

One of the things I love about God is how thorough he is when he is trying to get a message to you. Whenever I seek what the Lord is saying regarding a situation, I spend time listening. That is a key part of it. One of the greatest principles one of my mentors taught me was to look for your answer.

You may find it in your prayer closet, you may find it in worship, or while listening to a sermon. I have even heard God's answer to my situation while standing in line at Walmart. A Couple literally stood in line on the next isle and started talking about the exact situation I was praying about

Jesus said in Mark 4:9 "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

When I was asked to come speak, I began seeking the Lord on what he wanted me to speak about and I started hearing the same topic several different ways. That is always exciting to me as a minister because that means God has something specific he wants to say to a body of believers.

Today we are continuing the OPEN series with the message Open Access.

We are going to dive right in – the first topic I want to discuss is restricted access. On Wednesday nights we recently completed a series on how we got the bible, it's really fascinating, I want to encourage you to go to the website and listen to the messages. It is good stuff.

In this series, one of the things we discussed is how the bible was not available to people, in fact it was repressed by church leaders

**the Council of Toulouse Decreed:** "We prohibit also that the laity should be permitted to have the books of the Old or New Testament; but we most strictly forbid their having any translation of these books."

The Leaders of the day were denying access to the Word of God.

We take for granted that we can go to any bookstore and buy a bible. This was forbidden

Two of the people who helped get your bible to you today were John Wycliffe and William Tyndale.

William Tyndale was burned at the stake for translating the bible into English

**John Wycliffe had a passion that every person should be able to read God's Word in their own tongue. This concept infuriated Leaders. The Leaders were so mad, that they dug up John Wycliffe body and burned it and threw the bones in the river.**

**You know you made someone mad if they dig you up to burn you and throw you in the river.**

**They did this because they believed that we should have open access to God's Word.**

**Why? What is the biblical basis for restricted access?**

**I am going to teach some basic Christian doctrine for a few moments, which is important for believers to understand. Track with me for just a moment, this will help provide perspective to the open access we have to God's Presence.**

**In the old testament when we examine the tabernacle, and the priesthood, there are some interesting concepts to take away.**

**The tabernacle consisted of an outer court, then separated by a curtain the holy place, and then separated by a massive 4 inch thick curtain was holy of holies. This is the place where the Ark of the Covenant and god's presence would abide.**

**The priest would go through a rigorous process of purification, examination and sacrifice to prepare themselves to enter into the holy of holies and they would only enter once a year on the day of the atonement.**

**Access was restricted to The Holy of Holies, because God's presence is so powerful, if someone entered, and there was uncovered sin in their life they would die.**

**It was a serious thing for the priest to enter the holy of holies.**

**In fact if you look at the priestly garment there is a row of pomegranates and golden bells, this is not just for stylish looks, this served a purpose. This was so the priest would jingle when they walked.**

**Before the priest entered the holy of holies, they would put a chain around his foot and the other priests would wait outside, if the jingling stopped, they knew the priest was dead.**

**His presence is so powerful, that there was not an acceptable sacrifice to cover our sins.**

God created us to walk in fellowship with him, to abide in his presence, but when Adam and Eve willfully sinned, sin entered the world and made mankind unworthy to be in God's presence.

Friends I have Great news" God wants us to be in his presence. That is why he send Jesus, the only worthy sacrifice to cover our sins.

If you take nothing else from this message let it be this. Jesus is the key that has granted us open access. Look at the word.

In Matthew 27 when Jesus was crucified, something interesting happened just as Jesus died. Look at verse

<sup>50</sup> **And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.**

<sup>51</sup> **At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split <sup>5</sup>**

What is the significance of this, why is this here? Church, listen to me there is not a man strong enough to tear that curtain. It was torn in half from Top to Bottom, because the almighty God was letting us know because of his beautiful, amazing sacrifice, he was providing a way for us to have Access to him.

It was torn from top to bottom. God was making a way when there was no way. He was finally providing open access to his presence.

In his presence there is peace, forgiveness, fullness of joy, healing, freedom, deliverance, in his presence there is purpose and destiny.

In the presence of God we have open access to all that he has to offer.

Let's break that down, what exactly do we have access to.

**We have open access to God's Promises.**

There are more than 3,000 promises in God's word. One of the greatest weapons in your arsenal as a believer is the knowledge of the promises that we have open access to.

If you asked the average Christian to name 5 of God's promises, they could not do it.

We need to know God's promises, commit them to memory, meditate on God's promises, talk about God's promises. Let God's promises consume you.

The problem is that people tend to base their perceptions of God through an earthly filter.

Maybe your filter is that promises were always broken. Maybe you were conditioned to never expect promises to come to pass. Maybe the person who mattered the most to you shattered their promises they made to you.

You need to look at those broken promises as roadblocks to the open access you have to God's promises.

Satan will contend with you when you choose to stand on God's promises. He is not just going to roll over like a puppy when you declare God's promises over your life. You have to stand on God's promises.

Perhaps you have been given a negative report by the Doctor, maybe even a terminal report. That is not the time to roll over and give up. That is the time to stand on God's promises and fight.

How do I do that Doug? Memorize God's promises from his word and recite them back to God. Confess the word .

**Psalm 45:1 says "My heart is stirred by a noble theme as I recite my verses for the king; my tongue is the pen of a skillful writer."**

Declare God's promises out loud, this is perhaps one of the single most powerful things you can do as a believer. No one can do it for you.

The word works when you work the word. I don't just preach this, I practice this. When I am facing a situation that I am not seeing a lot of movement in, I find some scriptures that relate to that situation. I put them in a document on my iPad, and when I have a few moments I speak them out loud.

