (of value)
 - 1f) worse than, worst (comparison)
 - 1g) sad, unhappy
 - 1h) evil (hurtful)
 - 1i) bad, unkind (vicious in disposition)
 - 1j) bad, evil, wicked (ethically)
 - 1j1) in general, of persons, of thoughts
 - 1j2) deeds, actions

- 2) evil, distress, misery, injury, calamity (noun masculine)
 - 2a) evil, distress, adversity
 - 2b) evil, injury, wrong
 - 2c) evil (ethical)
- 3) evil, misery, distress, injury (noun feminine)
 - 3a) evil, misery, distress
 - 3b) evil, injury, wrong
 - 3c) evil (ethical)

4. Hebrew Definition for the word ‘Ways’:

Title: Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

H1870

From [H1869](#) ; a *road* (as *trodden*); figuratively a *course* of life or *mode* of action, often adverbially:— גַּד along, away, because of, + by, conversation, custom, [east-] ward, journey, manner, passenger, through, to-ward, [high-] [path-] way [-side], whither [-soever]

Title: Brown-Driver-Briggs' Hebrew Definitions

H1870

- 1) way, road, distance, journey, manner
 - 1a) road, way, path
 - 1b) journey
 - 1c) direction
 - 1d) manner, habit, way
 - 1e) of course of life (figuratively)
 - 1f) of moral character (figuratively)

The word ‘Ways’ is talking about the kind of life we choose to live. It’s the direction we go and the paths we choose to follow.

****** To have an Open Heaven restored, WE MUST REPENT OF OUR SINFUL LIFESTYLE.**

G. “Then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land”.

- 1. “Hear from Heaven”:** *When God’s people refuse to repent, he won’t even hear them!*
: Notice how the heaven is now open to our prayers.

2. **“Forgive their sin”**: *Sin is the core problem that separates us from God.
: He applies the payment already made for our sin. He pardons us, imputes righteousness, and sends the transgression away. Never to be remembered against us again.*

3. **“Heal their land”**: *Hebrew definition for the word ‘Heal’:*

Title: Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

[H7495](#)

A primitive root; properly to mend (by stitching), that is, (figuratively) to cure:—cure, (cause to) רפא רפא . heal, physician, repair, X thoroughly, make whole. See H7503

- : He will stitch us back together and cure the cause of the problem.*
- : The word ‘Land’ means “To Be Firm; the earth (at large, or partitively a land)”*

REMEMBER: *We are the first land to be looked at. Our bodies. Our temple is made out of land, dirt, earth.*

The exciting part is found in what the New Covenant does to elaborate on this principle. It says in Romans 8:18-25 that creation (all the physical creation that is made out of dirt, land) waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. GET THIS: In Romans it is saying that as God works in our personal land (our flesh/bodies) and mature us into sonship status, (Galatians 4:1-7) WE ARE TO HAVE AN AFFECT ON ALL CREATION. That’s a lot of land.

H. THIS NEXT PORTION IS HUGE!!!!

“Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place”

1. **What place?** *Look back at the context. He’s talking about the O.T. temple. That’s the picture/type of the N.T. temple - WHICH IS US!!! (Our bodies - the temple of the Holy Spirit) The prayers offered IN US, under the direction of the Spirit. (Eph. 6:18)*

2. **What about the prayers?** *Now he’s watching and listening! Before the heaven’s were closed and very little (if anything) was getting through. Now his full attention is on us and what we’re praying.*

- a. *His face is turned toward us. (We're in that intimate presence of God)*
- b. *He's listening to us. According to I John 5:14-15:*

“This is the assurance we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will - He Hears Us. And if we know he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of him.”

- c. *Now we're in position to walk in what the Old Testament Priestly Blessing was describing:*

*“The Lord Bless You and Keep You;
The Lord Make His Face Shine Upon You and be Gracious to You;
The Lord Turn His Face Toward You and Give You Peace.”*

Numbers 6:24-26

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE. ONLY BELIEVE.

He goes on to say in verse 16:

“For I have chosen and sanctified (set apart for holy use) this house, that My Name may be here forever, and My eyes and My heart will be here perpetually.”

3. *He's chosen and sanctified Us, (the temple).*

His Name - - - - His Eyes - - - - His Heart

WILL BE PERPETUALLY WITH US!!!!!!

That's talking about us living in a:

CONSISTENT, ON-GOING OPEN-HEAVEN > KINGDOM OF GOD/HEAVEN

position with God.

