

OPEN DOORS

Christians talk about “doors” opening up to them and it is true that doors of opportunity do open at times. However, there seems to be some misunderstanding about who actually can open and close a door for us and if we are to jump every time we think we see something we want to do.

Revelation 3:8

“I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.”

If He has put an open door there, no one can shut it. Many times, opportunities pass us by and we blame our husband, boss, pastor, or any number of others for closing a door or holding us back so we can't go through it. He can change anyone's mind or heart, including a king's (Proverbs 21:1).

Other doors can be opened that aren't God. The devil tried to open an easy door for Jesus to take control of the world (Matthew 4:8-10), but Jesus recognized the ploy. Our own desires and ambitions can cause us to try to make things happen or jump at opportunities that aren't God - we have to discern and be as wise as serpents (Matthew 10:16).

The only one who can shut a door on us that God opens or wants to open is ourselves. Sometimes our fear or unbelief can keep us from stepping out and walking through the open door. This equates to disobedience and is not pleasing to the Lord, as in the case of the slave holding on to the one talent.

Matthew 25:25-26

“And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground; see, you have what is yours.

But his master answered and said to him, ‘You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I scattered no {seed.}’”

At other times, we may not have a prophecy come to pass or a door open due to outright disobedience or rebellion, causing God to change His mind.

Jeremiah 18:9-10

“Or at another moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to build up or to plant {it;}

if it does evil in My sight by not obeying My voice, then I will think better of the good with which I had promised to bless it.”

In any event, we are under obligation to walk upright before Him to prove to Him that He can trust us; much like Abraham had to do in Genesis 22. Once he passed the test about his son, the Lord felt released to bring to pass what had already been promised (implying it was conditional to start with).