

The SEVEN Series

NO ONE CAN SHUT WHAT HE OPENS

No one can shut what He opens and no one can open what He shuts. Many at time, this is not for others; we want to open the doors that God wants to lock and close the doors that God wants to open. It applies to anyone and today, the Lord wants to tell you that NO ONE can close the doors that He has opened.

Be excited today because nobody can close the doors in our lives how much ever they may try. They will utterly fail.

Story:

Some time back, I read this story of a man and an ostrich. This ostrich followed him wherever he went. One day, he stepped into a restaurant with the ostrich and the waitress asked him what he would like. He ordered a sandwich. The waitress turned to the ostrich and the ostrich ordered the same. The man asked her how much and she replied "\$10, Sir." He pulls out \$10 and gives it to the waitress. After a few more days, he comes back to the same restaurant alongwith the ostrich. Again, the waitress asked him what he would like and he asked for a burger this time. She turned to the ostrich and it ordered the same for itself. "How much for this?" the man asked and she said "\$15". He pulls out \$15 from his pocket and hands it over. Again, after 3 days the man returns with the ostrich and ordered a nice juicy steak. The ostrich ordered the same. As usual the man pulls out the money from his pocket and hands it over. The waitress was baffled at this and the most intriguing fact was whenever he was asked the money he would give the exact change. So she asked him "how is it that you give the exact change?" He said "One day, God asked me 2 wishes. The first wish that I asked was, 'whenever I put my hand in my pocket, I should get the exact money that I need'". The waitress exclaimed "How smart of you! Many would've asked more. But what about this ostrich?" The man said, "The second wish I asked God was I should have a partner who will go with me wherever I go and obey whatever I say. He gave me this ostrich instead of a beautiful girl!"

What we learn from this, children of God, is that we think that we plan so meticulously and with lots of wisdom. Ultimately, the God above us has His plans and only that will materialize. Hence, the doors that He opens for us are for our benefit.

Let's visit the church of Philadelphia. The word Philadelphia means "brotherly love". The facts about the church of Philadelphia are as follows:

1. The city of Philadelphia was built around three ancient nations: Perugia, Lydia and Greece.
2. It is a showplace for Greek culture.
3. It was one of the richest and powerful cities in the entire ancient world.
4. In the year AD 17 a massive earthquake hit the city and it was severely damaged. They started rebuilding the city and were in constant fear.

Amidst the above, there was a church in Philadelphia that was faithful to God. What is God speaking to this church?

How is God introducing Himself?

Revelation 3:7: *"To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open."*

David's key means authority and access. He possesses the key, the way and the authority to everything. Today, in our lives, He has got the key to everything concerning us, our salvation, our healing, our miracles and so on. Whatever we need, He has the key to it. Never think that man can lock the doors.

Now, God has introduced Himself and now goes on to appreciate them. Look at verse 8.

Revelation 3:8: *"I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name."*

The Lord says that He knows their deeds. They had many problems as a small church. The Romans were constantly against this church. Amidst these, they kept His word and did not neglect His name. Hence, He says that He has placed before them an open door that nobody can shut.

Not only that, though the church was small, but they were also true in all things. Today, we want to do big things for the Lord, but He wants us to be true in the small things.

Look at **verse 9**.

Revelation 3:9: *"I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you."*

It is important to be patient. We know of praying with tears. But above that, it is important to be patient. Many a time, we pray with tears but God has not fulfilled.

Let me give you an example. We have been children and have children. As small children, we ask many things. A small boy sees a bike and longs for it. He sheds tears to his parents and throws tantrums to get it. How much ever he does that, he still has to wait till he turns 18 years.

Similarly, we too shed tears to God to get something, but He will only give it at the appropriate time.

God is always with us. Look at **verse 10**.

Revelation 3:10: *"Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth."*

This is a prophetic verse for some of you. Some of you have been so patient in many troubles, don't give up. I will help you in the days of trouble and the sufferings that are yet to come. You will escape in the days of trouble says the Lord. The Lord will be our comfort. Do you believe this?

Next, let us look at **verses 11 and 12**.

Revelation 3:11–12: “I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.”

Many a time, just because we face problems and struggles with the blessings that come to us, God says, “Don’t give up.” But we easily give up.

In Philadelphia it was a practice to engrave the names of influential people on pillars. Like that God tell us that if we are patient in all our trials, He will place us as a pillar in His temple and He will write His name on us. This is a great comfort.

This is what God says to the church of Philadelphia, “You have endured so long and so I am going to open doors for you. Nobody can close these doors.” Just hold on to His word.

Hence, beloved children of God, like the church of Philadelphia, hold on to His word and name in all trials.

He will bring before you those who humiliated you. That is His work, not yours. Hold on patiently, He will make you a pillar and place His name upon you.

What do we learn from the church of Philadelphia?

- We have a God who opens doors no one can shut, and shuts doors that no one can open.
- Amidst all situations, trials and tribulations the church of Philadelphia stood for the Lord patiently and the Lord never gave up on them. Don’t give up your blessings and your crown. Be patient and everything will take place accordingly.
- Don’t be worried about the people who are trying to close your open doors. He will take care.

Story:

I read about a man who went to see an influential politician. The politician asked him to come with him wherever he went. So, he took him to many places that had restricted entry. Just because the man went with this politician who was in power, the doors opened automatically. Then the man understood, the doors did not open for him, but they opened because of the one who was with him.

I tell you beloved, wherever you go, go with the presence of the Lord and when He comes the shut doors will be opened automatically for you. Moses also did this. He said “if you don’t come with me, I will not go.”

Hence, I want to assure you, the doors that the Lord opens for you, nobody can close them. Amen.