

1. I will attend 5 out of the 6 sessions.
2. I will hold in confidence anything that is said by another group member.
3. I will trust my group members enough to risk saying vulnerable things, as the Spirit leads me.
4. I will seek more to put something into this experience than to get something out of it.
5. I will pray once a week for this group. [Hint: set an alarm on your phone.]
6. I will open my heart to what God may do in me and through me in this group.
7. I will pay attention to how God is working in the lives of my group members and, as led by the Spirit, tell them what I see.

Signed by the members:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____

Ortberg suggests that "Every moment can become [an open door]." Does this feel like opportunity or pressure, and why?

Opportunity:

Pressure:

At the end of 2 Corinthians, Paul tells his friends that he longs to visit them and then he writes this: "But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries." (2 Cor. 16:9)

Look over your list of open door characteristics. Is "many adversaries" on the list? Probably not. But "open door" does not mean "easy way."

Drawing from other examples in scripture, in his book Ortberg reminds us that open doors are not necessarily...

- Thrilling
- Pleasant, smooth experiences
- Free of hardship and struggle
- A guarantee
- A set of detailed instructions
- Easy to choose

Knowing this, read the quote from the book again:

"Every morning is an open door; every moment can become one. Some of us see doors and seize them, and so life becomes a divine adventure. Some of us shrink back or fail to see. A room with no door is a prison. To fail to embrace the open door is to miss the work God has made for us to do. If we want to experience more of the Spirit of God in our lives, we need to train ourselves to look for and respond to moments of divine opportunity."

Did these words feel like pressure because we were afraid to fail? If an open door is not a guarantee, does that make it easier or harder to go through it?

Remember this: "An open door is an opportunity provided *by* God, to act *with* God and *for* God." --Ortberg

An open door is not about you—not about your success or your joy or your ease. An open door is about what God wants to do with you, today, in this place for his glory.

Because of this lesson, what will change in your life with God and others this week?