

Open Doors

Ponder: When the Lord opens a door, will you walk through it?

Scripture: “See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it” (Revelation 3:8, NKJV).

Unlike the majority of the other churches of Asia, Jesus had nothing negative to say about faithful Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7-13). Those brethren probably wouldn't have been included on a list of the fastest growing congregations. We have no idea who their preacher was, assuming they had one. They almost certainly didn't own a church building, nor did their weekly contribution set records. But Jesus commended them. “You have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name” (v. 8). “You have kept My command to persevere” (v. 10). Such things may not impress modern “church growth experts,” but they impressed the Lord!

Philadelphia's faithfulness resulted in Jesus opening a door for them. Open doors signify opportunities. The text doesn't specify just what opportunities the saints at Philadelphia would have. Perhaps the Lord cleared the way for them to evangelize despite the severe persecution all around them. Several years earlier the apostle Paul had written about such an opportunity: “But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost, for a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries” (1 Cor. 16:8-9). We might think Paul ought to have gone to Jerusalem to preach to the Jews who came for the feast of Pentecost; but the feast of Diana in Ephesus occurred around that time of year also, which would afford him the opportunity to evangelize among the Gentiles attending that event.

Does God open doors of opportunity other than evangelism? Indeed, He does! Paul commended the brethren in Philippi for sending him material aid during his first Roman imprisonment. “But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity” (Phil. 4:10). When God opened the door of opportunity, the Philippians walked through it! Perhaps the saints in Philadelphia would have the opportunity to glorify Jesus by helping the needy as He did.

What doors has God opened for you today? Have you an opening to reach out with the gospel? An opportunity to feed a hungry stranger? Comfort a struggling brother or sister? Praise God for open doors! Walk through them!

Song: “Lead Me To Some Soul Today”

Prayer: Gracious God of Heaven, thank You for opening doors of opportunity for us. Help us to see what a privilege it is to serve in Your name, and give us the courage and determination to walk through the doors You open for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.