

Changing the Way You Think:

“The Posture of Open Eyes, Open Ears, & an Open Heart”

“Then the eyes of those who see will not be blinded, And the ears of those who hear will listen. The mind of the rash will discern the truth.”

Isaiah 32:3-4

Since I’ve known you, for the last five years I have opened up every sermon and every teaching with a prayer...Asking the Lord to “open our eyes, so we can see -- open our ears so we can hear -- and open our heart so we can be transformed.”

- I pray this same prayer while I’m preparing, writing, and meditating on what God would have me share with you.
 - I don’t take for granted the time I ask for your attention.
 - It is always *Sacred* thing to me; The time is *Holy*...not something to waste or spend frivolously.
- This isn’t just an invocation of the Holy Spirit to make our services special, or a class meaningful.
- This is the Life Posture of a True Disciple.
- 3 Ways to Posture Yourself to Receive...

Everyday Looking For...

Matthew 13:12-15

Whoever has, to him *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says,

‘You shall keep on listening, but shall not understand; And you shall keep on looking, but shall not perceive; For the heart of this people has become dull, With their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes, Otherwise they might see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, Understand with their heart, and return, And I would heal them.’

Matthew 13:44-46

“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid *again*; and from joy *over it* he goes and sells everything that he has, and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold everything that he had and bought it.

Matthew 7:8

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

“God does not consider you hopeless. If He did, He would not be moving you to seek Him (and He obviously is)... **Continue seeking Him with seriousness.** Unless He wanted you, you would not be wanting Him.”

C. S. Lewis

Everyday Listening For...

Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.

Everyday Transparent Sharing in Life Together...

- What is God showing you in your personal walk with Him?
- What is God showing you in your ministry's work at COTC?

The most natural and most readily available substitute for living in Christ is the seemingly harmless hunger and affection for enjoyable, satisfying, social relationship within the community.

- The church community, then, naively begins to build upon a foundation of common backgrounds, interests, perspectives, and experiences.

"Just at this point Christian brotherhood is threatened most often at the very start by the greatest danger of all, the danger of being poisoned at its root, the danger of confusing Christian brotherhood with some wishful idea of religious fellowship..." -- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

"We are servants of the holy, listeners with the job of being attentive to God, with and for the sake of another."

Susan Phillips, *Candlelight*

Hebrews 10:24-25

Consider how to encourage one another in love and good deeds, not abandoning our own meeting together, as is the habit of some people, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.