

God Opens and Closes Doors

Acts 16:6-15

PART ONE

Introduction

Isaiah 22:22

To the Church in Philadelphia (sovereignty)

Revelation 3:7

To the Church at Laodicea (liberty)

Revelation 3:20

Nine Principle Points regarding the God who opens and closes doors.

v6 v7

Principle Point #1: God directs moving vessels. Man's liberty in *devising*; God's supremacy in *directing*.

"the Holy Spirit" v6; *"the Spirit of Jesus"* v7 synonyms.

"The mind of man plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps." Proverbs 16:9; NASU

"Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it?" Lamentations 3:37

James 4:13-17

Proverbs 19:21

Psalms 37:23-24

"I know, O Lord, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps."

Jeremiah 10:23

#2: The God who opens and closes doors is imperceptible to the person being directed by Him.

Job 23:8-9

"Behold, he passes by me, and I see him not; he moves on, but I do not perceive him." Job 9:11

#3: The way the Christian devises to go is known by God. The way he proceeds is ordained by God.

Job 23:10

"If he tears down, none can rebuild; if he shuts a man in, none can open." Job 12:14

Isaiah 46:9-10

#4: The Christian devises his way under careful consideration of God's Word.

Job 23:11-12

"Our heart has not turned back, nor have our steps departed from your way." Psalm 44:18

Zephaniah 1:6

Philippians 1:12-14

Acts 11:19, 21

v8

"they went down to Troas"

That was the end of the line. After that was the Aegean Sea! But that's right where God wanted them.

v9

"a man of Macedonia"

"Macedonia"

"help us" boetheo; "To run on hearing a cry. To give assistance, aid" (Zodhiates).

This is an impassioned plea for spiritual help for those in Macedonia.

v10

"we"

#5: God often refrains from showing us where He wants us to go until we've reached the end of the line.

Moving forward with the gospel when doors all around you are closing requires deep faith.

Like walking through a maze. You don't stop. You keep on going until you find your way through.

Fulfilling God's desire for evangelism and discipleship requires dogged perseverance.

#6: Inexhaustible love for Christ and compassion for the lost produces boundless energy.

"immediately we sought to go into Macedonia"

#7: Delayed obedience is missed opportunity.

v11 v12

The Gospel reaches Europe for the first time in recorded history!

"Philippi"

v13

"the riverside" the Gangites river in Philippi.

#8: The Principle of Small Beginnings and Slow Growth

No doubt welcomed by the Jewish ladies gathered at the riverside to pray, Paul preaches the gospel.

Matthew 13:31-32

#9: Things that grow fast tend to have short lives. Things that take time to grow have longer lives.

“For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice.” Zechariah 4:10

Isaiah 53:1-3

Isaiah 53:11

It is the gospel received and believed.

Romans 1:16

Paul and his companions believed what they proclaimed with all their heart, soul, mind and strength.