

A CASE OF OPEN AND SHUT

INTRODUCTION

When we accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour of our lives, everything changes. The Lord opens the door to victory in Christ and we close the door to the things that were part of our old, carnal, fleshly life. It really is a case of "open and shut."

Jesus said in John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." He also said, "I am the Door", we read it in John 10: **John 10:7-10** (NKJV) Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Jesus is the Door for the sheep. He is open wide for us to enter. Once we have entered into a relationship with Him, we will come and go and find pasture. This, according to John 10:10 is a place of abundant life.

The our hearts and rob, enemy doesn't have a door, he tries to creep in through our door to steal kill and destroy, when he does so, If Jesus is in control, he will find his plans thwarted and will not be able to enter.

The Bible often speaks about things that the Lord opens and closes for His people. This morning, we will look at some examples of what the Lord has opened and closed for us.

MESSAGE

Revelation 3:7 (NKJV) "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens".

Jesus is the one who opens and shuts. What He opens no one can shut and what He shuts, no one can open. He is the only one with a key and He has the final authority!

He has opened a door for us to inherit eternal life. No matter how satan tries to close that door, he can't. Jesus paid the price in full, He owns the key, the door and everything else. He paid for it dearly with His precious blood.

What satan tries to do is prevent us from entering the Door, or to call us back out so that he can plunder us.

There is also a door to our lives:

Let the King of Glory in.

Psalm 24:7 (NKJV) Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.

This was the call that went up from outside the gates of Jerusalem as the king returned, probably victorious from battle. However in this case, it's referring to the King of Kings who wants to enter.

That cry still goes out today. Jesus stands at the door to our heart:

Revelation 3:20 (NKJV) Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

In Revelation 3 we read of the faithful church, we also read of the lukewarm church. These people are neither hot, nor cold for the Lord. Jesus said he would vomit them out of His mouth. But being the merciful Saviour that he is, He says in verse 19: "As many as I love I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent".

We live in a crime-ridden country, when we go into the house at night, its not really safe to come out. It's not unknown for criminals to hide outside, make a disturbance, and when you venture out to investigate, they try to get the jump on you. They are following the tactics of the devil:

Genesis 4:6 (NLT) "Why are you so angry?" the Lord asked Cain. "Why do you look so dejected? 7 You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master."

- Church, we must guard that door to our lives carefully, don't give satan a chance.
- Don't venture out into the darkness of the carnal life. When you open the door just a crack, sin is waiting to pounce and master you.

When our spiritual walk is not where it should be, we are at risk of the enemy creeping in through the crack in our door. Jesus encourages us to repent. He is knocking at the door of our hearts, will we open it and let Him in, or will the devil gain a foothold?

A DOOR THAT IS SHUT

There is a time limit. We can't spend our lives with Jesus on the outside, we need to enter His door and invite Him to enter ours. If we delay too long it will

be too late. If we lose patience waiting for the Lord's return and turn back to our old carnal life, we are at risk of being locked out!

Remember the parable of the virgins. 5 were wise and kept extra oil for their lamps, 5 were unwise and didn't. When they ran out of oil it was too late, they went to look for more but while they were out the Master came:

Matthew 25:10-13 (NKJV) And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. 11 "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' 12 But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' 13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour [in which the Son of Man is coming.

- When the virgins (Christians) came back the door was shut and locked.
- The Lord answered, "I don't know you" and the door that had been shut remained shut.
- ***Speak about trying to time the markets.***

We can't estimate when Christ will return. Why do some people still play Christianity while others remain dedicated to Jesus? There will come a day when the tares and the wheat are separated, there will come a day when the sheep and the goats are separated. Some will enter the open door into God's presence and the wedding feast of the Lamb, while others will never be able to enter. We need to live in relationship with the Lord, full of His Holy Spirit, ready at all times, so that we are not shut out!

THE OPEN DOOR THAT NO ONE CAN SHUT

Our God is good, merciful and just. He will bless those who enter the Door, Jesus Christ and remain in Him.

Revelation 3:8 (NKJV) "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

We have an open door:

We know that this door that gives us access into God's eternal kingdom, but this open door means more, it refers to ministry and service.

The Apostle Paul spoke of open doors to minister:

- **1 Corinthians 16:9** (NKJV) For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

- **2 Corinthians 2:12** (NKJV) Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord.

Christian Heritage, during Monday's prayer meeting, the Lord gave me Revelation 3:8. The next day someone else shared it with me. God has given us an open door for ministry in 2019. We must, must, must take advantage, enter in and do what God has called us to do. We must be the church of Irresistible Influence and we will grow and we will thrive!

Are you willing to get on board with us? Are you willing to be part of the team God uses for His end-time harvest?

GOD OPENS A WAY WHEN WE FACE DANGER AND OPPOSITION

When Israel escaped from Egypt, Pharaoh pursued them. They arrived at the Red Sea, it was a barrier preventing them from going on and the enemy was pursuing from behind. They began to panic, but God told Moses to stretch out his rod and God OPENED the Red Sea up:

Exodus 14:21 AND 28-29 (NKJV) Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. 28 Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. 29 But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

When God is on your side, He will open up a way for you and supernaturally close up the path for the enemy!

- ***It's time to stop fearing the future, God will open up a way for you!***
- ***It's time to stop fearing the past, what lays behind you, God will close it up and destroy any danger it poses to your life going forward!***

THE LORD OPENS THE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN

When we do what is right in God's sight, God opens up His treasure house for us: **Malachi 3:10-12** Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. 11 "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the Lord of hosts; 12 "And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land," Says the Lord of hosts.

God wants to bless His children but we need to be doing things His way. Jesus taught that where our treasure is, there our heart will be. If we are willing to submit our finances to God, we most likely are submitted in the other areas of our lives too, and that is why this is the only place in the Bible that we read that it is okay to test God.

Doing what is right with our tithes and offerings will open God's door of blessing over our lives.

- ***Tithe means tenth – are we giving a tenth of our income to the Lord? The storehouse is the church where you get fed.***
- ***Are we bringing offerings over and above our tithe?***
- ***Are we being generous?***

What is the blessing?

- God will rebuke the devourer on our behalf.
- God will pour out such a blessing that we will not have enough room to receive it.
- This blessing goes way beyond our finances – it goes to our fruitfulness!

CONCLUSION

There are many other examples in the Bible about what God opens and shuts.

Today we are reminded to enter the Door, Jesus Christ, and abide in Him.

We are reminded that He stands at the door to our lives and wants to come in, will we answer the door and let Him enter?

We are reminded not to be lukewarm, sin waits for us to open our doors to it just a small crack and the enemy will pounce.

We are reminded not to become lukewarm, God wants a full commitment. Being lukewarm means we don't have enough oil. Let us be sure we won't be locked out when the Master comes.

We are reminded that God opens a way where there seems to be no way, and He closes in over the enemy, preventing him from harming us.

We are reminded that God has given us access to heaven and He has also opened to Christian Heritage a powerful door of ministry.

Finally, we are reminded that if we do what is right in God's sight, particularly in our finances and income, He will rebuke the devourer on our behalf and pour out a mighty blessing.

With God, it's a case of open and shut. May you be privileged to enter His open door today.