

THE RIGHT DOORS LEAD TO GOD'S BEST

Acts 16:6-10, 1 Corinthians 16:8-9

- **God has great purposes and plans for our lives (Jeremiah 29:11), but His plans for us are impacted by our decisions (Deuteronomy 30:15-16).**
- **To make the right decisions we have to have the right beliefs and values, and we have to walk through the right "doors" (Acts 16:6-10).**
- **After several attempts to go in a particular direction, God's Spirit led Paul and Silas to go towards northern Greece (Acts 16:6-10), which led them to minister in cities like Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, Corinth and Ephesus as God used them to bring the gospel to Europe.**
- Paul - *I will be staying here at Ephesus until the Festival of Pentecost. There is a wide-open door for a great work here . . ."* (1 Corinthians 16:8-9)
- **Every "door" is a decision or an opportunity for us to pursue or run away from God's will for our lives.**
- **Doors of opportunity lead us into the financial choices, lifestyle choices, ministries and relationships that impact us in positive or negative ways.**
- **A "door" may be an opportunity from God, a distraction from others, or a trap from the Devil.**
- **Our destiny will be shaped by which doors we walk past and which doors we walk through.**
- ***What are some lessons that we need to learn about "walking through doors of opportunity" as we make decisions that determine our destinies?***

To Walk Through The "Right Doors" We Must:

AFFIRM THAT "RIGHT DOORS" COMPLY WITH <u>GOD'S</u> <u>WAY</u> FOR OUR LIVES

- Jesus - *"People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."* (Matthew 4:4)
- Paul - *"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong*

and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- **We have to be committed to living by the principles and practices found in God's Word to walk through the "right doors of opportunity" in our lives.**
- Jesus - *"You are truly My disciples if you remain faithful to My teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* (John 8:31-32)

To Walk Through The "Right Doors" We Must:
BELIEVE GOD WILL LEAD US THROUGH THE "RIGHT DOORS" IF WE <u>TRUST</u> HIM

- *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take."* (Proverbs 3:5-6)
- **Trust is essential for every strong and successful relationship, including our relationship with the Lord.**
- **"Trust" in the Hebrew means "to lie down on" or "to stretch out on" like we do on our bed at night, trusting its support.**
- **"Depend" in the Hebrew literally means "to support ourselves by leaning on something or someone."**
- **"Not depending on our own understanding" means we are not to make our reasoning the sole guiding principle of what we do.**
- *"Don't be impressed with your own wisdom."* (Proverbs 3:7)
- **Relying on our own understanding instead of God's wisdom and direction is disobedience and pride (1 Peter 5:5-11).**
- **We are able to trust the Lord when we remind ourselves of His presence, power and promises (Hebrews 13:5, Jeremiah 32:17-19, Psalm 145:13).**

To Walk Through The "Right Doors" We Must:
CONSIDER THAT SOMETIMES GOD SHUTS "DOORS" FOR OUR <u>PROTECTION</u>

- *"When they (Paul and Barnabas) came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to."* (Acts 16:7)
- **We all like "open doors," but sometimes "closed doors" are better for us, because they protect us from bad choices and consequences in our lives.**
- Jesus - *"This is the message from the One who is holy and true, the One who has the key of David. What He opens, no one can close; and what He closes, no one can open."* (Revelation 3:7)
- **Doors often come open when we allow God to mature us through discipleship, correction and wise counsel.**

To Walk Through The "Right Doors" We Must:
DISCERN THAT GOD WILL CRACK OPEN A "DOOR" TO SHOW US OUR <u>FUTURE</u>

- The Lord - *"This vision is for a future time. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed."* (Habakkuk 2:3)
- **The Lord has great plans and purposes for our lives, but often we are not ready for the fulfillment of those plans and purposes.**
- *"When Pharaoh finally let the people go, God did not lead them along the main road that runs through Philistine territory, even though that was the shortest route to the Promised Land. God said, 'If the people are faced with a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.' So God led them in a roundabout way through the wilderness toward the Red Sea."* (Exodus 13:17-18)
- **We have to be willing to wait for the right time, situation and people before we can fully walk through the "door of opportunity" God has for us.**
- **While waiting on God's timing we need to understand "God's delays are not His denials," and that His presence and promises will strengthen us.**

To Walk Through The "Right Doors" We Must:

EXPECT GOD TO OPEN "DOORS" FOR US IF WE OPEN "DOORS" FOR <u>OTHERS</u>

- *"The generous will prosper; <u>those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed</u>."* (Proverbs 11:25)
- **Barnabas had been used by God to bless others in many ways (Acts 4:36-37, 9:26-30), and then God opened the door for him to impact the lives of many people in Asia Minor (Acts 11:19-26).**

- ***What does it take for us to walk through the "right doors of opportunity?"***
- **We must develop the discernment to know which doors to walk through.**
    - Paul - *"I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding.,"* (Philippians 1:9
    - **When doors are not open, we should passionately seek the Lord's direction through prayer.**
    - Jesus - "*<u>Ask</u> and it will be given to you; <u>seek</u> and you will find; <u>knock</u> and the door will be opened to you*." (Matthew 7:7 NIV)
- **We must develop the courage to walk through the right doors.**
    - *"Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."* (Joshua 1:9)
- **We must determine to be involved in opening doors for other people.**
    - *"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."* (2 Corinthians 9:6 NIV)
- ***What is the Lord saying to me through this message, and how am I going to respond to it?***