



The Open Doors

Acts 12:5-16

A. Prayer is the Door to Power.

1. Prayer is the doorway to change for the church.

“So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.” Acts 12:5 (NIV)

2. Prayer is the doorway to unleashing Heaven onto earth.

“The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. ‘Quick, get up!’ he said, and the chains fell off Peter’s wrists. Then the angel said to him, ‘Put on your clothes and sandals.’ And Peter did so. ‘Wrap your cloak around you and follow me,’ the angel told him.” Acts 12:6-8 (NIV)

3. Prayer is the doorway to continuing God’s plan.

“Then Peter came to himself and said, ‘Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod’s clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen.’ When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer 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!’ ‘You’re out of your mind,’ they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, ‘It must be his angel.’ But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished.” Acts 12:11-16 (NIV)

B. Kinds of Doors We Must Go Through

1. The door of salvation.

“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 that person, and they with Me.” Revelation 3:20 (NIV)

2. The door of new fellowship.

“On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.” Acts 14:27 (NIV)

3. The door of new opportunities.

“But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.” 1 Corinthians 16:8-9 (NIV)

4. The door of new trials.

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.” 1 Peter 1:3-7 (NIV)

C. How Do I Know That an Open or Closed Door Is From God?

1. The open or closed door will not be contradictory to God’s Word.

“When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.” James 1:13-14 (NIV)

2. The open or closed door will be followed by confirmation.

“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’” Matthew 18:15-16 (NIV)

3. The open or closed door will require trust in God.

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

Bottom Line:

We do not choose doors at random, but prayerfully walk through the ones God wants us to enter.

To begin a relationship with Jesus...

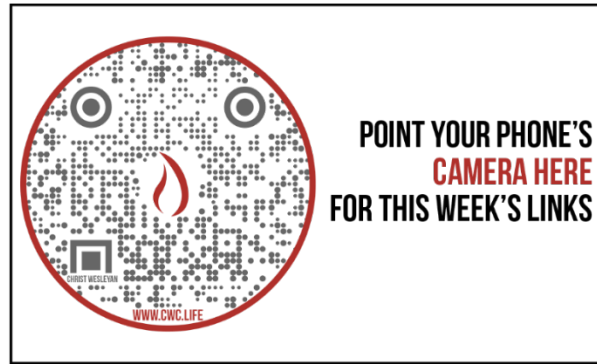
Text: “Jesus” to 570-273-0088

Next Sunday: “by Design”

Week 6: The Windows

Milton Campus: Pastor Branden Mestach

Sunbury Campus: Pastor Caleb Swartz



Notetakers are History Makers

Giving & Attendance Update

Giving last Sunday: 95% of goal

Giving year to date: 89.7% of goal

Attendance Last Weekend: 1,834

Salvations to date: 11 | Baptisms to date: 34

Upcoming Happenings:

August 11 – Get Out Sunday!

We will meet outdoors in our local communities!

We will worship and hear the Word together.

We will go out and pray for our schools, teachers, and students and administrations.