

Open Doors

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Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

1 Cor. 16:5-9 Now I will come unto you, when I shall pass through Macedonia: for I do pass through Macedonia. And it may be that I will abide, yea, and winter with you, that ye may bring me on my journey whithersoever I go. For I will not see you now by the way; but I trust to tarry a while with you, if the Lord permit. But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost. For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.

- I. For a great door and effectual is opened unto me.
 - A. A door is an opening, or an entrance; a way into another place; another room; another building.
 1. Our life here is a series of doors; opportunities to enter into different situations and circumstances.
 - B. It is an opportunity to enter into something new or different.
 - C. It is an opportunity to change your location or your surroundings.
 - D. God's open doors are opportunities for you to enter into a closer relationship with God.
 - E. God's open doors are opportunities for you to be used of God as the means for others to know Him and be blessed.
 - F. God's open doors are an opportunity to broaden the borders of your tent and reach out further.
 1. It is when God extends our influence for the Word of God and the Gospel.
 2. It is an addition to what God has done in our life to this point, not an abandoning of everything for something new.
 - G. An effectual is the means to do, or to accomplish something.
 - H. An effectual is what makes something work and bring about the desired results.
 - I. An open door is of no avail unless there is an effectual, also.
 - J. We must not make our own doors but wait upon God and then trust Him when He gives us an opportunity, even if it isn't what we had in mind.
- II. Paul was at Ephesus and had a great door and effectual opened unto him.
 - A. BUT there were many adversaries.
 - B. Although he had the opportunity and the means to accomplish it, there was much to hinder him in the effort.
 - C. There were adversaries – people who saw his door and effectual as a threat, or as an evil, that had to be stopped by whatever means necessary.
 1. There was the devil and all the forces of evil that were against him doing what he had the opportunity to do.
 - D. So an open door from God does not mean that there will be no opposition or obstacles.
- III. An open door is not the path of least resistance.
 - A. Probably most Christians operate thinking that an open door is the easiest way that presents itself.
 1. Most look for a door where the way is clear with the least possible problems and difficulties.
 2. They make all the decisions of their life using this method of discernment.

3. They assume that every opportunity is from God – but it isn't; the devil will give you plenty of opportunities and they will ALWAYS be the easier way.
 4. The path of least resistance will always take you lower and lower until you are on the bottom – just like water.
- B. Most discern God's Will for their lives by taking the path of least resistance and calling it a door.
1. However, we must realize that the Christian life is a spiritual battle while we are living in a sinful world.
 2. We are strangers and pilgrims here and there are many adversaries.
 3. Therefore, we need a way to discern God's Will other than seeking the easiest way all the time.
 4. We must be led by God's Spirit according to his written Word.
 5. Sometimes we will be led of the Spirit into the wilderness, which is certainly not the easiest way.

[Luke 4:1 And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,](#)

- C. Adversity is the very thing that equips us with the effectual, and we need that before we are presented with a door.
1. We may see the door, but it may be closed for now. (Joseph)
 2. God will not open the door until we have endured whatever preparation He deems necessary in order for us to be effectual.
 3. Adversity produces strength, patience, and a whole new understanding of others and how things work.
 4. In the midst of adversity it seems to be draining us of all our strength and wearing out our patience, but the afterwards the effects are quite different.

IV. When God gives us an open door there will surely be adversaries.

- A. If everyone agrees with us and is for us then it would be wise to question whether God is with us or not – because most people are not for God.
1. But most will not step out to attempt anything for God unless they have the support and backing of everyone.
 2. If success isn't quick and easy or if opposition or difficulties or delays present themselves they back up and assume that "God isn't in it."
 3. Most people judge the lives of others by the same standard – if it works for them easily and they encounter few problems or opposition then they consider the thing surely "blessed of God."
- B. If we face no opposition or difficulties that arise from apparently nowhere, then it is surely something that the devil is for, also, because if he is against it he will surely fight it.
1. And the devil's opposition will come from unlikely places and people.
 2. He can also just throw a monkey wrench in things to frustrate and complicate.
- C. Paul understood what an open door from God was and that anything that God ordained would face opposition and difficulty in a sinful world dominated by the devil and the forces of evil.
1. Most Christians would have left Ephesus as soon as possible because of the opposition and the difficulties assuming that God was not in it.
 2. For Paul the adversaries were proof that God was in it.
 3. Maybe we should begin to look at things that way, too.