

POSITIONING FOR

*Open
Heavens*



'The Lord will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand...' Deuteronomy 28:12

The Lord longs to bless His children and open His good treasure to us, He is eager to perfect and establish everything concerning us. As eager and generous as God is, it is possible for us to miss a season of open heavens if we do not maintain the right posture.

Why is our posture important? First is that anytime God wants to do something in our lives the enemy comes to try and frustrate that plan. Second is that if we are casual about spiritual things, we may miss critical signals and lose the benefits the season would have made available to us. Finally, we need understanding of what God's intent is for the season – where is He taking us and how do we align with Him on the journey?

This series we are looking at 5 critical areas that impact our posture and positioning for accessing open heavens.



Day 1 Prayer

'When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened.' Luke 3:21

'Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray.' Mark 1:35

Life is spiritual so everything we want to receive in the natural must first be received in the spirit and the primary means to activate this is the medium of prayer. Prayer is not an end in itself, rather it is in the place of prayer that we enforce God's agenda for our lives, receive direction, encouragement, strategies and so much more. Prayer connects us to the spiritual realm and enables us to navigate the areas which control what happens in the natural though we cannot see them with our physical eyes.

Even though Jesus experienced heaven opening at the beginning of His earthly ministry, He understood the importance and power of prayer to ensure He fulfilled everything that had been prophesied about Him.

'For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.' I Corinthians 16:9

With every season of open heavens comes warfare because the enemy will not sit back and watch us receive all that God has for us, as he knows this makes us more dangerous to him. This means the time of open heavens is also a time of heightened spiritual activity and why when we are about to step into a higher level there always seems to be a lot of opposition. The intention is to try and discourage us, but one of the ways to enforce our victory is in the place of prayer.

'So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding.' Colossians 1:9

It's also in the place of prayer we receive God's instruction regarding why we are in the season in the first place, so we do not misuse it. As we pray we receive insight into God's will which sustains through the season and prepares us for the next one. Prayer takes us in, sustains and successfully moves us from one season to another.

Prayer: Lord I ask for the spiritual intelligence that will enable me to know what and how to pray to activate and sustain open heavens over my life.

Day 2 Sacrifice

“Gather My saints together to Me, Those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.”
Psalms 50:5

Nothing good comes easy or cheap - there's always a price to be paid. Great athletes spend hours in practice, excellent students give time to study outside of regular class hours, in the marketplace people go the extra mile to improve their chances to be elevated. The same way no great thing can be achieved in the physical without extending ourselves, there's also a place for sacrifice in laying hold of spiritual things. Those who are casual with spiritual things and those who extend themselves through sacrifice cannot generate the same results.

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.” Romans 12:1

When we want to come into a season of open heavens there's a price we have to pay: not just in setting aside significant time to pray or study the word, but also meeting whatever demand the Holy Spirit may place on us. We may need to let some things go for a season such as TV, entertaining or even some relationships. We may be asked to give up things that make us comfortable, such as hours of sleep to get up early to spend time with God, giving financially, giving our time or expertise in a manner that places a demand on us.

It may even be our character, where we have to give up always wanting to be right and having the last word. It's not one size fits us all and we need to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit to understand where He's placing his finger on. The greatest sacrifice we can give God is ourselves: when we choose to set aside our personal ambitions and focus on meeting whatever assignment God places before us with all our might. When we make such sacrifices, God obligates Himself to ensure our lives are constantly watered by the dews of heaven.

Prayer: Lord I see that sacrifice is part of the journey. Help me not to focus on what I think I'm giving up, but I am receiving in exchange for the sacrifice.



Day 3 Obedience

“But He said, “More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”
Luke 11:28

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.” John 14:15

A season of open heavens is filled with several instructions from the Holy Spirit and the manifestation of what He’s bringing our way is tied to obedience to the instruction. We have a part to play because obedience is always a choice on our part as a demonstration of our love for Jesus. Obedience is a critical posture for us as it aligns us to receive God’s abundance. As with any relationship, it would be unfair on our part to expect God to shower His abundance over us if we constantly choose not to obey Him: and let’s note that partial obedience is the same as disobedience. It doesn’t mean we’re perfect and never make mistakes, but our heart posture should be such that we are genuinely repentant when we do make mistakes.

