



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Living Under Open Heavens
Pastor Mike Hayes
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Main Idea – The secret to walking under open heavens is humility. The Holy Spirit is available to you for salvation and healing. It is also available to you for continual guidance and provision as you walk out your destiny in life, if you have first humbled yourself. Humbling yourself is an ongoing activity.

Your access to open heavens

- It is possible to have Heaven open, and to have God's presence descend upon and remain with you.
- An open Heaven cannot happen without Jesus. Jesus provided us with an example of how open heavens works.
- **Matthew 3: 13-17 – Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and You are coming to me?” But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (NKJV)**
- When you acknowledged and confessed Jesus as your messiah, the Holy Spirit had already entered your heart so that you would be saved and healed. That was a miraculous event.
- In the same way, the Holy Spirit – and the resources of Heaven – are continually available to you as you go through the rest of your life on earth.
- Under open heavens you will: have spiritual and mental clarity and focus, experience joy, live in peace.

Jesus demonstrated submission and humility

- Jesus, himself, did not need to be baptized. He initiated it because His submission – and John's participation in the ritual at that time – was the right thing to do.
- Jesus' humility was the key to what happened next. Heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended and alighted upon Him.
- The Holy Spirit was upon Him, and stayed there. **John 1:32 – And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and**

He remained upon Him.”

Humble yourself and God will exalt you at the right time

- For God to work through you it is necessary you first are humbled. In fact, God will resist you when you are acting pridefully. **James 4:6 – But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”**
- Being humble is something over which you have control.
- At some point in life you will be humbled if you first don’t do it for yourself.
- It is best to humble yourself than for God to have to do it for you.
- If you humble yourself, God will lift you up and reveal you as His child at the appropriate time. **1 Peter 5:6 – Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.**
- If you attempt to exalt yourself, God will eventually humble you. If you humble yourself, God will eventually exalt you.

Practice humility

- Being humble is an ongoing, daily choice.
- All through each day you have opportunities to choose humility over pridefulness.
- Each can become a habit.
- Recognize opportunities to practice humility as they present themselves to you today.

Reflective Questions for Living Under Open Heavens

1. Pastor Mike used the story of Jesus’ baptism in Matthew 3: 13-17 as the focus of this message. What things about Jesus stand out to you in that story? What things about John stand out to you?
2. All through Jesus’ ministry He resisted temptations to show His entire power because it was not the right time for that to be revealed. Knowing that, why is it also not our time to promote ourselves?
3. The Bible says that God will exalt you at the right time. What does that mean?
4. What are some practical ways each of us can demonstrate humility in our daily lives?