

## Wide Open (Part #2)

### “It’s Hard To Stay Awake!”

**2 Corinthians 6:11-13** (The Message) “Dear, dear Corinthians, I can’t tell you how much I long for you to enter this wide-open, spacious life. We didn’t fence you in. The smallness you feel comes from within you. Your lives aren’t small, but you’re living them in a small way. I’m speaking as plainly as I can and with great affection. Open up your lives. Live openly and expansively!”

### Awareness. Awe. Adventure.

“If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world.”

— C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

### 5 Spiritual Awakenings

\*Awakening To L\_\_\_\_; \*Awakening To R\_\_\_\_;

\*Awakening To H\_\_\_\_; \*Awakening To L\_\_\_\_;

\*Awakening To L\_\_\_\_!

### Things Trying To Keep Us Asleep...

**\*The Devil; \*Busyness; \*Good Things; \*Our Laziness; \*Our Addictions; \*Our Apathy; \*Our Religion; \*Our Family Systems; \*Our Significant Relationships; \*Our Friends; \*Our Socio-Economic Standing; \*Our Security; \*Our Self-Righteousness!**

**Romans 13:11-14**

And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup>The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. <sup>13</sup>Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

— C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory, and Other Addresses*

Psalms 73 <sup>1</sup>**Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.** <sup>2</sup>**But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.** <sup>3</sup>**For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.** <sup>4</sup>They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. <sup>5</sup>They are free from common human burdens; they are not plagued by human ills... <sup>11</sup>They say, “How would God know? Does the Most High know anything?” <sup>12</sup>This is what the wicked are like—always free of care, they go on amassing wealth. <sup>13</sup>Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence. <sup>14</sup>All day long I have been afflicted, and every morning brings new punishments. <sup>15</sup>If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children. <sup>16</sup>**When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply** <sup>17</sup>**till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.** <sup>18</sup>Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin. <sup>19</sup>How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors! <sup>20</sup>**They are like a dream when one awakes; when you arise, Lord, you will despise them as fantasies.** <sup>21</sup>When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, <sup>22</sup>I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you. <sup>23</sup>Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. <sup>24</sup>You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. <sup>25</sup>Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. <sup>26</sup>My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. <sup>27</sup>Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you. <sup>28</sup>**But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.**

**\*L\_\_\_\_ This Amazing Life-Long Journey With God & Others One Day At A Time!**

# JOIN US **TODAY**

Sunday, April 30th, 2017

Opening  
*AWAKE MY SOUL*

Welcome  
*MIRACLES*  
*I AM NOT ALONE*

Prayer

Offering  
*IT IS WELL*

Message  
**IT'S HARD TO STAY AWAKE!**  
Pastor Dean Ward

## WIDE OPEN

AWARENESS AWE ADVENTURE

**PART 2** OF OUR CURRENT SERMON SERIES

## GIVING BACK TO GOD

Giving back to God, cheerfully and sacrificially, is part of our worship. It's our way of putting God first in our finances and supporting the mission of The River throughout the year. The combined totals for both The River New Kensington and The River New Heights are listed.

|            | \$7,150.00 Needed Weekly | Attendance |
|------------|--------------------------|------------|
| April 2nd  | \$8,836.23               | 260        |
| April 9th  | \$5,527.75               | 326        |
| April 16th | \$10,577.00              | 468        |
| April 23rd | \$4,564.89               | 278        |

## UPCOMING **EVENTS**

| This Week          |                                    | Next Week           |   |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Sunday<br>April 30 | Services 9:30am & 11:15am          | Sunday<br>May 7     | Services 9:30am & 11:15am                 |
| Wednesday<br>May 3 | The River's Edge Youth Group 6-8pm | Wednesday<br>May 10 | The River's Edge Youth Group 6-8pm        |
| Thursday<br>May 4  | Bible Study 6:30-8pm               | Thursday<br>May 11  | MOPS 9:30-11:30am<br>Bible Study 6:30-8pm |

MAY 13

### REFRAME INTENSIVE DAY

WITH STEVE GARBER - LOCATION & DETAILS TO COME

MAY 21

### 12TH ANNUAL CAR SHOW

@ THE RIVER NEW KENSINGTON



**STAY CONNECTED!** CHECK OUT ALL OF OUR EVENTS

[www.therivernewken.com](http://www.therivernewken.com)  
[www.facebook.com/therivernewken](https://www.facebook.com/therivernewken)  
[nicky@therivernewken.com](mailto:nicky@therivernewken.com)



### ALMOST TIME FOR **WOH** @ THE RIVER! HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?



- 1 Provide local service projects for the campers. Pray about who you might know that could really use some extra help.
- 2 Apply for the paid position for a Site Leader, who would work a few hours a week connecting with the youth leaders who run Week of Hope Pittsburgh between June 18 and August 4.
- 3 Volunteer in hospitality to assist the youth leaders in preparing meals for the campers and leading the campers in maintaining their living spaces. TWO volunteers needed July 9-14 and ONE needed July 23-28. Volunteers must be 21 and over.

Contact Nicky for further details [nicky@therivernewken.com](mailto:nicky@therivernewken.com) or 724-337-4837

**CYBER  
STUDY**



EVERY OTHER **MONDAY**  
**9PM PHILIPPIANS**  
BEGINNING FEB 13TH

JOIN US   
[www.facebook.com/therivernewheights](http://www.facebook.com/therivernewheights)

**THE RIVER'S  
EDGE**  
YOUTH GROUP  
Wednesdays 6-8pm

Open to youth grades 7-12  
Youth Pastor Brian Baker 724-594-7394

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday, the youth are encouraged to attend the 11:15 service. After the offering song, the youth will go into the Youth Room for their lesson.