



- *Would you say you were quick to respond to the Lord, either in church or in life in general? What causes you to dig your heels in? Do you consider yourself open or closed to the work of the Holy Spirit? Is your heart hard or soft?*
- *When was the last time you responded to an altar call in church? What was the call and why did you respond on that occasion?*
- *Do you find it easy to respond in worship? If so, why? If not, why not? Do you find it easy to respond to the Word? If so, why? If not, why not?*

If we want church to be SUPERNATURAL not NATURAL, then, by definition, we're going to need to be RELIANT on what GOD can do, not what WE can do.

- * How could your PERSONAL life change if God had UNFETTERED access?
- * How would CHURCH life change if God had our LAVISH, UNOBSTRUCTED INVITATION?
- *How could your life change? How would our church change?*
- * If we desire naturally supernatural / revival / the move of God, we have to CULTIVATE a certain SOIL ... offer an OPEN DOOR ... present SOFT HEARTS break down WALLS, take off MASKS.
- *How do you open the door wide to the Lord? If you're honest, are there any walls you need to break down or masks you're hiding behind?*
- * SUMMARY: The MORE of God you have, the CLOSER to Him you walk, the QUICKER you run in His direction, the BETTER OFF you'll be.
- *How do you feel about that summary? How are you doing right now?*

WHY DON'T WE RESPOND?

- a) FEAR → Always makes us RETREAT or turn TURN INWARDS
- b) PEER PRESSURE → Fear of man is a SNARE (Proverbs 29:25)
- c) PAST HURTS → Tend to make us CAUTIOUS, RELUCTANT, SELF-PROTECTIVE
- d) PRIDE → Upside-down: Surely we should be the very FIRST to respond?
- e) We let FLESH lead, not SPIRIT → If you're TIRED or IRRITABLE, the danger is you MISS what GOD is doing.
- f) IGNORANCE of what is on offer
- g) BAD HABIT → Can we UNWITTINGLY develop an UNRESPONSIVE habit?
- *Any of these apply to you? If so, why? Which of these would you say was the strongest factor or most commonly experienced?*

WHY BE RESPONSIVE?

1. You have God's LAVISH INVITATION (Proverbs 18:10, Matthew 11:28, Hebrews 4:16)
 - *What does God invite us to/into (see those verses)? Why should we respond? Why sometimes do we reject the invitation?*
2. God can do SO MUCH MORE in your life than YOU CAN
 - * Do you want to LIMIT yourself to self-help, good-intentions, the results of your

own sweat or open the door to the transforming, liberating, resurrection POWER OF GOD?

- *What part does your response play in God's supernatural work in your heart?*
- 3. God longs to take you on a JOURNEY of TRANSFORMATION
 - * Don't MISS your ENCOUNTER or SHORT-CIRCUIT your JOURNEY because you fail to respond.
 - *Have you experienced any significant Holy Spirit encounters and what has been their effect on your life?*
- 4. God waits for your INVITATION and, in general, won't FORCE Himself upon you
 - *Is that true? Does God ever 'force Himself on you?' Why doesn't He tend to do so? How do you 'invite' Him?*
- 5. God can do so much more in a WILLINGLY BROKEN vessel (Psalm 51:17, Isaiah 66:4)
 - * 2 types of broken: a) BEATEN UP by the world, b) WILLINGLY SURRENDERED
 - *Which of those are you? Is your outer shell broken or is God struggling to get through?*
- 6. Though GRACE freely gives, it takes FAITH to receive
 - * Just because God has PROVIDED it, doesn't mean to say that we're WALKING in it.
 - *Is responding an act of faith? Does it take faith to respond? Is unresponsiveness the result of a lack of faith or failure to step out in faith?*
- 7. Every time you come forward to respond, you step out of PRIDE and into HUMILITY (James 4:6-8, 2 Chronicles 7:14)
 - * Pride is a BRICK WALL; humility is an OPEN TAP.
 - *Define pride in this context? What about humility? Is your pride ever a shield that God can't get past? How is humility like an 'open tap'?*
- 8. There is BREAKTHROUGH POWER available when the HOLY SPIRIT is on the move
 - * When the ANOINTING is flowing, GET IN THE FLOW.
 - *Is there a difference on a Sunday morning between responding where you sit or coming to the front? What might the benefits of coming to the front be, whether that's to the prayer corner or to 'do business with God?'*
- 9. We all have the opportunity to be a CATALYST
 - * Responsive people PRODUCE MORE responsive people.
 - *Why is the first responder so crucial? What is a catalyst and how does responding quickly fit the description? Is responsiveness a part of being a spiritual leader?*
 - *"God's freedom to move is in direct proportion to our willingness to respond." Discuss! Has this been the case in revivals through the ages?*
 - *What should the end of service response time look like? What could it look like and why does it make a difference?*
 - *The call to what response would you find irresistible? What response call would you find impossible?*
 - *How might we work / develop / strengthen our culture of radical responsiveness?*
 - *"God cannot / will not / does not work with resistant, proud, closed, unresponsive hearts. God cannot / will not / does not work with a resistant, proud, closed, unresponsive church. However, there's nothing God cannot do with fully submitted, humbled, receptive, responsive hearts or churches?" Discuss!*