

Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 62

The Letter of Jesus to the Church in Philadelphia Part 1

“7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;” (Revelation 3:7 KJV) This is the letter of Jesus to the sixth church, the church in Philadelphia, the meaning of Philadelphia is brotherly love. That church was a victorious church, and was doing the will of God and the Lord was pleased with this church; with their love to the Lord and to the brethren, and to His work. What God had given to them they used it to do good things to the Lord and made the Lord pleased with them. As He was pleased with them, He enabled them further to do good things for Him.

These things saith he that is holy, here the Lord introduced Himself as the Holy One, and we who follow him are saints; we are not Holy One, but He is the Holy One, God, He is God who appeared in flesh, and we who follow Him, He needs us to live in holiness and He want us to follow His example in love and holiness. *Jesus wants us to love His work and ministry and to continue doing them even if we are hurt.*

Apostle Peter also spoke about Christ and presented Him to the Jewish as the Holy One, ***“But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you.” (Acts 3:14 KJV)*** Here the Lord Jesus Christ is the Holy One. *We need to look to His life how He lived, to imitate Him, and we need to do what He wants us to do to be saint and the Holy people of God.*

In pertain to the Word ***“the Holy One”***, let us read in the book of ***Revelation 4:8-11***, about Jesus the Holy One, ***“8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, LORD God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. 9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, 10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” (Revelation 4:8-11 KJV)*** Jesus is *LORD God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.* As we stand on His Word we are called to persevere to live in holiness and in love to continue in His Word.

These things saith he that is holy: Here the message is coming directly from the Lord Jesus, the Holy One, and is telling to the church to continue in the same way of the Lord Jesus who came and lived in holiness and continued to give God’s Word and do the work of God and with all willingness to face persecution and opposition inspite of all the opposition and the rejections from the enemies of God, even to die on the cross for our sins. *We are called to live in holiness and in love and with all willingness to continue to persevere inspite of all the opposition and the rejection and the work of the devil against us.* The church in Philadelphia was facing the synagogue of Satan who was opposing the work of God and the brethren of the church in Philadelphia.

he that is true, Jesus is the only truth that we can rely on, trust and follow. Jesus said to His disciples and to us today, ***“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6 KJV)*** When we stand before the Lord Jesus, He is the truth, we take from Him the example for He is our God and He is our elder brother, He is the first one who rose from the death, we look to His life and what He passed through, so He will give us the example and the perseverance to continue to persevere doing the work of God and opposing the work of devil, and to bear, persevering in trials and troubles until the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to take us with Him to Heaven. *The devil will try to trouble us and oppose us but when we obey the Lord and follow Him in our lives He will uphold us and help us in our lives unto Him and will deliver us from all the troubles that the devil and those with him who try to inflict on us..*

he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; here the Lord introduced Himself to the church is the one who has the key of David. He reminded them and reminding us today that the final word belong to the Lord and that the whole matter is in the hand of God, and it is not in what the people talk or their opinion is, or in the hand of the enemies or the devil who is opposing us and opposing the work of God. Key is the sign of authority and Jesus has the key of David; that are the keys of the Kingdom of God and the keys of soverighnity, the supremacy (superiority, dominance, preeminence), and the government. We can read about the keys of David or the throne of David in ***Isaiah 22:20-23***, ***“20 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah: 21 And I will clothe him with thy robe, and strengthen him with thy girdle, and I will commit thy government into his hand: and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah. 22 And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. 23 And I will fasten him as a nail in a sure place; and he shall be for a glorious throne to his father's house.” (Isaiah 22:20-23 KJV)*** If He shuts no one can open and if He opens no one can shut. It means no one can reverse the order of God. *Whenever God had placed us, no one can move us from the secure place that God had placed us to do His work and to serve Him.*

We can also read about the key of David and the throne of David in Luke when the angel announced to Mary her conception with Jesus, ***“31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.” (Luke 1:31-33 KJV)*** Jesus is the King and is reigning on the throne of David over the Kingdom of God.

Here with these Word, Jesus, ***that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David*** comes and encouraging the church in Philadelphia, the victorious church to go on and serve Him and continue in the same way that He ordained for them. Here the church that standing under the pressure and the threat of the enemies and the Jewish, the Lord comes and encourage His church, as well as He comes and encourage you today to continue to stand firm against such oppositions, threats and persecution, and He is telling you that He has the key of David, the key of the government and the keys of the Kingdom of God; these encouraging Word to make you strong and to support you.

The Lord Jesus Christ in the book of Matthew declared to Apostle Peter after he confessed that Jesus is the Son of God, Jesus told him, ***“18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”*** (Matthew 16:18-19 KJV) Here the key of David are the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. He is giving to the victorious church the authority to continue to fight the good fight against the devil and its instruments, the evil doers who are supporting its evil schemes.

