

# God Opens and Closes Doors

Acts 16:6-15

PART TWO

**Introduction**

**v11 v12 v13**

**Lydia** – the first European convert to Christianity.

**v14**

*“Lydia”*

*“from the city of Thyatira”*

*“a seller of purple goods”*

**Only God can open the door of the heart. v14**

*“pay attention”* ‘be concerned about, follow, be devoted to.’

**The problem of fallen man is that he suffers from deadness of heart that causes spiritual *blindness*.**

Acts 26:16-18

**The spiritually blind cannot see.**

John 9:35-41

**Spiritual sight can only be restored *from above*.**

John 3:3

*“Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.”* Psalm 119:18

**Regeneration – *to bring something dead to life* – is an act of God alone.**

Titus 3:5-6

**Regeneration must come first before we can respond to the call of God with saving faith in Jesus Christ.**

John 1:12b-13

**Regeneration occurs when God opens the heart to receive His Word – the proclamation of the gospel.**

Ezekiel 12:1-3

Job 33:16

1 Peter 1:23, 25b

James 1:18

“he brought us forth/he begat; KJV” He gave us spiritual birth by making us able to hear the Word of truth. Though regeneration is an instantaneous event, we won’t always know when it takes place.

**Evidences of a truly regenerate heart:**

1. **“Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ”** 1 John 5:1a
2. **“everyone who practices righteousness”** 1 John 2:29
3. **Those who no longer continue in patterns of sin.** 1 John 3:9
4. **Those who love God and others.**  
1 John 4:7  
1 John 5:1b
5. **Those who have “overcome the world” by “faith.”**  
1 John 5:4