

Doors and Enemies

Revelation 3:7-8 "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. ⁸ I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to be silent and a time to speak.

An open door is an opportunity, a season, that God provides for us to walk through for His specific purposes. Is there an open door before us as a church?

DOORS & ENEMIES GO TOGETHER

1 Corinthians 16:8-9 But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, ⁹ because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.

Enemies can be revealed before or after the door. Doors can be unannounced.

- BEFORE: **1 Samuel 17**, the story of David and Goliath.
- AFTER: **Luke 3 & 4**, Jesus is announced as the Son of God and is tempted by the Devil.

Acts 9:15-16 But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

Paul was challenged in every city by the Jews, who worked for the enemy, trying to stop Paul from spreading the Gospel.

What can we do to make sure we don't miss God's door?

BE PREPARED

Some doors can open quickly.

Matthew 25:1-12 The Parable of the 10 Virgins

REMOVE YOUR IDOLS

Elijah in **1 Kings 17** tells Ahab that it will not rain for the next few years, except at his word. In **1 Kings 16** we see that Ahab led the Nation of Israel into the idol worship of Baal and Asherah. In **Deuteronomy 11** God warns the Israelites to be careful not to be deceived and worship other gods.

James 5:17 Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.

American Idols: Possessions, people, prestige, politics, humanism (making humanity more important than God). The virus is forcing us to prioritize what is valuable and what is not. We all have personal idols that need to be destroyed. An idol is anything that takes the place of God. Removing our idols will put us in a position to see our open doors.

PRAISE

I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise will continually be on my lips.

Psalms 34:1-3 Living Bible I will praise the Lord no matter what happens. I will constantly speak of his glories and grace. ² I will boast of all his kindness to me. Let all who are discouraged take heart. ³ Let us praise the Lord together and exalt his name.

PRAYER

Colossians 4:2-4 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³ And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴ Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should

2 Chronicles 7:13-14 "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, ¹⁴ if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.