

## February 14/15, 2009 **“The Door is Open!”**

Revelation 3:7-13 (Philadelphia) - Pastor Mark Burch

**I Corinthians 16:9** *“...a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me!”*

**Ephesians 5:16** *“...making the most of every opportunity...the days are evil...”*

The church at Philadelphia receives no rebuke – just encouragement to keep on keeping on! Jesus acknowledges that they have “little strength” and that from a worldly perspective they might not think they have much to offer, but He places in front of them open doors that He expects them to walk through!

How relevant to us today! Many believers think that they have little to offer the “kingdom” of God. But as the old saying goes: “Little is much, when God is in it.” So many doors of opportunity for salvation, for service, for endurance stand open in front of us. The only question is: Will we step in?

### **The Holy One – The True One – The Keeper of the Keys**

### **Open Doors**

### **Firecrackers or Dynamite?**

**Hang on! Hang on! Hang on! – Conquer! Endure! Nike! Overcome!**

*I Corinthians 15:58 Be ye steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for you know that your labor in the Lord is NOT in vain!*

## **Home Group Discussion Questions**

As you gather this week, I'd like to have your groups send some responses back to our staff and elders team in regards to the “open doors” you see standing in front of the CHURCH today? What are the critical areas of ministry that we MUST step into? What key ministries must we never neglect? What are the key pieces of the puzzle that God is asking WPC to fulfill?

### **History (Making it Personal)**

1. Talk about an experience where God clearly opened/orchestrated an “open door” of ministry for you. What was that experience like for you? The Philadelphians saw themselves as “having little strength.” Why is it that Christians and churches so often view themselves as powerless or weak? How does our perspective need to change?

### **Digging Deeper (Looking to the Bible)**

2. Read Revelation 3:7-13
3. Talk about the concept of the “keys to the city.” What doors do you see Jesus opening for WPC? What “favor” do we have in our community and how can we capitalize on these opportunities? What is WPC known for in the city? If you had to choose only 2 or 3 things that we would do – what would they be?
  - a. Take some time to make a long list of all the options – then give each person 3 votes. What is the consensus of your group as to the priorities we should be looking at as a church? Tabulate your results! Send your results back to Pastor Brian so we can tabulate a church-wide response!
4. Talk about the three potential doors that could be implied by the text...the door of salvation (only Jesus) the door of opportunity (His call) and the door of endurance (I'll keep you through the hard stuff). Which of these doors do we need to focus more attention on?
5. The promise for this church is the same as others: If you overcome I will reward you! In this case – a pillar in the house of God – a new name! The motivation of Christ's return is to spur us on to fruitful ministry...What in your opinion are the most fruitful ministries that God is giving us? Are there areas of “harvest” or of “opportunity” that are in front of us that we are missing?

### **Taking It Home (Application)**

6. This text applies to the “church” – it also applies to the individual. Consider the open doors for ministry that are in front of you TODAY! Ask God to open your eyes to the people and places He would have you make an impact for Him. Share with each other what that may be!
7. Pray for each other, that given the “little strength” we have – that we would nevertheless step into full engagement in the mission of God for our lives. Speak words of encouragement to each other about the part we each play. What do you see in the person next to you? What gifts do they have to contribute? What impact is their life making? How can you encourage and fan that flame?