

A Great Door is Opened

“For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries” (1 Corinthians 16:9).

How many times have we heard stories about people who have gotten involved in, what appeared to them as, golden opportunities only to find themselves bombarded with conflict, struggles and chaos? Storms of hurricane proportion suddenly arise out of nowhere and we find ourselves needing to answer a plethora of questions. Questions like, "How did I get into this mess?" and "God, I thought I was doing what you told me to do?"

I heard a very wise preacher once say, "Never doubt in the dark what God has promised in the light." The fact that opposition has risen like a tsunami coming directly at you is not proof that you're out of the will of God. As a matter of fact, it's more likely to be proof that you're right on track with His will.

In 1 Corinthians Paul was writing to explain his own situation. He said, "There is an incredible door of opportunity open in front of me. Not only can I see, but my enemy can see it as well!" He wasn't informing his readers about the opposition as a good reason to get out of Dodge, but rather as his reasoning for hanging around town a little while longer!

I am amazed at quickly most of us are willing to withdraw. There are times when only moments pass after engaging in a passionate pursuit of the purposes of God that many are ready to retreat to a vacation home located somewhere in the Ozarks.

Even though we've been called out to the battlefield where we are to experience a great and vital victory, most of us would prefer to experience the thrill and excitement found predominantly within the safety of a recreation room.

This isn't a mindset only possessed by us modern day believers, either. The 13th chapter of the book of Exodus includes some of the story regarding the deliverance of God's people out of the land of bondage. In the 17th verse of this chapter we read that God couldn't even take His people out by using the short route. He was forced to take them down a much longer road. Why? According to the Bible, it was because they would have rather went back into to bondage than to face their opposition. Sound familiar?

God has gone to great lengths to open up wide doors of opportunity for us, His children, to walk through. Don't be too surprised to learn that once you stepped through that open door He quietly came and nailed it shut behind you! Once He's got you moving in the right direction He can't afford to let you take too many steps backward.

I know that there are times when situations seem to be turning towards the impossible. There are moments when circumstances have so quickly outgrown us that we appear as grasshoppers in comparison. We've even heard about the heat getting turned up multiplied times hotter than normal, but those that put their trust in Him were never disappointed.

Hebrews 10:23 says that we need to hold fast our confession of faith; for He who promised is faithful. So don't doubt in the dark what God has promised you in the light. Keep a tight grip on your confession and refuse to back up one step. We all know that it is seldom easy. All of us have moments when we are willing to at least consider quitting. But hold fast your confession!

Here are some really good questions to think about. What is your confession? When you see the storm coming directly at you what is coming directly out of your mouth? Are you using your words to describe things or to change them? What is your confession? What would you like to say?

I want to give you a little help with this one. Why don't you take the next 30 days and make the following your confession of faith?

I thank God that I am a child of the Living God. All things that pertain unto life and godliness have given unto me.

I have been positioned to win or succeed in every given situation. Therefore, I refuse to live in fear, doubt or unbelief.

I believe that I am ready for anything and equal to anything that comes my way, through Christ who is infusing me with inner strength.

I am blessed to be a blessing.

I am blessed when I get up in the morning and I am blessed when I lay down.
I am the head and not the tail.

Above, only, and not beneath.

I am growing daily in the things of the Lord and His Word is changing the way I think, the way I feel and the way I make my choices.

Today I will speak life and not death into every situation of my life and I will not experience death but live to demonstrate His goodness.

I double-dog-dare you to speak this over yourself for the next 30 days straight. If you miss a day - start all over again! Don't cheat and don't lie. Go to work and climb to a brand new level and RE-FUSE to back down. You'll see some wonderful changes occur in every arena of your life!

We love and appreciate you so, so much!

Pastors Thom and Shelby