

THE CHURCH OF THE OPEN DOOR! REV. 3:7-8; ISA. 22:22

Revelation 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, **he that hath the key of David** (ὁ ἔχων τὴν κλεῖν τοῦ Δαυίδ), **he that openeth** (ὁ ἀνοίγων), **and no man shutteth** (οὐδεὶς κλείσει); **and shutteth** (κλείων), **and no man openeth** (οὐδεὶς ἀνοίξει);

Revelation 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee **an open door** (θύραν ἀνεωγμένην), **and no man can shut** (οὐδεὶς δύναται κλείσαι αὐτήν) **it**: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

I first came to this concept **outside** of Scripture...as part of Christian language!

- God opened a door
- God closed a door (much less frequent)
- God closed a door but opened a window!!!

What does Scripture say / teach about open doors?

1. God opens doors!

Revelation 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, **he that openeth**, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; **Revelation 3:8** I know thy works: **behold, I have set before thee an open door**, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Isaiah 22:22 And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; **So he shall open**, and none shall shut; And he shall shut, and none shall open.

Obviously this one idea **implies & even requires** other ideas:

- The doors are closed
- The doors are **not** open
- The doors **don't** open themselves
- God has to open the doors!
- Doors are closed **until &/ unless** God opens them = unlocks

2. God more than opens doors!

Revelation 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, **he that openeth, and no man shutteth**; and shutteth, and no man openeth; **Revelation 3:8** I know thy works: behold, **I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it**: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Isaiah 22:22 And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; **So he shall open, and none shall shut**; And he shall shut, and none shall open.

Worry is the natural state of all humans – including Christians.

Some more

Some less

Some always

Some rarely

But all worry!

Psalms 103:19 The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; And his kingdom ruleth over all.

3. God also closes doors!

Revelation 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; **and shutteth, and no man openeth**;

Isaiah 22:22 And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; So he shall open, and none shall shut; **And he shall shut, and none shall open.**

Is this just me?

God opens a door → I'm not interested

God closes a door → that's the only door I'm interested in

4. God primarily opens doors for the gospel | **gospel ministry!**

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Door (θύρα) when used metaphorically / symbolically relates primarily to the gospel | gospel ministry

John 10:7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **I am the door of the sheep.**

John 10:9 **I am the door:** by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

Acts 14:27 And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, **and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.**

2 Corinthians 2:12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, **and a door was opened unto me of the Lord.**

Colossians 4:3 Withal praying also for us, **that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:**

All of the metaphorical | symbolic, Biblical references:

- Are about Christ
- Are about the gospel
- Are about the ministry of the gospel
- Are about God opening a door of faith

Acts 14:27 And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, **and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.**

Acts 16:14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: **whose heart the Lord opened**, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

- Are about God opening that kind of door
- Are about praying **that** God would open a door!
- NOT about | NOT primarily about God opening a door for me to...

5. God opens doors of opportunity **AND opposition!**

1 Corinthians 16:9 For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, **and there are many adversaries.**

Acts 16:9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, **Come over into Macedonia, and help us.** **Acts 16:10** And after he had seen the vision, **immediately we endeavoured to go** into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

Acts 16:14 **And a certain woman named Lydia**, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

Acts 16:25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: **and the prisoners heard them.**