

An Open Door of Decision

OPEN17: AWAKEN TO THE MISSION

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“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me” (Revelation 3:20).

Christ is a gentleman. He is not an intruder bursting suddenly into our private space demanding service. Even though He has every right to invade our space and require our allegiance He always allows us to make those decisions. Jesus holds all power in the universe. He is the creator of heaven and earth, yet He grants us free will and the right to choose our response to His invitation to relationship.

In John’s vision He saw Christ as the one standing at the door and knocking. He is not pushing His way in, but patiently waiting for *anyone* to hear his voice and open the door. At our invitation He will come in and commune with us. He desires relationship with His creation, but will always wait for a willing heart and a ready response to His gentle knock.

The door swings both ways. Jesus opens doors and grants opportunity, but we must respond by opening the door to relationship and growth. He makes it possible and we concede to His invitation. Without Him we can do nothing. Without us He has chosen to limit Himself. The prophet mournfully cried, *“Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”* Then he quickly answered the commissioning call, *“Here am I! Send me”* (Isaiah 6:8).

In Christ there is both invitation and commission. He extends an invitation, *“Come, follow Me,”* then awaits our response. When we respond positively to His invitation, He then delivers a call and commission. We will never feel the divine imperative of the commission until we submit to His invitation and surrender to His call to service. We choose our responses to both follow Him *and* to obey His call to discipleship.

The commission is clear, *“Go and make disciples”* (Matthew 28:19). Arise to the challenge of the open door. It is an *open door* of decision. We are never pushed through the door, kicking and screaming in opposition. Rather, Jesus is again at the door beckoning us to enter into a new realm of possibilities, inviting us to pass from the place of limited vision and infantile faith into the reality of God’s plan for us. So much more exists through the open door. Jesus is the one, *“who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think,”* (Ephesians 3:20).

Never fear the open door and the unknown corners in the future passage. The one who goes before us and beckons us to follow knows the path and directs our steps. Awaken, arise, and accept the mission. Remember His promises: *“I will make you fishers of men”* (Matthew 4:19), *“I will build My church”* (Matthew 16:18), and *“all things are possible to him who believes”* (Mark 9:23).

Awaken to the mission. He would have never called us to do the impossible. Those whom He calls He will also enable. Say *yes* to the open door!

Scripture:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, ...” (Matthew 28:19).

1/15/17 Missions Sunday (New)