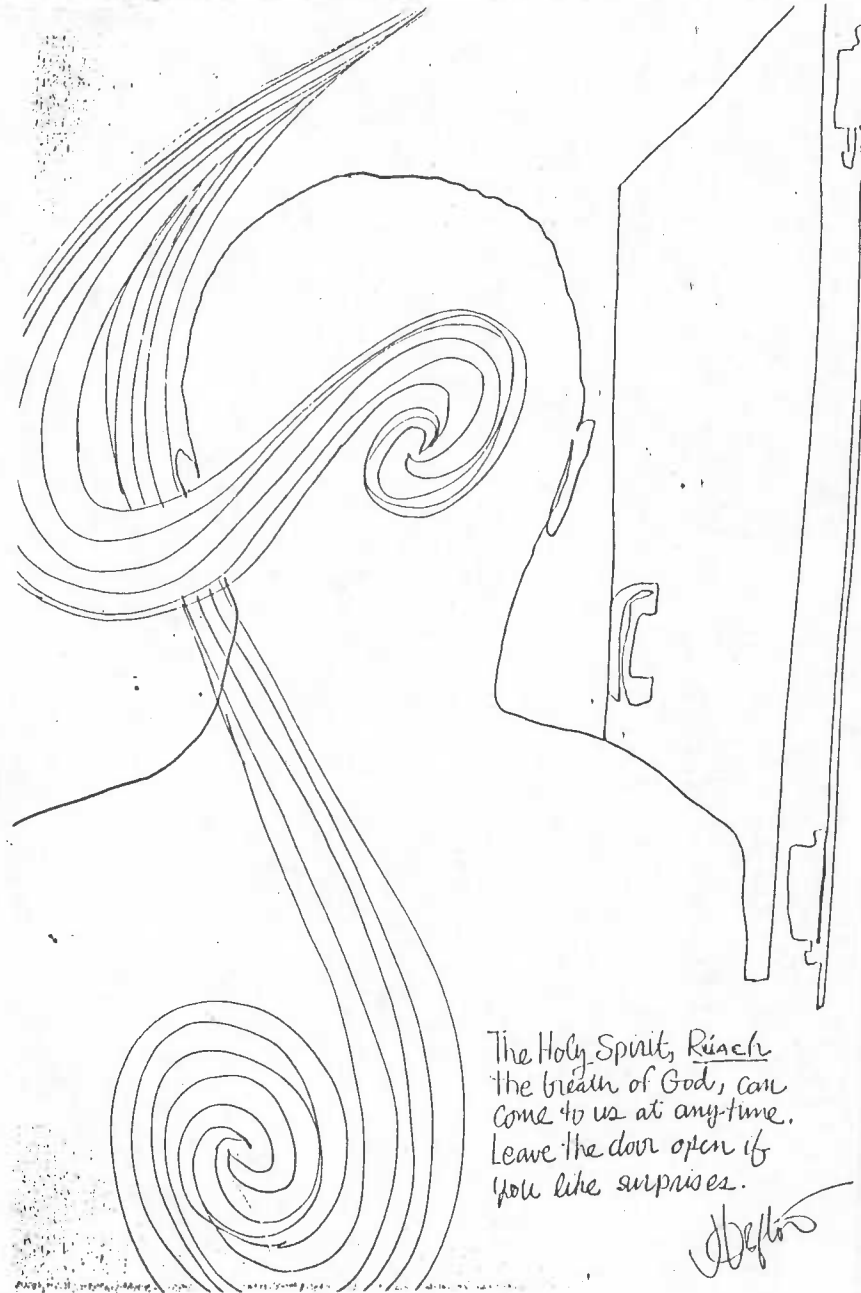


"OPEN" AS A METAPHOR OF ATTENTION TO TRANSCENDENCE

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"We all with **open** [Gk., unconcealed; Lat., unveiled, "revelata"] faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed...."--2Cor.3.18 "I have set before you an **open** door...."--Rev.3.8



In your Bible concordance, please look up "open" & "closed." It shouldn't surprise you to discover that the Holy Book has much more to say (if we can judge by the bulk of references, & in this case we can) about being open than our being closed, or that it has some harsh things to say about the sad consequences of being *too* open.

Yesterday, in going through a pile of paintings & drawings done by NY artists who were religion-students of mine, I came across the 11x17 penned sketch which I reduced for use in a group last evening--yes, to "open" discussion. It proved to be such a good opener that this morning I decided to share it with you.

The quotation? The 1st sentence speaks two realities in Jn.3.8: (1) Wind(-breath) is the Bible's primary metaphor for God's presence (& appears as such in our religion's three primary languages: Heb.-*ruach*, Gk.-*pneuma*, Lat.--*spiritus*); (2) While we have no protection from God (& can't hide: Gn.3.9; Ps.139.7), we are free to open the door to rebirth through his affection. The 2nd sentence guarantees against boredom...."Heart" in Heb. includes what in my teaching I call the upper coil, our neocortex), & the lower coil (feelings, here the lower coil, the viscera). Read slowly enough so that the slow-moving feelings aren't outrun by the fast-moving "mind."