

August 30, 2015

Our Lives Under Construction

*A series on building healthy relationships in our marriages,
our homes, our workplaces, our friends, and our world!*

“Opening New Doors – Open to New Relationships”

Part 5 – Doors

*“For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him
who knocks, the door will be opened.” Matthew 7:8*

A. Opening new doors – What’s behind the door?

“Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer the door.” Acts 12:13

1. Before you open, clean your heart.

“Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” 2 Timothy 2:22

2. Before you open, clean your mind.

“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”

Colossians 3:2

3. Before you open, clean your choices.

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20

4. Before you open, clean your lifestyle.

“So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.” Ephesians 4:17

B. Opening new doors – When should I open the door?

“When she recognized Peter’s voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, “Peter is at the door!”

Acts 12:14

1. Timing is one of the most significant steps God calls us to take.

“And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.” Colossians 4:3

2. Sensitivity is required to see and hear God’s voice.

“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

Galatians 5:25

3. Discerning God’s leading is pivotal.

“so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ,” Philippians 1:10

4. Walking in obedience is absolute!

“And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.” 2 John 1:6

C. Opening new doors – Who’s behind the door?

“But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished.” Acts 12:16

1. New relationships

“On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. And they stayed there a long time with the disciples.” Acts 14:27

2. New opportunities

“because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.” 1 Corinthians 16:9

3. New ministries

“Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me,” 2 Corinthians 2:12

4. New trials

“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.” 1 Peter 1:6

D. Opening new doors – How should I open the door?

“They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it.” Acts 12:10a

1. Very slowly and very carefully! Take your time!

“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.” Romans 5:6

2. Look for one who observes boundaries.

“The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.” Psalm 16:6

3. Look for those who share your values.

“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?” 2 Corinthians 6:14

4. Look for a compliment not a completion to yourself.

“Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” James 1:4

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.” Revelation 3:20