IV. Some fallacies about Repentance.

- A. *Because we're under the New Covenant, we no longer need to repent. That is absolutely not scriptural. The words 'Repent' and 'Repentance' are used 48 times in the New Test. (KJV) It's required before our sins are forgiven. (Acts 2:38) It's required before we can receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38) It's required for our sins to be wiped out. (Acts 3:19) It's required for times of refreshing to come from the Lord. (Acts 3:19) God commands ALL people, EVERYWHERE to repent. (Acts 17:30)*
- B. *Repentance is dwelling too much on sin. Again, that's not scriptural. Please remember this: Ignoring sin will not make it go away, or bring us freedom from it. That's why the first thing the Holy Spirit will talk to you about is your SIN. Then he'll move on to talking about what is right for you. Then he'll talk to you about how the Devil is judged, condemned, and powerless. (John 16:5-11)*
- C. *When you deal with Repentance, you are condemning people. Again, that's a lie. Condemnation comes when you don't believe in Jesus for your salvation. (John 3:17-18) Condemnation comes when you live according to the flesh and not the Spirit. (Rom. 8:1) Condemnation comes when we don't judge ourselves to determine whether we're in sin or not, and Jesus has to judge us because of our sin. (I Corinthians 11:27-34) Condemnation comes when we allow ourselves to do things that we aren't 100% sure are OK with God. (Not from faith) When we have doubts about something, yet we Do them anyway, we're condemned. (Rom. 14:22-23)*
- Repentance does just the opposite - It sets us free from condemnation. (Rom. 3:5-8)**
- D. *Repentance means I'm forgiven. But I can keep doing what I've been doing. I don't have to change. WRONG. Just look at the definitions of repentance. Without change, there hasn't been true repentance.*

Conclusion:

GOD WANTS HIS PEOPLE BLESSED!!! We are the ones who get in the way of that. We defile our land and temple by our attitudes, choices, and what we allow in our lives that is not of God. That shuts the Heaven's to us. It keeps us from living in our inheritance in the Kingdom. The activity of the Holy Spirit and the Supernatural become severely reduced and restricted.

Covenant always requires an exchange. Since Jesus made the greatest Covenant, everything we do as Christians comes under that Covenant. Even though Jesus has established the New Covenant, we are still required to make exchanges with God to live in that Covenant. (Example: Matthew 10:39 - below) Since Covenant requires an exchange, it's our responsibility to make an exchange to get involved with the Open Heavens, or the Kingdom of Heaven/God. The exchange is simple, but will require everything (and more - that's why we need God's help) in us to accomplish. Our exchange is to give God our whole/entire life. We must give him - all of us!!!

II Chronicles 7:12

"I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices."

(1) God chose 'this place' as a "temple for sacrifices" (NIV)

- "for an house of sacrifice" (KJV)

- "as a house of sacrifice" (AMP)

(2) *WHAT PLACE?? The Old Testament Temple, which is a type of our bodies being the temple in the New Testament. In the fulfillment of the type, he has chosen our bodies as temples of sacrifice.*

Title: Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

[H2077](#) ("Sacrifices" - II Chronicles 7:12)

From [H2076](#) ; properly a *slaughter*, that is, the *flesh* of an animal; by implication a *sacrifice* (the victim or the act):—offer (-ing), sacrifice.

Title: Brown-Driver-Briggs' Hebrew Definitions

[H2077](#) ("Sacrifices" - II Chronicles 7:12)

1) sacrifice

1a) sacrifices of righteousness

1b) sacrifices of strife

1c) sacrifices to dead things

1d) the covenant sacrifice

1e) the passover

1f) annual sacrifice

1g) thank offering

Romans 12:1

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - which is your spiritual worship.”

(1) Here is the New Test. counterpart. OUR BODIES HAVE BEEN CHOSEN AS A TEMPLE OF SACRIFICE.

Title: Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

[G2378](#) (“Sacrifice” - Romans 12:1)

From [G2380](#) ; *sacrifice* (the act or the victim, literally or figuratively):—sacrifice.

Title: Thayer’s Greek Definitions

[G2378](#) (“Sacrifice” - Romans 12:1)

1) a sacrifice, victim

Title: Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

[G2380](#) (“Sacrifice” - Romans 12:1 - Root Word)

A primary verb; properly to *rush* (*breathe hard, blow, smoke*), that is, (by implication) to *sacrifice* (properly by fire, but generally); by extension to *immolate* (*slaughter* for any purpose):—kill, (do) sacrifice, slay.

Title: Thayer’s Greek Definitions

[G2380](#) (“Sacrifice” - Romans 12:1 - Root Word)

1) to sacrifice, immolate

2) to slay, kill

2a) of the paschal lamb

3) slaughter

(2) In Luke 3:16-17, John the Baptist says that Jesus would Baptize us with the Holy Spirit and Fire. In chapter 12:49, Jesus said he came to bring a fire on earth, and he wished it had already begun.