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”
Galatians 6:7

Our lives are largely a reflection of our choices. When we choose to walk in obedience to God, the results will show up in our lives. Likewise when we choose not to obey, the results will also show. The wonderful thing about Jesus is that His instructions are always for our own benefit not His, because He knows what the ultimate end of every decision we make is. His example also shows us that a life of obedience is possible.

“though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.” Hebrews 5:8

During His earthly ministry, Jesus clearly experienced open heavens, yet the Bible still records that even He had to learn obedience. I believe this should provide us with some comfort as we are all on a journey and are at various stages of living an obedient life. If Jesus on earth could learn obedience, then so can we. If He could function under open heavens consistently then so can we by the help of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: Lord, it’s not always easy to obey You because I have my own desires and ambitions. So today I ask for the grace to obey You through the power of the Holy Spirit. Regardless of what I may have in mind, I trust that Your plan is always higher and better than mine.

Day 4 Discernment

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus” Philippians 2:5

Discernment is critical for two main reasons: first is that we need to identify what God is laying emphasis on during the season so we're not out of His agenda. Secondly the enemy will also be working over time to discourage or distract us and we need to be able to identify when he's in operation. Not everything that looks good is necessarily from God, and not every challenge is necessarily from the enemy, therefore discernment is required to distinguish between the two.

“Trust in the Lord completely, and do not rely on your own opinions. With all your heart rely on him to guide you, and he will lead you in every decision you make.” Proverbs 3:5 TPT

Some of the decisions we make may appear simple but we may not fully appreciate their far reaching implications - for good or bad - until further down the line. For example, in evaluating two job opportunities, we may lean more towards the one with better pay/profile, etc. rather than another which may be a lateral move. However the better paying job may cause us to compromise God's standards to move ahead. While God may have designed the one that looks less attractive right now as a launchpad to greater heights for us. This is why we need to rely on the Holy Spirit for discernment because He already knows the end of any decisions we take and the ones that are in line with His agenda.

“Become intimate with him in whatever you do, and he will lead you wherever you go. Don't think for a moment that you know it all...” Proverbs 3:6-7 TPT

As we become intimate with the Holy Spirit, we start understanding how He reasons and become more flexible in allowing Him to take charge. We start discerning more strongly which spirit is sponsoring what is going on in or around us and get better at responding accurately so we do not inadvertently truncate what God has for us.

Prayer: Holy Spirit I ask for heightened discernment this season, help me to prioritize being intimate with You so I can tell when it's You at work in my life.



Day 5

Steps of Faith

'But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works... For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.' James 2:18, 26

It is easy to say we believe God for something, but we demonstrate our belief when we begin to take steps of faith, as the Bible rightly notes that faith without works is dead. If we really expect open heavens, then we will start taking steps that align with our belief.

'Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.'
Hebrews 11:1

Faith doesn't mean blind hope – there is something we may have read in the Bible or God has spoken to us and we are believing Him that what we are hoping for will become our reality. But there's a part we must also play to demonstrate that we really mean business. Not taking a step of faith is like planning a long-distance trip, filling the car with fuel, refreshments, etc and not turning on the ignition. Or believing God for a house for example and not looking out for any property. Or planning to start a venture and not undertaking any market study.

'Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, "This is the way you should go," whether to the right or to the left.' Isaiah 30:21

It is as we move that we receive instructions on what to do next, and as we remain malleable by the Holy Spirit, He begins to direct us accordingly. It doesn't necessarily mean things will happen overnight and stepping out in faith also does not mean we are 100% certain or that there may not be some fear in our hearts. However, we move in spite of those things, trusting God to show us that He is with us, ordering our steps, directing our paths and leading us into the fullness of all He has for us. We never know where those steps of faith will lead us.

Prayer: Lord there are times I am afraid to step out in faith. Today I ask for boldness to trust that You will guide me as I step out and remain open to Your instructions.



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