



6. Doors

God is relational and intimacy is the goal of every relationship. In the second part of this two-part study we will explore what intimacy means to a Christian.

NOTES & QUOTES FROM PODCAST

1. The history and purpose of doors

No one knows who invented doors, but doors have a very long history. The earliest recorded one being over 4000 years ago. The main purpose for doors was to protect. To keep out the unwelcome – be they adversaries, thieves or defilers and provide peace, security and enjoyment of one's property.

2. The Door metaphors in the Bible

Doors have been used a lot metaphorically in the Bible to express opportunities, expectations, challenges, protection and security. It has also been used as a means to glimpse into the eternal future.

Doors are found right from Genesis, the first book of the Bible to Revelations, the very last book.

3. The closed Door 'protects'

The earliest reference of a door comes in Genesis 4:7. Cain is angry that God preferred his brother Abel's offering to his offering. God tells him, "Sin is crouching at your door." In other words, God is cautioning Cain to metaphorically close the door of his heart and not allow the sins of jealousy, anger and resentment slip in. Unfortunately, like many others after him, Cain does not take God's advice and ends up killing his brother. So, a closed door could have protected and saved Cain from falling prey to sin.

Another closed door in Genesis 19 protects Lot and his guests from getting assaulted, before the angels of the Lord struck the wicked people of Sodom.

4. The open Door 'invites in and to step out'

While open doors are a way to welcome people in, the Bible mostly uses it to invite people to step out and seize opportunities. This is especially true, when God is the one who opens the door.

Barnabas and Paul are commissioned by the church in Antioch to preach about Jesus in modern day Cyprus and Turkey. After an interesting trip filled with highs and lows, they return to Antioch. "On arrival, they got the church together and reported on their trip, telling in detail all that God had done through them and how God had opened a door of faith to the people of all nations to come in." (Acts 14:27)

We see God working through Paul and Barnabas and opening a door of faith. In fact, Paul and Barnabas, in a sense become doors, through which people from all nations, hear about Jesus.

5. God and doors

What happens when God opens or closes a door is stated very succinctly by the apostle John in Revelations 3:7b when he assures the church in Philadelphia that when “God opens doors no one can shut them, and when He shuts doors no one can open.”

6. Stepping into the open Door in heaven

My favourite door in the book of Revelations can be found in Rev 4:1-2 where John describes a vision he saw. “After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”

An open door in heaven – wow that is very special. We usually hear about the Pearly Gates in heaven that only open to people who qualify. But, an open door in heaven, that once we enter will bring us into a place where we will always enjoy God’s Presence, is amazing.

What does this vision mean? To me it signifies the open invitation of Jesus to everyone. The color of your skin, the content of your character, your gender, ethnicity – nothing matters.

All that matters for you to enter the door standing open in heaven, is your response to Jesus’ invitation.

It is an unusual invitation, because Jesus is actually inviting himself into your heart, home and life.

Jesus stands outside our heart’s door, and calls out, “Listen! I stand at the door and knock; if any hear my voice and open the door, I will come into their house and eat with them, and they will eat with me.”

Now this is the most important door you will ever open in your life. An RSVP to this invitation that has eternal consequences.

REFLECTIVE ACTIVITY

- Write down a short 250 to 300-word reflection on your thoughts about this video and the doors you have encountered in your life. today. Write about times when God has opened and closed doors in your life.

THE GLORIOUS EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF DOORS

- 3000 BC: Wooden doors used in Europe.
- 2000 BC: Stone doors used throughout Asia.
- 587 BC: Solomon uses Olive wood overlaid with gold for his temple in Jerusalem.
- 1st Century AD: Roman folding and sliding doors preserved in Pompeii.
- 1st Century AD: A Greek scholar invents the first automatic door.
- 5th Century AD: The First foot-sensor-activated automatic door was made in China.
- 6th – 9th Century AD: Copper and Bronze used on doors in Medieval Europe.
- 12th – 15th Century AD: Ornate panel and carved wood doors grace the best structures.
- 1881 AD: The revolving door invented in Germany.
- **???? AD:** The year I opened the door of my heart to Jesus and let Him in!!

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