

# AN OPEN HEAVEN AND THE VOICE OF GOD

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*Peter went up upon the housetop to pray...and he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, and saw heaven opened...and there came a voice to him... - Acts 10:9-13*

**W**hen the Apostle Peter was staying with Simon the tanner at Joppa, he went **UP** to the rooftop, and while PRAYING, fell into a trance, and then saw **heaven open**, at which time he heard a **voice**. This “**open heaven**” and “**voice**” become apparent to Peter very deliberately and specifically at the closing out of one Age (the Age of the Law & prophets) and at the beginning of a new dispensation, the Gentile Age. This “voice” was heard by Peter so that God could “re-adjust” his thinking on certain matters concerning things that were “common and unclean” to the Jews. As God spoke to Peter, He revealed to him “things that must shortly come to pass”. As Peter passed from one day to the next, from the covenant of law to the covenant of grace, a change, that Peter had not been aware of, had occurred. God was bringing Peter into the progressive revelation of the “new day” he had just entered.

The Apostle John repeats this same theme when he was on the isle of Patmos where he received a vision of an **open door in heaven** and heard a **voice**, saying, “come up higher”.

*“I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day ...”-Rev. 1:10*

The Apostle John said that he was “*in the Spirit on the LORD’S DAY*”. John was not necessarily saying that he was in the Spirit on perhaps a Saturday (commonly referred to as “the Lord’s day”), but rather, as he “looked”, he was ushered forward in *time*, to “see” the “The Lord’s Day”, when “THE REVELATION OF CHRIST” will occur.

*After this I looked, and behold, a door was opened in heaven, and the first voice which I heard...said, Come up here, and I will show thee things which must be hereafter. -Rev. 4:1-2*

While **LOOKING**, John experienced an open door in Heaven and subsequently heard a voice calling Him upward. This is a prophetic picture of those who have been prepared and are yet alive during the final hours of the closing out of this present Gentile age and who will work cooperatively with the Lord’s purposes as He closes out one Dispensation and prepares for another, or The Day of The Lord to begin. This “Day” is the “day of His power” and His people shall be willing in the day of His power! John’s experience was a prime example or shadow of the overcomer, or Bridal Company who, during the final hours of this present age, shall receive an “open Door in Heaven” or be caught up in the Spirit” and hear a voice from heaven saying

“come up Higher”... “I will shew you things to come” (receive instruction regarding the next age or DAY). God always sends a “voice” ahead of Himself before He comes on the scene in a new and higher way or when He brings about a new day; Moses was one such voice and Noah too, just as John the Baptist was the “voice of one”, preparing the way of the Lord. The Lord is looking for those who are willing to become the voice of one, or His voice of preparation in this hour.

When we, as Peter and John, are granted access to this “open door in heaven”, we will *hear* God’s voice concerning higher things. Today there is a famine for the HEARING of the Word. Many listen, but few hear. This voice of the Lord, speaking from an open Heaven, will open our spiritual ears. “*He who has ears to hear, let him hear*”.

As abide in this higher realm of an open Heaven, His voice or word, will transform us. Hearing the voice of the Lord from an open Heaven will bring us beyond mere knowledge or revelation of the Word of God. Rather, as we are lifted into the realm of God’s will (or Heaven), His voice will so transform us that we will *become* the revelation of Jesus Christ or manifestation of Heaven in the Earth. This is another way of saying that we have the “testimony of Jesus” or that we are His witnesses. We will not only have knowledge of His Word, but our lives will *become* the expression of His voice or will (The word).

***Behold the tabernacle of God is with men and He will dwell in them...Rev. 21:3***

This “catching up”, into a higher realm in the Spirit, where we are enabled with a “hearing ear”, is an intervention of God that will hasten within us the *process of our "becoming"* the “*Tabernacle of Witness*” (Acts 7:44, Num. 17:7) that God has apprehended us to be. “***...And you shall BE witnesses unto me...***”. The Lord is not so much interested in our acting as His witness or “doing witnessing”, but rather that we, as His tabernacle, the place of His habitation, *become* the witness or expression of who Christ is. Jesus said, when you’ve seen me, you have seen the Father. He was articulating that He was not only God in the flesh, but that God was reflected in all He said and did; thus, he was a witness *unto* God. Likewise, through the process of the His transforming word of Spirit and Life, (or beholding Him) we are changed and *become* a witness or testimony of who Jesus is. Our character testifies or witnesses of His nature, before our words ever do.

As we yield to and obey God’s voice and acknowledge our total dependency on His power to overcome, the Lord will cause us to abide in this higher realm where the lifting, enabling power of His presence will cause us to overcome.

*We can progressively become* an individual “open door” and “voice” of the Lord as we totally yield ourselves in submissive dependence to Him. In other words, as we submit ourselves to the chastening and purifying voice of the Lord, He will transform our lives so that we, then, become an “open door” or avenue for others to meet the Lord in this same way.

*“Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in Heaven”*

As we seek to abide in this higher realm of an open heaven, our words and actions will no longer be the expression of our own will, but of His will and therefore, have a life transforming impact on those who hear us, or His voice speaking within our voice. *This* voice will produce a pure and true impartation of Spirit and Life! There is a famine of the hearing of The Word and thus, true life-changing impartation, because there are so few who are speaking from this realm of an *open heaven*, where their words are Spirit and Life!

In time, when we have “become” others will gather around the open heaven that overshadows our lives and they will hear the voice of the Lord speaking through us saying, “Come up higher, I will show you things...”

AMEN!