Dear Open Door Family,

The other night I woke up in the middle of the night. My eyes were wide open, but my mind was not at all clear. I could not remember what day it was. I could not remember if I needed to get up earlier than normal. My eyes were open, but I had NO understanding of what was really going on. After a few minutes my mind actually woke up, and I realized it was the middle of the night. I also realized that I did not have to preach the next morning since it was Monday. So with that new found insight I got back into bed and went back to sleep. As we read our Bibles may we always approach with it with *Eyes Wide Open* asking God for understanding so that we can ***obey*** what He is telling us through His Word.

Romans 12:1-2 *(JBP) With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you, my brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, to give him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to him and acceptable by him. Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity.*

I love the way that J. B. Phillips translated these verses. *With eyes wide open to the mercies of God* - what does that mean? It starts with an understanding that it was MY SIN that caused Jesus' death. It continues with the knowledge that God hates sin; and yet in his Grace and Mercy He offers ME Forgiveness through Jesus. With Eyes WIDE open - remembering ALL that God has done for me in Jesus - I should Worship Him. How? Paul goes on to say that I should offer myself as a LIVING SACRIFICE which is ... *an act of intelligent worship.* That means that worship is not necessarily an emotional response but an act of my WILL. I choose to OFFER myself to HIM as a *living sacrifice*. So my response to God's incredible salvation should be to Worship God with my eyes wide open. That means to willingly offer myself to God to be used in anyway He chooses. Some one once said: *The problem with living sacrifices is that they keep crawling off the altar!*

PRAYER: Lord thank you for loving me and dying for me. Please help me to get onto the ALTAR and help me to stay there. May my offering of myself be acceptable to You as worship today.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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