

# The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind

## Study Guide

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### RETHINKING OPEN HEAVENS

*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 (MARK 1:9-10 ESV).*

How many of us have prayed, "Lord, rend the heavens and come down"? This passage comes out of Isaiah 64:1, and so powerfully reflects our hearts' great longing—to see His presence released with greater measures of power and transformative results in the world. While the motive for praying this way is pure, Isaiah 64:1 is actually a prayer that has already been fulfilled. Today, I want to invite you to change the way you think about open heavens and what they mean to you.

This is a subject that we are intentional about. So much has been made available to us because of Jesus. In Mark 1:9-10, we see that Isaiah 64:1 was answered at Jesus' baptism. To rend the heavens is actually a violent act. Heaven is torn open, and that which has been contained behind the veil is released into the earth. This is exactly what happened at Jesus' baptism, for finally a Man appeared on the scene who could be the first fit dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. History had been waiting and longing for this very moment.

Recall that in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit came upon people for a season, time, or task, but He did not remain. He could not. There was no abiding Presence of God upon humanity because of the barrier of sin. However, when Jesus came onto the scene, perfection entered the equation—perfection that was completely accommodating to the abiding Presence of like-perfection. Jesus, the sinless and holy Man, was fit to host the Holy Spirit of God. Surely, this is why Heaven was torn open that day. It long awaited the era when God's true dwelling place would be established.

Heaven has not closed since that day. Jesus lived and ministered under an open heaven, and now, because the same Spirit that lived in Jesus lives inside of us, we walk under that same open heaven. It's no longer necessary for us to cry out for an open heaven, for it's already a reality for every single believer who has the Holy Spirit living within them. Are there greater expressions and demonstrations of this reality we long to see? Yes. In the meantime, we celebrate what we have already received because of Jesus. Instead of crying out for what we already have, we rise up and steward the wonderful blessing that the Holy Spirit has made accessible to all followers of Christ—a life under an open heaven.

### TRANSFORMATION THOUGHT

Jesus fulfilled the cry of Isaiah 64:1 on the day of His baptism. Heaven was torn open, and has not closed since. Instead of asking for an open heaven, we now live under what Jesus made available and what the Holy Spirit makes accessible to all believers.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What does an "open heaven" look like to you? What did it look like for Jesus and how do you think it impacted His life and ministry?
2. Why is it important to understand that we already have an open heaven, and don't need to keep on asking for this reality over our lives?

## TRANSFORMATION PRAYER

*Holy Spirit, thank You for empowering me to live under an open heaven where the power and resources of Heaven flow into the earth! Show me how to steward this reality in an even greater measure.*