

**IV. BEING BROKEN IS A \_\_\_\_\_ - THE PROCESS  
OF GOD GRACIOUSLY MOVING US:**

A. From SELF-SUFFICIENCY to a Vulnerable  
\_\_\_\_\_ upon God and Others

B. From SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS to a Humble  
\_\_\_\_\_ before God and Others

C. From SELF-WILL to a Prayerful  
\_\_\_\_\_ to God and Others

D. From SELF-FOCUS to a Purposeful  
\_\_\_\_\_ for the Lost and Wayward

Isaiah 64:1 (NLT)

**Oh, that You would burst from the heavens and come down!** How  
the mountains would quake in Your presence!

Luke 3:21

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too.  
**And as he was praying, heaven was opened...**

**CONCLUSION**

**OPEN HEARTS, OPEN HEAVENS**  
**Inviting God to Break Open Our Hearts and to**  
**Break Open His Heaven**  
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SW501

**INTRODUCTION**

Our New Message Series:  
**OPEN HEARTS, OPEN HEAVENS**  
Preparing the Way for What God Has in Store By Inviting Him to  
Break Open Our Hearts and to Break Open His Heavens

Luke 3:4-6

A voice of one calling in the desert, **“Prepare the way for the Lord,**  
make straight paths for him! 5 Every valley shall be filled in, every  
mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight,  
the rough ways smooth. 6 And all mankind will see God's salvation.”

**I. OUR GOD IS A GOD OF \_\_\_\_\_!**

Ephesians 1:3

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has  
**blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in**  
Christ.

Examples of Our God of Open Heavens:

## II. FOR US TO EXPERIENCE THE FULL BLESSINGS OF OPEN HEAVENS, WE MUST HAVE OPEN \_\_\_\_\_

1 Samuel 16:7

The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but **the LORD looks at the heart.**

Matthew 22:37-40

Love the Lord your God **with all your heart** and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

Romans 10:9

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and **believe in your heart** that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Jeremiah 29:12-13

Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you **seek me with all your heart.**

Ephesians 3:17

...so that **Christ may dwell in your hearts** through faith.

Revelation 3:20

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and **opens the door**, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

In Your Bible:

Acts 16:13-14

(Page 1096 in the Pew Bible)

## III. OPEN HEARTS COME FROM \_\_\_\_\_ HEARTS!

Psalm 51:16-17

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. 17 The sacrifices of God are a **broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart**, O God, you will not despise.

Joel 2:12-13

“Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, **with fasting and weeping and mourning.**” 13 **Rend your heart** and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.

Key Point:

*Brokenness may involve grieving, mourning, sorrowing, weeping, lamenting, acknowledging to God that all is not right at the present time, but—when God is at work in Christ—from Broken Hearts come Open Hearts and from Open Hearts come Open Heavens!*

Isaiah 61:1-3 (NLT)

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, because the Lord has appointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to **comfort the brokenhearted** and to announce that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed. 2 He has sent me **to tell those who mourn that the time of the LORD's favor has come**...3 to all who mourn in Israel, **he will give beauty for ashes, joy instead of mourning, praise instead of despair.**