

OPEN HEAVENS

2020



—CONFERENCE STUDY GUIDE

2020



At this year's Open Heavens conference, our amazing pastors and guest speakers spoke life and heavenly solutions directly into current world events, reminding us that it is the Spirit inside of us that brings the Kingdom to earth. We encourage you to go through this Conference Study Guide with the Holy Spirit to be activated in all that was taught and imparted during Open Heavens. Now is the time to reveal, reflect, and release Heaven to the world around you. Be blessed!

DAY ONE

SESSION 1



Bill Johnson kicks off the conference with a powerful and timely message speaking into our need for supernatural courage. Our focus on God will not compromise Kingdom values to obtain favor; instead, our focus on God will birth a heavenly courage within us that will inspire others to step into their God-given destiny. God welcomes us into His presence, exactly as we are. His power is given to us for miracles, but sometimes that same power is what helps us to endure until the miracle comes.

“If there was ever a time where we were in need of supernatural courage, it’s right now.”

REFLECTION & ACTIVATION:

- Read over Romans 8 and allow the truth about your identity in Christ to sink in. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with heavenly courage. You are more than a conqueror!
- Spend some time with the Lord and ask Him what He is calling you to in this next season. Your courage to follow Him will inspire others to step into their destiny.

DAY TWO

SESSION 2



Sean Smith kicks off day two of the conference, reminding us that even though we are living in the midst of a strange time, God is not unprepared or threatened. We may feel caught off guard, stepping into places we've never been before, but He is working behind the scenes and is using the storms of life in this season to shape us. Pastor Sean encourages us to experience the revelation of rest that comes from the sovereignty of God. From there, the conviction we experience inside of us will be stronger than the crisis around us, and we will become catalysts for change in our communities, cities, and nations.

"The enemy uses storms to shake you, God uses storms to shape you."

REFLECTION & ACTIVATION:

- We are clay in the potter's hands (see Isaiah 64:8 and Isaiah 45:9). Spend some time with the Lord and ask Him how He is shaping you in this season.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to speak truth and comfort to you during this difficult time. What is He saying about your current circumstances? Pastor Sean mentions in this sermon how revelation of the sovereignty of God will bring us rest in this time. Ask the Holy Spirit for a greater revelation of His sovereignty.

SESSION 3



Tom Crandall facilitates a panel interview with Bill Johnson and Sean Smith. We get the privilege to have a glimpse into their testimonies and devotional life with the Lord; how they receive and steward divine revelations. Discover what they have to say on key issues we face today from their personal testimonies, relationship with the Lord, and practice of spiritual disciplines.

“When God gives you something, don’t glide over it. Camp there; do something. Treasure what He spoke. It doesn’t have to be profound. If it’s alive, it’s necessary.”

REFLECTION & ACTIVATION:

- The most precious and convicting revelations are the ones God Himself shows you. Spend some time with the Holy Spirit and write down the things God has whispered to you in your secret place that He brings to mind.
- Ask the Lord to reveal Himself to you in a new way through His Word. Open the Bible to any page, and seek out His character. Soak Him in. We never stop getting to know Jesus.

SESSION 4



It is through the gates of praise that we become the dwelling place of the Lord. Bill Johnson explains that with thanksgiving these gates are an open invitation for His presence to abide, even in the most difficult of circumstances. He reminds us that our journey with the Lord is relational. We build gates of praise when we are intentional about expressing our thankfulness, even in the midst of pain.

“But you shall call your walls salvation and your gates praise.” (Isaiah 60:18)

REFLECTION & ACTIVATION:

- Spend some time with the Lord and write down five things for which you are grateful. Psalm 111:9 says, “He provided redemption for His people; He ordained His covenant forever—holy and awesome is His name.” Let thankfulness rise up in your heart as you meditate on this Scripture and remind your soul of the wonderful things He has done and is doing.
- Abiding means remaining in Him as He remains in you (see John 15:4). Ask the Holy Spirit for some practical ways you can abide in Him this week. Maybe it’s worshipping on the way to work; maybe it’s spending time with your family in the evenings. Remain tender to what the Lord wants to say and do in your life.

SESSION 5a



God is not the God of cancellation, He is the God of calling. Through Scripture and personal stories, Libby Gordon reveals God's truth to break down the "cancel culture" of our day. She reminds us of God's mercy, grace, love, and compassion for humanity. The gospel is a powerful message of calling to destiny. If we, as God's people in whom His Spirit dwells, choose to stay close and lean in, we are unstoppable.

"It's okay to be human. I don't always have to be on the cutting edge of what God is doing. I can be a daughter."

