

“An Open Heaven: The Blessing of GOD-Seeking People”
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KEYNOTE SCRIPTURE

Mark 16, “19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. 20 And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.”

THERE ARE SEVERAL EXAMPLES OF THE HEAVENS BEING OPENED IN THE BIBLE:

Genesis 7, “11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. 12 And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.”

- This was more than just rains but an open Heaven was a confirmation of GOD’s promise manifested

Malachi 3, “10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”

- This was more than just mere rain rather, it is a supernatural reversal of a famine (and its consequences) by divine intervention due to Heaven’s windows being opened ergo, it’s divine favor

Luke 3, “21 Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, 22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.”

- This was more than just that the Holy Spirit came upon Christ rather that GOD affirmed that He is the Messiah—chosen and fit to do the work of GOD in the earth as per the Scriptures

Acts 10, “11 And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth”

- This was more than a vision which Peter had rather that an open Heaven is divine revelation to ensure GOD’s servants (and the Church) stay on course with His plan

Revelation 19, “11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. 12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.”

- This was indeed a revelatory encounter recorded by the Apostle John yet, it signifies that an open Heaven gives us not only a clearer picture of Christ but that in it He fights our battles.

WHAT IS AN OPEN HEAVEN?

It is living in communion with GOD and His will which causes Him (according to His promise) to dwell with and guide, bless, protect, and intervene in the life of His Church so their witness of Christ can be known and made effective for the Kingdom's sake.

An open Heaven is a clear confirmation of ALL that GOD said He'd physically, tangibly, and demonstratively do among those who are His people and believe and do His works.

THE EARLY CHURCH LIVED UNDER AN OPEN HEAVEN:

GOD was always with them

- Acts 11, "19 Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. 20 And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord."

GOD showed forth the signs He promised He would

- Acts 4, "29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, 30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. 31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness."

GOD gave them favor in trouble

- Acts 5, "17 Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation, 18 And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison. 19 But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, 20 Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life."

GOD healed the sick, diseased, and demon possessed

- Acts 5, "14 And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.) 15 Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. 16 There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one."

GOD's power made the world marvel

- Acts 4, "13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. 14 And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it."

THE COMMISSION OF CHRIST WAS GIVEN TO THE WHOLE CHURCH TO LOOK FOR AN OPEN HEAVEN UNTO HIS RETURN, NOT JUST THE EARLY CHURCH

- The works Christ did we should do as well (John 14:12)
- The LORD who commissioned the Church desires for her to be identified by His blessing
o Mark 16, “17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”
- The Church should therefore seek GOD and live to have an open Heaven at all times. But how so?

WE MUST DO THE FOLLOWING (which are common in all the Biblical references of an open Heaven):

1. Seek the Knowledge of the Kingdom
2. Do the works of the Kingdom
3. Endure the suffering of the Kingdom
4. Intercede for the Reign of the Kingdom

Thereafter we should EXPECT the following:

- GOD will hear our cry
- GOD will answer our prayers
- GOD will strengthen us for His works
- GOD will confirm Heaven’s Blessing is upon us
- GOD will use us for His Glory