



Empowering People to Change the World

## **The Church at Philadelphia: Law of the Open Door Part II**

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## The Church at Philadelphia-Church of the Open Door (part 2)

### “The Law of the Open Door part 2”

Only two cities have nothing but good said of them:

- One is Smyrna and the other is Philadelphia.
- There is so much for us to learn from the Church in Philadelphia.
- Last week we looked at the church at Philadelphia and observed that God has given us a Law of the Open Door through this great church.
- We have insight into what opens and closes doors from God’s perspective.
- This is part 2 in “The Law of the Open Door.”

### Revelation 3:7

**‘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”: “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.**

- When we are faithful, He is faithful; when the church stays true to Her calling, the Lord will open doors for the gospel that no person can shut.
- It is interesting how many times God not only opens doors but also shuts them...We like to see the open doors, but sometimes it is hard to see God closed doors.

**My Thesis tonight: We are saved by grace alone, but doors are opened or closed by our works alone**

**“I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it;**

- Salvation is by grace alone, not based on works, but open doors of opportunity are based on works—what we’re doing with what we’ve been given.
- God opens doors of invitation and opportunity based on our works! God sees our works. All through Revelation 2-3, Jesus keeps repeating “I know your works.”
- Open Doors: opportunity, favor, success, blessing from God.
- True faith shines through our works. James says “Be doers of the Word, not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”
  - **Rev 2:2 To the church at Ephesus: “I know your works,**
  - **Rev 2:9 to the church in Smyrna: “I know your works,**
  - **Rev. 2:13 to the church at Pergamos: “I know your works,**
  - **Rev 2:19 to the church at Thyatira: “I know your works,**
  - **Negative works that close doors→ Rev 3:1 to the church at Sardis: I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.**

Salvation is by grace alone, but open doors are by works alone!

Jesus sees our works—what we do with our lives; how we live; how we treat people

## **What are the Works that Open Doors?**

### **#1 Clinging to Jesus!**

- It all starts here! This is the beginning point—a point that much of Christianity never has understood.
- Becoming the person Jesus wants us to become begins with an intimate relationship with Him.
- We were created by God, put on this earth to bear good fruit! We are not here just to exist, take up space, and be comfortable with mediocrity.
- Jesus put us on the earth, placed us in Colorado Springs at this time in history to have:
  - Influence!
  - Impact!
  - Imagination that betters society and changes lives!
- No place in all of scripture do we see this than John 15.
- There is no clearer description of the Law of the Open Door than this—the works that produce fruit and open doors.
  - John 15 is all about clinging to Jesus, abiding in Christ.
  - John 15 is about intimacy with Jesus.

## John 15

**“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.**

- Agrarian culture-grape vineyards.
- Organic farming that all listening would have readily understood.
- Notice a few things: God the Father is the Owner and Farmer; Jesus is the Vine; and we are the branches
- Notice the purpose of the vineyard:
  - Not for looking good, having straight rows, or beautifying the landscape.
  - The Purpose is to BEAR FRUIT and BEAR MORE FRUIT!
  - **Look at verse John:15:16 – “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain”**

**God wants to open doors that no man can shut in your life. He wants you to bear fruit, see results, be transformed, experience healing!**

### **John 15:4**

**Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.**

**“I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned.**

- There it is! The Law of the Open Door and the Closed Door! Abide in Christ, cling to Christ.
- When you cling to Jesus you will bear fruit. Like the branch abiding, staying connected to the vine—thus able to receive the nutrients from the soil, and can bear fruit. So it is in our relationship with God
- If you don't abide in Me, I will close doors!

### **Verse 7**

**If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.**

- We cling to Jesus but then we also cling to His Word! You have to be in God's Word to bear fruit.
- Why is it crucial that we are in God's Word:
  1. This is a love letter. This is God's heart given to us. We experience God's heart and love from His Word.

2. This is where we discover God's character—who He is and what He is like. When we spend time in God's Word, we spend time knowing God, knowing his ways.
3. This is where we pray and worship—the Psalms, Song of Solomon, Revelation, the poetry, the imagery, it's all here. We learn to pray the Word, worship from the Word.
4. This is where we discover God's will for our lives. We see what God loves, what God blesses, and even what God hates.

### **Verse 9**

**As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full. 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.**

- We cling to Jesus; we cling to His Word; and we cling to love.
- When we are clinging to Jesus:
  - Jesus energizes us, Word instructs us, and love inspires us.

- Jesus said, ““You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’[a] 38 This is *the* first and great commandment. 39 And *the* second *is* like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’[b] 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22)
- Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. (1 John 2)
- By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. (1 John 3)
- This is what we did today! Springs Initiative! We went out and loved on our community. We put love into action. We loved in deed and truth today!

**So, first we Cling to Jesus, but then...**

**If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.**

## #2 Contending in Prayer!

- Clinging to Jesus always leads to contending in prayer. You will have no desire to contend, battle in prayer if you are not first clinging to Jesus.
- Dictionary: struggle to surmount (a difficulty or danger). Cope with, grapple with, take on.
- We have an enemy who is equally contending for our hearts—the Thief, the Dragon, the Liar, the “god of this age”

### John 10:10

**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.**

- “The 10-10 Battle” by which Satan rebelled and was cast to the earth and now controls the earth.
- The spiritual gravity of the earth is under the control of the Dark Angel.
- You have to struggle for the open doors of life. You will have to contend in prayer!
- In Daniel 10, Daniel received a vision for which he had to seek God for 21 days and in the midst of his prayers,

**10 Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and *on* the palms of my hands. 11 And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.” While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling.**

**12 Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.**

- In Mark 9 Jesus encounters a situation where he must call out to the Father for the healing of a young man...

**Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things *are* possible to him who believes.”**

**24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”**

**25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!”**

**26 Then *the spirit* cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, “He is dead.” 27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.**

**28 And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?”**

**29 So He said to them, “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.”**

**God opens doors based on works: Clinging to Jesus...  
Contending in Prayer...**

### #3 Consumed with Desire for God's Will in your Life!

- If you are not consumed with passion and desire for God's will you won't cling to Jesus, you won't contend in prayer!
- Zaccheus (Luke 19), **Then *Jesus* entered and passed through Jericho. 2 Now behold, *there was* a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. 3 And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. 5 And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him,[a] and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." 6 So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. 7 But when they saw *it*, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." 8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold."**
- Zaccheus looked like a fool, climbing up that tree.
- He was publican and hated by the Jews, so for him to venture into the child was suicide.
- Zaccheus was consumed with desire to see Jesus.

### **Revelation 3:7**

**'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": "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.**

- ✓ **A little strength.**
- ✓ **Kept My word.**
- ✓ **Not denied my name.**

**God longs to open doors in your life. With the little strength you have:**

- ✓ **Cling to Jesus!**
- ✓ **Contend in Prayer!**
- ✓ **Consumed with Desire!**