REFLECTION & ACTIVATION:

- Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." The Lord understands and loves our humanity. His grace is like a river for us. Come to the Lord boldly with a fresh awareness of His goodness and grace. You are a child of God before anything else. In her session, Pastor Libby talks about how she came to this revelation once she invited community into her process. Challenge yourself to reach out to close friends and family and invite them into your process today.

SESSION 5b



We reflect the Kingdom of Heaven when we are reconciled with one another. Through inspired poems and spoken word, Tinasha LaRayé reveals that the answer to the pain and brokenness of racism is not policies but belonging. It is choosing to radically inconvenience ourselves for people who don't look like us that brings the wholeness of the Trinity onto the earth.

"The answer to the pain and brokenness of racism is not policies but belonging."

REFLECTION & ACTIVATION:

- In the family of God, everyone belongs. The Lord is coming for a unified bride. Spend some time with the Holy Spirit and ask Him to search your heart. In view of His mercy, let the Lord bring up any prejudice in your heart toward people who do not look like you. Let the Lord's kindness lead you to repent from any lies that may have been hidden in your thinking. How can you allow the revelation of His truth to guide you as you interact with the world from this point forward?

SESSION 5c



The Kingdom of Heaven is not just a place and a people; it is the reign and government of God within us. Chris Cruz teaches from the gospels that when we live under the domain of God's Kingdom, Heaven lives within our actions, words, and thoughts. Our gestures of kindness aren't just small acts but instead become weapons of warfare, and our cities, families, and workplaces will be deeply impacted by Heaven through them. The Kingdom of God is established when His will is fully realized. We must live from the Kingdom of Heaven in order to see it released on earth.

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough." (Mathew 13:33)

REFLECTION & ACTIVATION:

- In his session, Pastor Chris makes the statement, "Both opportunity and opposition reveal what Kingdom has dominion in us." Ask the Holy Spirit what areas of your life are being revealed in this season?
- When the Kingdom of God lives and governs on the inside of us, our gestures of kindness, no matter how simple, become weapons of warfare. What is a gesture of kindness you can do to release the Kingdom of God today?

SESSION 6



God created times and seasons as instruments to fulfill His divine purpose. Sean Smith brings a timely prophetic message of the new thing that God is doing in this season and encourages us to follow His lead into the unknown. Our desperate cries for revival are being heard, requiring our trust and courage to step into the unfamiliar with Him.

“Let’s get back to explosive expectancy.”

REFLECTION & ACTIVATION:

- In this session, Pastor Sean and Christa explain that God has not forgotten His Word and that He’s working behind the scenes. Which prophetic words do you need to cling to and declare in this season? If you need a fresh Word, ask the Lord to reveal it for you in Scripture.
- Even when we run out of hope, God never will. Spend some time with the Lord and ask Him for a fresh perspective of your current circumstances. Romans 15:13 says, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” Are there any areas of your life where you are not experiencing an abundance of hope? If so, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal what God is specifically saying over that situation. Let the Lord of joy and peace fill you with hope and expectancy again today.

DAY THREE

SESSION 7



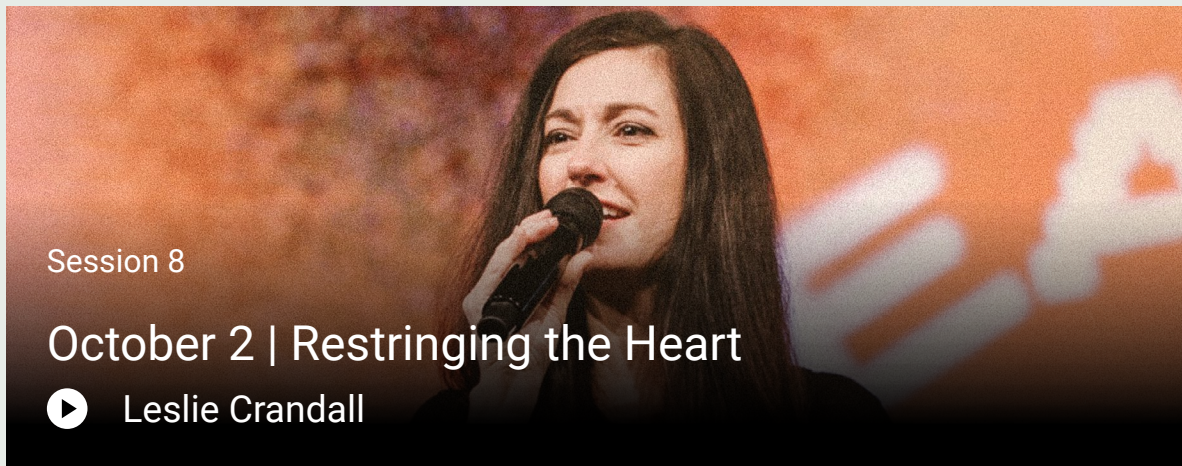
God's Kingdom is always advancing. He is re-igniting our faith for greater miracles. Dave Harvey and Chuck Parry share testimonies of how God is moving in the world today, revealing His greatness. Discover what it means for God's resurrection power that is within you to release to the world.

