

God Speaks Through Doors

In life we open and close a lot of doors. Think about how many doors you want through just today so far....

I went through my bathroom door, then back out, out the bedroom door, the basement door, the office door, then back out, back up through the basement door, back into the bedroom, back out, out the door from the utility room to the garage, then out the garage door. In the church door, into my office, out of the office, into Kristi's office, back out, through the sanctuary doors, back out, into the bathroom, out of the bathroom, back into the sanctuary. I counted 21 doors for me this morning.

We open doors, and we close doors. Some are ok to leave open. Some need to be closed after going through. Some are opened and closed over and over.

We use doors to transition from one place to another. They are passageways. Sometimes you have to go through one door to get to another.

Each door is an opportunity to change your experience.

Spiritual doors work the same way. And God speaks through doors! Through both open doors and closed doors. Today we're going to see how He does this...

Revelation 3:7-8 (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": 8 "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."

Jesus, holy and true speaks these words to the faithful church. He is the one who opens and closes doors in our lives.

Jesus has the key of David. Where does that come from?

Isaiah 22:22 (NKJV)

The key of the house of David
I will lay on his shoulder;
So he shall open, and no one shall shut;
And he shall shut, and no one shall open.

This verse is about a key given to Eliakim who was the man in charge of David's palace. He was given this authority and wore this key around his shoulder as a symbol of this authority.

There wasn't a single door in the palace that Eliakim didn't have access to. He could unlock and open doors that no one could open. He could shut and lock doors that no one could shut.

Eliakim was a type of Christ, a real person used in the OT to give us a reference, a picture of Jesus...who is now the One who holds the key of David! And this is why Jesus does the impossible...He holds the key!

So what does it look like to have doors opened and closed? I'll tell you that the Holy Spirit doesn't usually say the word "door" when a door is opened or closed for you.

NOAH - crazy faith

Hebrews 11:7 (NKJV)

By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Noah had a door open for him...by a divine warning. In a dry season, build a huge boat and tell everyone a flood is coming!

Noah looked a bit crazy building the ark!

"Faith is the willingness to look foolish"

~ Mark Batterson

By Noah recognizing this open door and being obedient to enter in, another door was opened to those around him! A door to be saved from the flood. While most rejected this open door, his family heard it and believed and trusted God, and they entered in...

The door stayed open to everyone else...until the day the Lord shut Noah in. The door was closed to those who rejected the call.

Open and closed doors. An open door is one you are "called to", a closed door is one you are "released from". Noah was called to build the ark but also to warn others of the flood. Can you imagine that burden? With no one listening to you?

But then he was released from that burden when the door was closed.

If God has called you to an open door but hasn't released you with a closed one, you continue to do what He last called you to do.

Noah didn't make the decision to close that door to the ark...God did. If God hadn't closed it, Noah would have kept preaching!

But God closed the door. Was that it? Is that the end of the story? NO.

We have to remember that when God closes a door, He opens another. We often walk through one door thinking it's our final destination, only to find out it's just the way to another.

Noah and his family were given a fresh start. A new life. All because of the obedience to an open door to do something crazy for God!

RED SEA - a way from no way

Hebrews 11:29 (NKJV)

By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.

As Israel was fleeing the Egyptians it appeared that they had no way out...they were backed up against the sea with the armies rapidly approaching. And God opened a door when He told Moses to lift his rod over the sea and divide it.

This was their door to safety. An impossible passage was made. A way of escape was created from nothing. But they had to enter...

JORDAN RIVER - if you get in you won't be alone

Joshua 3:13 (NKJV)

And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall stand as a heap."

Israel finds themselves in the place where God told them to be. They are on the path He led them on. They are looking to enter into His promised land. And when they come to the Jordan River....moving water that could sweep you downstream...God opens the door for the carriers of His presence to go in first.

As they do, the Lord is with them, they are not in the current alone. In fact because He was with them, and because they were obedient, the scripture says that as soon as the feet of the priests deepened in the edge of the water, it stood still and raised up like a dam on each side as they again walked through on dry ground.

If God opens a door for you, He will be with you...you don't have to go in alone!

PAUL - don't settle for less than God's best

Acts 16:6-10 (NKJV)

Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. 7 After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. 8 So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

*****SHOW MAP*****

Phrygia → Mysia → Bithynia → Troas

Here we see Paul getting a couple of doors slammed in his face. Paul's mission from God was to share Christ to the Gentiles. He was a missionary who traveled all over the region. Yet we see the Holy Spirit prevent Paul from going to Asia.

Why does God close doors:

- To protect us

We have no idea what God is keeping us from being exposed to. Even a door that looks like a great opportunity to us may be something that would cause us harm in the long run.

The more you focus on the “why God”, the less you focus on the “what’s next”

- To redirect us

God shows you the way by getting in your way. He says “not this way”...road closed...leading you another route.

- To keep us from less than His best

Could Paul have gone to Asia and done great things for Jesus? Sure...assuming he didn't get killed there. But even if he would have avoided harm, God had something better in mind.

2 closed doors

- Phrygia - v6 they were forbidden - hindered....check in the Spirit
- Bithynia - v7 were not permitted - Holy Spirit did not allow them to do what they wanted...

As we follow the story along. God speaks to Paul through a vision. A man appears pleading for help in Macedonia. Macedonia was further, it was across the sea, it was a more challenging and dangerous journey, but it's where Jesus wanted Paul...

Look at the open doors that followed (not all are fun)

v15 Lydia and her family were baptized
v18 casted a demon out of a possessed woman
v22-24 were beaten publicly and chained (a closed door was an open door!)
v25 - opportunity to witness to prisoners
v26 Set free from chains by earthquake
v28 prevented guard from killing himself
v33 baptized guard and family
v34 ate a good meal

All great open doors conclude with good food! (Marriage supper of the Lamb!)

But see these open doors only manifested because of the closed doors.

“We cannot pray for open doors without accepting closed ones”
~ Anonymous

We can thank God for closed doors just as much as opened doors. We don't like closed doors at the time we feel like they've been slammed in our face, and we don't often understand them. But closed doors are expressions of God's grace before we need it.

A closed door can come in the form of a failure or a closed door can come from a check in the Spirit that prevents us from even going through the door in the first place. God can show the way by getting in the way.

God can also close a door for you, because it's for someone else...Paul wasn't able to preach to Asia. But Jesus wrote letters to seven churches in Asia through John in Revelation.

It's not a matter of whether God opens doors. It's a matter of what doors he opens and whether or not you are willing to walk through them.

When it comes to opening doors for me (and for you), it is important to remember that His ways are not our ways. The doors He opens are oftentimes doors to detours or pit stops on the way to the place He ultimately wants to bring you to.

When you leave the house each morning you don't automatically arrive at your destination without taking a few turns and stopping at a few stop lights or stop signs. The same is true in living out our life's purpose in and for God.

3 Ways to Be Sure an "Open Door" Is from God

1. The Door that God Opens Will Never Contradict His Word - (It also will not require personal compromise or disobedience in order for you to enter)
2. The Door that God Opens Will be Accompanied by Confirmation
3. The Door God Opens Will Require You to Depend on Him

Are you willing to have crazy faith?

See a way from no way?

Will you take the first step? He'll go with you.

Don't settle for less than God's best. Don't try to pry open closed doors...keep moving

Jesus is the open door to all

John 10:7-9 - Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

1 John 5:12 - He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.