

Are We Contending?

Theology without demonstration is not Jesus or the power of Holy Spirit.

Isa. 64:1 Oh, that You would rend the heavens!
That You would come down!
That the mountains might shake at Your presence.”

Question: **Do we have an open Heaven?**

Theologically speaking – **YES.**

Matt. 3:2 John said, “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

Mark 1:15 Jesus said, “Repent and believe because the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

Are we experiencing the fullness of what an open heaven makes available?

NO Intercession and **obedience** are the keys that transform theological truth into experiential realities.

Revival/awakening talk is only talk because there is no demonstration, thus no clear definition.

When there is no definition, revival is uncertain.

- It could be described as a three week campaign of singing/preaching services with an evangelistic goal.
- It could be described as an all-out atmosphere of emotional hysteria with no semblance of order or changed lives.

Our limited definition of revival restricts the Lord to move based on what we think revival should look like.

- We often pray for the Lord to come, and when He does, we kick out or limit Holy Spirit moving because it makes people feel uncomfortable, convicted because He moves in ways unfamiliar to us.

**God is not interested in accommodating our definition of Christianity -
He wants to reorient us into agreement with the demonstration of His
Kingdom!**

- The Lords intention is to bring you into a life-changing encounter with His presence.

While we do need to continue to cry out for an increased measure of outpouring of the Spirit, we also need to STOP asking for what we have already received through Pentecost.

- We are just a few decisions/choices away from coming into the manifestation of what the Lord has for us:
 - The choices will involve;
 1. The Body of Christ being awakened to what the blood of Jesus has already provided – knowing who you are in Christ.
 2. What Holy Spirit has empowered us to accomplish by His supernatural anointing. 2Peter 1:3 “His divine power has given us **EVERYTHING** we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.”

Revival begins when the will of God is **KNOWN – ACCEPTED – PURSUED!**

A torn open heaven is theologically available right now!

Are we accessing it completely? NO

Question: Does it make sense to you to ask for something you have already received?

- The fact is, countless of us as Christians do this, we continually pray for revival, asking God to move in great power, when the truth is, we may be making the wrong request of Him.
- Could it be that instead of sending something down from Heaven [which He already has done], God is looking for the generation that recognizes what it has already received, rises up and begins to steward the Person of Holy Spirit?

2Chron. 16:9 “The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him.”

- He’s seeking those who are willing to open the door for what they have prayed for.
- The Lord has **ALREADY** come in the Person of Holy Spirit on Pentecost – the question is: “What are we doing about it?”

Isa. 64:1 “Oh that you would tear open the Heavens and come down!” is a frequent cry from many.

- But is that the appropriate prayer to be praying since the Lord has **ALREADY** opened the heavens and sent both His Son and Holy Spirit?
- The heavens are open is fulfilled, but needs to be appropriated by the Church.

Jesus is the answer to Isa. 64:1

Jesus theologically fulfilled Isa. 64:1 by coming and bringing Heaven to earth at His water baptism:

Mark 1:9-10 “In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan, and when He came up out of the water, immediately He saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on Him like a dove.”

- “Torn open Heavens” – they have remained open, no mention of them closing.
- Heaven waited on the day when a Man walked the earth who would be a compatible vessel for Holy Spirit.
- Jesus was that Man since He was the perfect, sinless Son of God.
- He fulfilled Isa. 64:1 making it possible for ANYONE/EVERYONE with confessed sin and filled with Holy Spirit to walk in the same supernatural reality of consistent power flowing from Heaven into the earth through those anointed by the Spirit.

Pentecost Released An Open Heaven

The Cross Jesus hung on dealt with our sin issue and reunited us to the Father through Jesus’ sacrifice on our behalf.

- Pentecost was the glorious byproduct of the Cross of Jesus.
- Heaven wasn’t simply opened, its power was released and deposited into every believer from that day forward.

Acts 2:38-39NIV “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. AND you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

- The promise of Pentecost is not exclusive to only those in the Upper Room, but is for all the Lord calls into redemption.

Revival is both the Lord moving and Our Appropriation

- It consists of the spiritual synergy between sovereignty [God’s moving] and our stewardship [our appropriation/acceptance].

God’s outpouring of His Spirit are meant to transform us and then to use our Christian lifestyle to transform our culture/society.

- We can't just be caught up in the passion or emotions of His visitation; we must allow His presence to transform us so that His power works through us to change the environment around us.

The problem today is not so much the presence of darkness as it is the absence of light.

Matt. 5:13-14 Jesus description and expectation of us in the world.

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden...so let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

We cannot change the world if we ourselves are not changed!

A torn-open heaven is theologically available to us today.

So, why don't you and I live in this reality?

- One word of Isa. 64:1 says it all – “**OH**”
- It determines whether or not a believer shifts from just claiming as a theological availability or if a believer steps into the realm of experience and demonstration.

“OH” is the cry of desperation:

- OH says it's not enough just to have a theology of revival or transformation.
- Reading books and talking/discussing it is not enough.
- OH is the groaning of the heart that says, “Lord, if You don't come in Your glory and I'm not transformed, I can't live like this anymore.

DIVINE DISCONTENTMENT

- I'm tired of reading, hearing about it and what others have experienced.
- I know You Heal and Deliver, I'm convinced You perform Miracles.
- Lord, show me what it looks like to walk under Your Open Heaven.
- As Your church, we want to see, experience the Open Heaven over our lives, our families, our city, state and United States of America.

**WHO will lean into this cry – this groan – the OH that fuels the Isa. 64:1 Prayer?
Kingdom history is made by ordinary, imperfect people who recognize that Heaven is
open over them,
that God lives inside them,
and they decide to live as though these truths are a reality.**