- (3) *The Fire goes with the Holy Spirit. Its purpose is to burn up the chaff that is separated from the grain. (Luke 3:16-17)*
- (4) *Acts 1:8 says that after we have received the Holy Spirit and his power, we “will be witnesses”. That word witnesses in the Greek is: “Martyr”. The Holy Spirit will make us Martyr’s. How??? By his Fire. We are to be a ‘Temple of Slaughter, and be sacrificed by Fire.’ **THE WORLD NEED TO SEE US BURN!!!!***
- (5) *With the Sacrifice, (burning up the Old Nature, Sin, Self, Pride, Fleshly Desires, etc.) of Humbling Ourselves -- Praying -- Seeking His Face (Presence) -- and Turning From Our Wicked Ways >> **WE ARE BEING SACRIFICED, AND ARE SET ON FIRE, AND ARE BURNING FOR HIM.***
- (6) ***THAT SACRIFICE OF FIRE IS NECESSARY FOR THE HEAVENS TO OPEN AND WE MUST STAY A SACRIFICE ON FIRE FOR THE HEAVENS TO REMAIN OPEN!!!!***

Jesus said it this way:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”

Mark 12:30

“Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

Matthew 10:39

Paul said it this way:

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Galatians 2:20

“Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him”

II Timothy 2:11

James said it this way in James 4:1-10. He ends the section saying:

“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up”

James 4:10

Peter said it this way:

“Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm ourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.”

I Peter 4:1-2

This is how John says it:

“We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, I know him, but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God’s love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.”

I John 2:3-6

The Bottom Line is: To live in, and walk in the fulness that God has for us - God will need to be the one alive in our life on this earth. And our life (will, desires, longings, affections, etc.) will have to be dead. We must strive to make our life: ALL JESUS and NONE OF US. The more we surrender to that and mature in that - The more consistently we will enjoy living under an ‘Open Heaven’.

THAT MUST BE OUR GOAL. But while we’re in the process of maturing, it’s wonderful to know we serve a Gracious, Merciful, Loving Heavenly Father. He’s willing to work with an imperfect people. (I Corinthians 1:26-31) Read below:

On December 22, 2008 the Lord woke me up and spoke to me about his moving among his people. He told me:

“There doesn’t always have to be a reason, something that needs to be accomplished, for me to show up and manifest myself among my people. I can do it simply because I want to. It (the freedom and right to manifest who I am and display my glory) has been bought and paid for. I can do with it as I please. I don’t need permission, and I don’t

need an excuse. I AM able to come and do what I please - even if it is simply to display my splendor in you. I have the right to adorn you. You are mine.

I am not performance orientated. You don't have to be concerned if you are worthy or good enough for me to move among you. Just Seek me, and keep Seeking me - just Love me, and keep Loving me - WITH ALL YOUR HEART. I will be found of you and reveal myself among you. I'm not looking for a people who will perform and do everything just right for me. I'm looking for a people who sincerely Love Me."

So while we may have a long ways to go in our sanctification process, if we will be honest, and sincere - Grace will cover the sins we are committing ignorantly. (Hebrews 9:6-7) He's not looking for perfection. He's looking for a sincere, honest effort. Be real with God. Don't play any games, or try to get away with things that you know he doesn't approve of. Serve him with a clean conscience. Being quick to obey the Holy Spirit in everything. Then we can expect to live in and experience an Open Heaven in our lives.

*When we live in willful sin, it's difficult to believe that we're being honest, and sincere with God or ourselves. That's why a life-style of willful sin is so destructive to our relationship with God.
(Hebrews 10:26-31; I John 3:4-10)*

*If we are in willful sin, WE NEED TO REPENT. If we will own the fact we're in sin, and verbalize it to God, (Confess our sin) we will be Forgiven and Cleansed from all unrighteousness.
(I John 1:5-10)*

THAT REPENTANCE WILL OPEN THE HEAVENS!!!!

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE AFTER!!!!

Open Heaven's & Evangelism

I. Why Does God give and 'Open Heaven' to us?

God is sovereign. He can choose to do any righteous, holy, and good thing. Which is true. But there is always something that motivates God. If there is one thing we find screaming at us in scripture, EVERYTHING GOD DOES, HE DOES FOR A REASON. When we step back and try to see the BIG PICTURE - what is God trying to accomplish?

As we find that, and make God motivation - our motivation and purpose - the 'Open Heavens' will continue to flow easily.

