

An Open Door

When the Apostle Paul was in Ephesus, he wrote to his friends in the church at Corinth. He wanted to come and spend some time with them, maybe even spend the winter...

1 Corinthians 16:5-9 NLT “I am coming to visit you after I have been to Macedonia, for I am planning to travel through Macedonia. Perhaps I will stay awhile with you, possibly all winter, and then you can send me on my way to my next destination. This time I don’t want to make just a short visit and then go right on. I want to come and stay awhile, if the Lord will let me. In the meantime, I will be staying here at Ephesus until the Festival of Pentecost. **There is a wide-open door for a great work here, although many oppose me.**”

Paul found open doors by going forward in faith...

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

Paul also found closed doors, as God led in his life. But whenever God closed one door, He opened another.

Acts 16:6-10 NIV “Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.”

In Ephesus Paul discovered a door of opportunity, a door of obligation, and a door of opposition...

1. A DOOR OF OPPORTUNITY

1 Corinthians 16:9 NLT “There is a wide-open door for a great work here.”

1 Corinthians 9:22 NIV “I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.”

John 4:35 NIV “Do you not say, ‘Four months more and then the harvest?’ I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.”

2. A DOOR OF OBLIGATION

1 Cor 16:9 NIV “A great door for effective work has opened to me.”

1 Cor 9:16 NIV “I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!”

3. A DOOR OF OPPOSITION

1 Corinthians 16:5-9 NLT “There is a wide-open door for a great work here, although many oppose me.”

Acts 19:23-24 NIV “About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way. A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in a lot of business for the craftsmen there...”

Acts 20:29-31 NLT “False teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock. Even some men from your own group will rise up and distort the truth in order to draw a following. Watch out! Remember the three years I was with you—my constant watch and care over you night and day, and my many tears for you.”

When God opens doors for us today, it doesn’t mean that things will always go smoothly. Wherever God is working, there will be opposition. Which door of opportunity is God opening for you today?

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