

Living A Blessed Life

Open Heavens

Open Heavens refers to “the **blessing** of God”

Let's read Deuteronomy 28:12

Deuteronomy 28:12

¹²The 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. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.

- This says your Father God will open to you His good treasure → how → by **opening** the heavens to or for us.
- 1. God wants to open the heavens over our family, our marriage, our health, and **everything** regarding our life.

Bottom line → the **heavens**

Let me explain open heavens:

- Some of us have been caught in a rain storm while driving.
- When the rain stops, the clouds open up, and the sun **shines** : we say, Heaven's open.

That's not what this scripture is saying.

Heaven's open is: when the rain is coming down so hard you get totally **drenched** → that's God's blessing.

Question: Could you stand to get completely soaked or drenched in God's blessing?

- To get completely soaked in your marriage:
 - All of a sudden, there is a **love** and **kindness** in your lives together.
- Can you handle your children and grandkids becoming completely soaked in the blessings of God?
 - Soaked **relationships**
 - Soaked **jobs**

It's where God is **soaking** you with open heavens

Another question: Have you ever been at a place where the heavens are closed?

If that's the case:

- There are things in the Bible that we can do (or **become**) to open heavens.

Let me show you 3 things we can do to open heavens.

A. **Prayer**

- We can literally move God in opening heavens → God has set up the law of prayer - like the law of **gravity**.
2. The law of prayer was set up by the Almighty, the Creator of all, decided to limit His movement on earth to primarily when His people **pray**.

Now most of us know when Jesus was baptized, the Bible tells us the Heavens opened, the Holy Spirit descended as or like a dove, but many of us don't see in the story these four words:

Luke 3:21a

²¹ When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized...

Notice these 4 words:

Luke 3:21b

²¹ ...and while He prayed, the heaven was opened.

Luke 3:22

²² And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

Notice it doesn't say like a dove, the Holy Spirit descended – we always quote this backward → it says: "the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove"

3. When the heavens open, the **Holy Spirit** comes and that's why we are blessed.

Remember Deuteronomy 28:12

Deuteronomy 28:12

¹²The 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. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.

- Can you handle everything you put your hand to being blessed?

Again, these four words (and while he prayed):

- Prayer **opens** the heavens.
 - Jesus goes down and is baptized and then He prays, and while He **prays**, heavens open.

James 5:17-18

¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. ¹⁸ And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

- Notice "a nature like **ours**"
- Elijah wasn't **superman** and was just like us.

So you and I can pray and see Heaven **open** too.

4. The only difference between Elijah and us is we have the Holy Spirit residing **in** us.

Conclusion of this point: your prayers can **open** the heavens.

5. Prayer is talking and is also **listening** and that's how you get wisdom and understanding and it's called hearing God.

Here is the second thing that opens the heavens:

B. **Giving**

Malachi 3:8 – this is God talking and He never changes.

Malachi 3:8-9

⁸ "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation.

Verse 10 – look what He says:

Malachi 3:10: ¹⁰ Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you *such* blessing that *there will not be room enough to receive it.*

- Just **test** Me and see that I will open the heavens.

He said: Bring all the tithe → that there may be food in my house.

Question: Do you like the food (**teaching**) you get at Valley?

Statement: someone is **paying** for it

- Paying for: building, staff, materials

Actually: someone is paying for me to study and pray during the week so I can give you this Word.

So you get **fed** on Sunday.

Question: Are you one that is paying for all what God's church does?

Acts 20:32-36: ³² "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴ Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. ³⁵ I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " ³⁶ And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Some just enjoy the giving of others and are not **receiving**.

- Those not giving are not **receiving** anything.
 - That's why the marriage is not getting better.
 - Nothing's changing because you're not receiving, you're just **enjoying**.
 - You invest in how you **look**
 - You invest in where you **live**
 - You invest in what you **drive**

But some don't invest in their **spiritual** life.

Scripture says: so that there may be food in my house – being fed **spiritually**.

- * Tithing and giving is about **us** not God.
- * God doesn't need it, but He wants you and your **heart**.

Matthew 6:21

²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- Heavens open to those whose heart is **stayed** on Him.

Joshua 6:19 – it's **consecrated**

¹⁹ But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, *are* consecrated to the Lord; they shall come into the treasury of the Lord."

Joshua 7:11 – it's accursed when **not given**

¹¹ Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. For they have even taken some of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and they have also put *it* among their own stuff.

- God is just talking about life **stewardship**.
- Everytime you receive money, God sees your **heart**.
- God doesn't care how much stuff you have, He cares how much stuff has **you**.

Closed heaven or **open** heaven?

Here is the third thing that opens heavens

C. **Obedience**

Deuteronomy 11:16

¹⁶Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them,

Deuteronomy 11:17

¹⁷lest the Lord's anger be aroused against you, and He shut up the heavens so that there be no rain, and the land yield no produce, and you perish quickly from the good land which the Lord is giving you.

Question: If obedience opens the heavens, then that means disobedience closes the heavens

- All through the Old Testament:
 - Israel obedient – **open** Heaven
 - Israel disobedient – **closed** Heaven
6. Obedience means God has you and you must understand God **wants** you.
- God loves people and He will orchestrate things to get you back in **obedience**.
- ** Some people live an open and closed lifestyle.

Why not just give it all to Jesus?

Obedience means: Trying to hear God **before** we make a decision, and being willing to back up if we miss it.

I'm not talking about being perfect, just **obedient**, having a heart for God and with that heart:

- You **pray**
- You **tithe**
- And you are **obedient** and live an open heavens life.