

# **Openness & Teachability**

## *Preparatory Study 3*

*Answer the following questions from the Scriptures given, your own or dictionary knowledge, or as your own opinion. Write your answers in the blanks provided.*

### **Part 1 – What is Disclosure & Vulnerability (Openness & Teachability)? What is the Biblical Emphasis Regarding My Need for This?**

1. Explain what it means to you to disclose yourself and make yourself vulnerable.
2. What are some qualities that you feel you must sense in another person in order to disclose yourself?
3. What primary ministry does God instruct each of us to have in one another's life? (Read Hebrews 3:12 - 13.)

### **Part 2 – Biblical Emphasis Regarding My Need for This (Cont.)**

1. Paul identifies three common areas of human need in 1 Thessalonians 5:14. What are they?
2. Paul also mentions ways to deal with these needs in seeking to help one another. Identify them and express how they might be accomplished.

### **Part 3 – The Need for a Teachable Heart**

1. What warning do you see in Ecclesiastes 4:13 in this matter of disclosure and vulnerability?
2. List some reasons why we do not disclose/open our lives to one another.
3. What are some requirements in order to experience healing? (Read James 5:16.)

### **Part Four – The Need for a Teachable Heart (Cont.)**

1. List some reasons why we are not good listeners.
2. Discuss some practical ways you might put into practice the following statement by Paul Tournier: "It is impossible to overemphasize the immense need humans have to be really listened to, to be taken seriously, to be understood (Cited by John Powell in *Why Am I Afraid to Tell You Who I Am?*; Niles, Illinois: Argus Communications, 1969, page 5).

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## ***Listening Session 3***

*The following is an outline of the taped presentation. Use the spaces provided and the wide right margin for your own notes. Listen carefully and write out any thoughts that you feel are important for you to record and discuss.*

### **Listen to Audio Session 3 - Part 1**

#### **I. What is Disclosure & Vulnerability?**

Disclosure:

Vulnerability:

##### **A. Some Risks**

1. Possible misunderstanding
2. "I might be judged"
3. "I might be rejected"

##### **B. Clarification Regarding Emotional Needs**

1. Only Jesus Christ can meet all these – Isaiah 61:1
2. We cannot expect another person to do this
3. We need to have relationships in the Body of Christ

##### **C. The Need for Reassurance of One Who Cares, Accepts, and Understands**

1. An illustration of acceptance - John 8
2. Acceptance can be communicated even when we don't approve of the behavior.

#### **II. Biblical Emphasis Regarding My Need for Disclosure & Vulnerability**

##### **A. Need for mutual support - Hebrews 3:12 - 13**

1. Anyone can experience the effects of unbelief.  
- Psalm 139:23 - 24
2. We need mutual encouragement for support and correction.
3. We must open our lives so that others can encourage us where needed.