"When we share testimonies, we see that God is huge. If He can do that for them, He can do it for us."

REFLECTION & ACTIVATION:

- Revelation 19:10 says, "The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Go to the Global Increase app or website and spend some time with the Holy Spirit reading through testimonies, especially the ones you need God to do again in your life. Maybe it's "back pain healed" or "school finances paid off" or "daughter comes back to the Lord." Read and rejoice in what God is doing around the world and be filled with faith for God to do it again in your life.
- Think back on some of the testimonies in your own life and make a point to share these testimonies with others. It could lead to someone else receiving their breakthrough.

SESSION 8



Leslie Crandall shares vulnerably from her current process of walking by faith and not by sight—choosing to trust God in the midst of mystery. Through sharing her personal encounters with God and revelation from Scripture, Pastor Leslie ministers with a prophetic picture of what God is doing in our hearts today as He leads us, His Church, into a new season.

“Receiving and abiding bring actual transformation to our lives.”

REFLECTION & ACTIVATION:

- In this session, Pastor Leslie says that she doesn't want to play it safe and she doesn't want to get comfortable, she just wants the Father. Ask the Holy Spirit if there is anything in your life that He wants you to surrender to Him. Then, ask Him for the grace to do so. Surrender is relational. Invite Him into your surrender and make it personal.
- God is the most perfect shepherd of our souls. He is the most trustworthy. Spend some time with the Holy Spirit and ask Him these questions: Where is my safety right now? Where is my trust? Allow Jesus to speak to you and hold you where you feel the most shaky in your life right now.

SESSION 9



Bill Johnson delivers a powerful message about strongholds in our thinking. A demonic stronghold is a realm of thought created by misplaced trust that conceals the enemy at work. The Lord is the most trustworthy stronghold and hiding place; abiding in Him keeps us safe. To not trust Him is denying His nature. Taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ means repenting and retraining those bad thoughts and bringing them into the Word of God.

“The renewed mind is an introduction to the way He thinks.”

REFLECTION & ACTIVATION:

- Any thought that is not inspired by hope is not from God; His word brings healing and life, never shame, condemnation, or hopelessness. Pastor Bill says, “Taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ means retraining bad thoughts, bringing them into the Word of God, and using them against the original purpose.” Take some time with the Holy Spirit and allow Him to bring to light lies that may be hidden in your thought patterns so that you can submit them to Jesus.
- You have the mind of Christ and it is by abiding in Him that our minds become renewed and we begin to think more like Him. Pastor Bill talks about how Jesus lived in response to the Father alone. How can you tune yourself to His voice so that you live in response to Him and not in reaction to the enemy?

SESSION 10



The unseen, spiritual realm is an important reality to grasp, especially in this time we are living in. The greatest gift we need today is the discerning of spirits to truly recognize the source of our challenges. This positions us to recognize our heavenly authority and bring Heaven's solutions to the earth. Kris Vallotton also illustrates through Scripture how discernment will bring understanding of when God's sovereignty takes precedence over the free will He entrusted us with.

"There are kairos moments where God takes a hold of history, taking it out of the hands of free will agents and interrupts history with His Sovereignty. Unless you have the gift of discernment of spirits, you don't know when God is involved."

REFLECTION & ACTIVATION:

- As children of God, we are seated in heavenly places and have access to insight on what the Father is saying and doing. Spend some time with God today and ask Him to teach you about discerning spirits. Write out what He says to you. Ask Him to reveal different experiences you've had where He moved in your life and times where it seemed like He wasn't. What did you feel in your spirit in those moments? Jesus is the perfect shepherd and teacher, the Holy Spirit is the perfect helper and guide, and God is your perfect Father. It's okay to get things wrong. You are covered.

- Sometimes, in the areas we feel are our weakest is where God wants to work through us the most. It's when we are most dependent on God that we are strongest and most prepared. Ask the Holy Spirit what areas of your life you feel disqualified in and how He wants to empower you in these areas in order to release His greatness upon the earth. Our God is in the business of redemption. You can trust Him and depend on His strength.

Thank you for joining us and investing in the release of Heaven here on earth. We pray this Study Guide will be a great resource for you in your journey of revealing, reflecting, and releasing Heaven in your life. The Kingdom lives inside of you and we pray you walk away from this experience feeling blessed, encouraged, and empowered for the season to come.

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