

**Keeping Company with Jesus
Open Yourself to God
September 30-October 1, 2008**

I. Introduction- Do you want something more?

II. What hinders us from opening ourselves to God?

A. My view of God

1. *Worship is.....* Our response, both personal and corporate, to God- for _____ and _____, expressed in and by the things we say and the way we live.” (Louie Giglio, *The Air I Breathe*, pp. 49)

2. “To let God be God is to _____ to the mystery and presence of God without limiting the nature or effect of that mystery and presence by any preset expectations or by any premature withdrawal from it.” (Ronald Rolheiser, *The Shattered Lattern*, pp. 126) *Can you let God be God?*

B. My need for control- “*In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.*” Psalm 10:4

1. When we allow God to be God, we have a healthy fear of _____ and _____. Control is no longer a nagging sin in our life. How are you trying to play God?

2. To be humble is to have a felt sense of your *earthiness* and *creatureliness*, that is, of your _____, your _____, your _____, your _____, and your _____ to the soil. (pp. 130, Ronald Rolheiser, *The Shattered Lattern*, pp. 130) It’s coming to an amazing conclusion: _____!

C. Distractions of life

1. Jesus pointed out to Martha that she was distracted by so many things. What are you distracted by? Picture these words from Jesus: “ _____, _____, you are distracted by things like _____, _____, and _____.”

D. Hiding from God

1. In order to open ourselves up to God, we must be willing to _____ God to see us and love us precisely as we are.... in the midst of our imperfections, past hurts, shame and guilt.
2. “The ability to sit _____ and _____ in the presence of God is something that we grow into.” (pp. 70, Mindy Caliguire, *Discovering Soul Care*)
3. Are we inviting God to the deepest places of our soul...the places we do not want to tread? Make _____ your daily prayer!

III. How much of God do you want?

A. Do you want God’s peace and rest?

1. Will we learn from the Sovereign Lord and return to Him? (Isaiah 30:15-18)
2. God is ready and willing to _____ to his foolish and obstinate people. *“Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; Therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!”* (Isaiah 30:18)

B. What if you don’t?

1. We can rejoice in our trials because God uses them to not only transform us, but to help us _____ for His moment by moment presence. *“It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees.”* Psalm 119:71