

The Open Door!

Scripture used: [Revelation 3:7-8 \(NIV\)](#)

OVERVIEW

In our third week of the sermon series *Different*, we were blessed with a sermon “The Open Door!” by Menlo Church’s Senior Pastor John Ortberg. He used the combination of Revelation 3:7-8 and Dr. Seuss’s famous book “Oh, the Places You’ll Go!” to show us how we are each meant to pursue the opportunities handed to us by God, no matter what. These opportunities are like open doors, and we choose to either enter them or avoid them. These are hard decisions that we must make, which is part of maturing as a follower of Christ. Pastor Ortberg gave the examples of Abraham, Moses, David, and Jonah as people who went through open doors, even if it took them a few tries! Each of us faces similar situations, struggling to decide whether to go through open doors that will require a lot of hard work and sacrifice. The good news is that God promises to be with us no matter what we do in any particular situation. He will keep opening doors for us!

KEY POINTS

- 1) **God is a God of open doors.** God loves to create opportunities for human beings. He made us with free will so we could choose the right opportunities, and then pursue them with passion and joy.
- 2) **Open doors are never just about me.** God blesses us so that we can bless others. When we choose to go through His open doors, we will be used by God to have a much bigger impact than we ever imagined.
- 3) **Open doors begin where we are, not where we want to be.** [Linda Wilson-Allen](#) is a bus driver in San Francisco. Over the years she has become such a blessing to others that the SF Chronicle wrote a front page article about her. She woke up every morning at 2:30 to pray, and carried the love she felt from God all day to her passengers. What is our excuse for not choosing the open door in front of us?
- 4) **Open doors are about opportunities, not guarantees.** We can often feel paralyzed with options about relationships, work, school, and other critical issues. It can be tempting to ask God to tell us what to do. And something He does! But God may want us to develop the ability to exercise judgment, which will help us develop as a person and Jesus follower. We have to embrace what’s risky to grow.
- 5) **Going through an open door does not mean life will be easy afterwards.** Most people who walk through God’s open doors are then faced with extreme challenges. From Abraham to Moses to Paul, people struggled through trial after trial. They did it with joy, though, because God was with them.
- 6) **Practice going through small open doors so we’re ready for the big ones.** Life is mostly a sequence of tiny open doors. We face many of them each day. We need to practice following God’s will. We can always refer to Jesus to see what He say about any specific situation. Building this muscle now means we’ll be ready when the time comes to go after a massive opportunity that will change our lives.
- 7) **We’re not stuck with a bad life when we choose the wrong open door.** God specializes in redeeming bad decisions. We can’t do anything that separates us from Him. Every day is full of possibilities to make the right choice. As Pastor Ortberg said: “If I’m not dead, I’m not done!”

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Every situation contains an open door from God, whether large or small. No matter the situation, there is right path to choose. Think about an issue you’re dealing with right now. What did Jesus say that addresses the situation?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - God does not promise us an easy life. He only promises that - no matter what - He will be with us. And we know that God will magnify the works of our broken flesh. All we need to do is focus on God, and direct others to Him. How can you change your behavior to bless others more, and worry less about yourself?
- 3) **DO** - Abraham and Moses were both old men when God told them that they would be used to transform the world. On faith, they followed Him and became a part of God’s plan! Open up a conversation with God, specifically to ask Him to show you how you fit into that same plan. “God, please show me my open door!”