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

Maybe you have a family member that is not living the way they should, maybe they are in your house and openly opposing you.

It is time to spiritually throw down.

Whenever you recite your verses for the king in prayer, be intentional.

Lord , I know that little Johnny is not living the way that your word says he should but, as the Leader of my household I speak your word over him and declare Joshua 24:15 “as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

According to 2 Timothy 2 [25](#) I must gently reprove those who oppose me, in the hope that God may grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth.[26](#) Then they will come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, who has taken them captive to his will.

I thank you that according to Jeremiah 29:11 you know the plans you have for Johnny, plans to prosper him and not to harm him. To give him hope and a future.

Amen. Become intentional. Don't get negative and always expect the worst. Let your faith rise to the occasion.

**When you are standing on God's promises, sow the seed of the word for the harvest you want! Not the weeds that you may see.**

Maybe you are battling depression.

If you continually struggle with depression and will listen to what I am telling you, it will absolutely transform your life. I have seen dozens of people apply this and change. Are you ready?

Stop treating depression like it your dearly beloved pet.

If that statement offends you, you are exactly the person that needs to hear this.

I used to have two weenie dogs named snickers and spot. Somewhere around the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> year that we had them, they developed an annoying behavior. When we would eat, they would beg and stare at us, they would sit pretty, and eventually we would give them some of our food.

Once we started feeding them, they started expecting to be fed. They would even bark when we didn't.

Here is the principle, if you feed the dog every time it barks it will never leave you alone.

The same is true with the meditations of your heart. If you struggle with depression and you feed the dog every time it barks, it will not leave you alone.

There are different things that trigger different people.

For me, I can't watch shows with an intense amount of relationship drama, it makes me feel anxious. In real life, I can navigate relational drama with ease. But if I choose to sit down and watch a show, and feed that dog, for some reason it affects me.

Jessica likes to watch shows together as a couple, if quality Netflix time was a love language, it would be hers.

She cannot deny that relationship drama affects me.

There was this show that we started watching called this is us.

I noticed that after I watched it I was usually bummed out or sad for a while. No don't use the crock pot.

I finally tapped out. I said, this is a show you need to watch my yourself, I am out.

The question is this, Why should you subscribe to something that makes you feel depressed?

Maybe you need to unfollow some people on social media. Maybe you need to limit your exposure to some of the people in your life.

The things that captivate the meditation of your heart have the power to direct the forces of your life.

When it comes to the promises of God, and combating things like depression, or lust or anger.

It is important when you are tempted to meditate on the barking dogs, meditate on God's promises, and your life will change.

Not only do we have open access to God's promises,

**We have open access to God's Provision.**

**2 Corinthians 9:8 says And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.**

When god gives you a vision he can bring provision. Provision does not always mean money, sometimes it is need met, but sometime the provision you need is Money.

**So, let's talk about money for a second. This is one area where I see people get religious and it holds them back.**

**Money is a spiritual force. Satan would like nothing more than for you to develop the incorrect perception that God does not want for you to experience his blessings.**

**I love spending time with kingdom entrepreneurs. I have been blessed to spend time with many Christian, kingdom-minded, self-made millionaires. They are able to facilitate amazing things for the kingdom of God. I have noticed a couple of things about them.**

**They believe that God wants to bless their business**

**They work hard, and do the things that they can in their own strength to grow their business, and trust God to do the things that they can't.**

**They believe in sowing and reaping.**

**They don't view Money as their God, they view it as a tool. And they are givers.**

**They try to help others become successful.**

**They set goals, and reach them, always moving forward.**

**Think about it, dream with me for a second. If you were completely out of debt. And you had \$100,000 of disposable income, what would you do for the kingdom of God? I'll tell you one thing, if there were just 100 of us, we could take up a challenge offering and pay cash for a new facility for the church.**

**When you change your paradigm, and realize that you are a vessel that God wants to use to execute his plan, it changes your perceptions about money. Some of you need to hear this, god has given you kingdom ideas for business and you are sitting on it. Get up Read Deut 28 and realize that God wants to empower you.**

**Does that mean you will never face a problem? No. But you will never face it alone.**

**Now I am a serial entrepreneur I have had had a head hunting business, a house rehabbing company, an online store, a T-shirt company, a medical staffing company, a website and graphic company, a church consulting company, a digital marketing agency, an app development company, and much, much more.**

**And I have come to realize, that regardless of the business or industry**

If we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, he can take us into an area of blessing that we were not expecting.

Pedro Adao (uh-day-oh) the founder of the 100X academy a community of kingdom entrepreneurs puts it this way. You have to follow the area of God's favor on your life. There is a lot of wisdom in that.

Some of you are sitting on the seeds that God has given you to plant because you are unwilling to take the next step.

I am not saying walk into work tomorrow morning and say I quit. I am saying take one step each day, one action toward the dream God is giving you. Before you know it

So we have open access to God's Promises, and God's Provision the next nugget of truth I want to share with you is:

**We have open access to God's Power.**

This is the message that God is speaking to the Body of Christ right now. For too long people have believed the lie of Christian elitism. God wants to use you to impact the world.

We all have access to the same power and giftings of God. Don't buy the lie that you are not qualified for God to use you.

Really, when it comes down to it, most of the people that I come in contact with are being used by the lord, operating in the gifts of the spirit, they just don't realize it.

Look at the gifts here:

**1 Corinthians 12: 4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.**

**7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues.[b] 11**



**All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.**