A. We've talked about what closes and opens the heavens.

B. Why does God offer an Open Heaven to us?

- 1. The answer we gave was so that we could live under his fullness and blessing in an 'Unrestricted' manner. That is absolutely true.*
- 2. But now I want to push it a little deeper.*

C. Why does God offer an Open Heaven to us? For What Purpose?

- 1. THE BIG PICTURE. WHAT GOD IS ULTIMATELY AFTER.*
- 2. The things of God are 'FOR' us, but they're never to be made all 'ABOUT' us. We can never think or feel like we're the end or fulfillment of what God was trying to do.*

D. SALVATION IS FOR THE WORLD!!!!

- 1. Evangelism is the Heart of the Father. (John 3:16)*
- 2. Evangelism is the Heart of Jesus. (John 17:1-5; and numerous scriptures that say why Jesus came and died for us)*
- 3. Evangelism is the Heart of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 4:18-19)*

II. How Will An Open Heaven Bring Salvation to the World?

A. It's part of God's method of Evangelism.

B. God's method of Evangelism is to attract the unbeliever via:

- 1. Preaching the Word and confirming it with signs, wonders, and miracles. (Book of Acts)*

2. *Presenting his church/people as a people of ‘Splendor’ or ‘Glory’ to the world.
(This is the concept we’ll look at in this booklet)*

C. Isaiah 59 - Deals with Sin, Confession, and Redemption.

1. *This is the same thing we looked at in the beginning of this book as what is required to open the heavens.*
2. *v. 20ff - Isaiah is prophesying about Zion, which is the New Testament Church.
(Hebrews 12:22-24)*
3. *v. 20 - States that the Redeemer will come to Zion, specifically those who repent of their sins.*

D. Isaiah 60 - Deals with the Glory of Zion. (The New Testament Church)

1. *v. 1-5a*

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar and your daughters are carried on the arm. Then you will look and be radiant...”

Notice how the light and the glory of the Lord on us ATTRACTS OTHERS.

2. *v. 9b - “He has endowed you with splendor”.*
3. *v. 10ff - Talks about all different kinds of people being drawn to us.*
4. *v. 18b - Walls are to be called ‘Salvation’. Gates are to be called ‘Praise’.*
5. *v. 21b - “For the display of my splendor.”*

E. Isaiah 61 - The time we’re living in right now.

1. *v. 1-2a - Do you Hear Evangelism??*

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed and qualified me to preach the Gospel of good tidings to the meek, the poor, and afflicted; He has sent me to bind up and heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the [physical and spiritual] captives and the opening of the prison and of the eyes to those who are bound, To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord [the year of His favor].....” (AMP. Version)

2. *v. 3 - Lists some of the things he is going to do.
- NOTICE: “For the display of his splendor”.*

3. v. 8b-9 - *God wants us noticed and known as the people who carry the Blessing.*
4. v. 11 - *So that through us Righteousness and Praise can be shown to the nations.*

F. Isaiah 62 - Continues from now into the future. (Isaiah 63 - Tribulation and Armageddon)

1. v. 1 - *Our righteousness is to shine - first. (God wants to do a work in us - first)*
- Salvation is to blaze out from us - second. (Then out to the world)
2. v. 2-3 - *“Nations will see your righteousness”*
- “Kings (will see) your glory”
- “We will be a crown of splendor and a royal diadem in God’s hand.
- EVANGELISM -- EVANGELISM -- EVANGELISM.

III. This is God’s method of EVANGELISM.

A. Why does God want us walking the the fullness of an ‘Open Heaven’, (of his Kingdom)?

1. *To make us Shine, Splendorous, Radiant with his Glory. (Blessed)*
2. ***WHY? FOR THE WORLD TO SEE. FOR EVANGELISM.***
THE HEART OF GOD IS EVANGELISM!!!!

B. If we want the good things, blessings, the power of his Kingdom, (Open Heaven) it’s tied to something that must follow once we have them Open -- EVANGELISM!!!

Because that’s LOVE. (Matthew 22:37-40) If we’re not taking it to the world, we are breaking the 2nd commandment.

Now we’re back in disobedience, and sin. The Heaven’s will close to us. We will not live in the position where we’re inheriting the Kingdom.

We Live In A Lost And Dieing World. Yes, God Wants Us Blessed, Prospered, and Unrestricted In Our Life On This Earth.

But, He Also Wants and Needs Us To Help Him Reach This World For Him. Unrestricted Access To The Things Of Heaven Is Not Given So We Can Get Fat And Lazy As Christians. It’s To Equip Us With Everything We Need, So We Can Reach The World For Jesus - While We Are Living In Heaven On Earth. (Deut. 11:18-21)