We read also in ***Revelation 1:17-18***, when John met the Lord in a vision, this what happened and what the Lord told him: ***“17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: 18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”*** (Revelation 1:17-18 KJV) Here Jesus also declared that He has the keys of hell and death. So Jesus has the keys of the government, the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven and the keys of hell and death. So everything is in His hand. And He is giving us the power and ability to reign and rule with Him according to His Word and rules if we obey Him. He give us also the access to enter the Kingdom of God, as well as He close and lock in front of us the hell and death.

So here the Lord is encouraging the church that all the matter is in His hand and He is in full control. He is telling them and to us today, in His hand the keys for eternal life and you will enter into eternal life because these keys are in His hands. He is telling them and to us today, that they will not enter hell and death for these are preserved for their enemies, for the devil and those who work with the devil. As well as the Lord is telling them and is telling us today that we will reign and rule with Him during the Millennium reign. So here the Lord is giving us encouragement to continue to serve Him and to do what is right, so we will continue to do the work and without fear and without discouragement and we will continue to love and live in holiness as the church in Philadelphia expressing continually the brotherly love and resisting the devil and its work and those who are working with him. *We will also be able to resist the trials and troubles and will be able to oppose it if we continue to work with love, in loving the Lord, and in loving the brethren and in loving the work of God, and to love is to live the Word and to give the Word of God to those who are around us.*

“8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.” (Revelation 3:8 KJV)

I know thy works: Here the Lord is encouraging this church and is telling them the positive and the strong points in that church, their works. He is telling them, ***I know thy works***, not only one work but works, the works that God had prepared in advance for them to go through them and do them, as well as for us today the Lord had prepared in advance for us certain works that we need to go through them and do them. When he is telling them, ***I know thy works***, the Holy Spirit is telling, I am aware of all the good works that you did for me, and for all your suffering and the pain that you bear for my sake, and I will reward you in full for that.

behold, God is telling them and is telling us today, look forward to what I had opened to you.

I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. Here the church had kept the Word of Jesus, had kept the Word of God, and there were pressures put on them to change the Word of God, but they did not compromise and they did not bargain with their enemies to decrease the pressure on them while they continue to stand on the Word of Jesus. They did not give in to pressure, they did not compromise with evil doers, and they did not allow wrong doing and compromises in the service and the ministry of God, but they kept the Word of God and they did not deny the Word of Jesus, but they continued to declare that the Lord Jesus Christ is the true God and that He is the Holy One and He is the truth and the way and life and no bargaining about that, and there is no other person with Him that can give eternal life. He told them also in verse 10 ***“Because thou hast kept the word of my patience,” “10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.”*** (Revelation 3:10 KJV) The workers and leaders of that church were people with patience, they persevered on pressure, and bear under the trials, even the pressure on them lasted years but they continued, in their love, in their work and service and in the work of Jesus.

The Lord Jesus after He acknowledged their good works and what they did, He promised them with the following: ***I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it:*** He told them, to the faithful church, the church in Philadelphia, to look forward and see that He had opened a door for them, that no one can close it.

What is this door that no one can close? The city of Philadelphia was located as the other cities that we are discussing the churches in them, was connected and communicating with other cities in the world around them with roads. But if we study the geography of the region that the city of Philadelphia located with the rest of the six cities that Jesus sent His letters to them, these cities were located on the same road. These seven cities were connected with the external world with the same road. What is it this road or door and what it was its importance? *That road or door that was opened was the door of evangelism, because the connection of the church with the external world was very important not because only for economy and for benefit and financial gain through merchandising and receiving resources, but it was also opportunity for evangelism.*

Do you appreciate the new opportunities that God is opening for you to evangelize and reaching new people? Even for the few people that God allows you to reach out? Do you realize that the boycotting that the enemy is doing against the church, the Lord shall nullify it through the new opportunities that He opens to evangelize?

This church in Philadelphia was passing through pressure and problems, and me and you are passing through pressure and problems, and I think also there is not person in the whole Bible who served the Lord and followed Jesus and did not have great troubles and various kinds of problems; problems in the family, problems in the work, financial problems, problems with the neighbors, problems with the government, wars, problem in health, etc. *The problems are of different kinds but finally it depends on you. Do you love God, and are you willing to continue to serve the Lord? If you have*

decided to serve the Lord, then be sure, that problems, persecutions, sicknesses, obstacles and wars will not stop you from serving the Lord because the open door is still open in front of you, and no one can shut, if you love to serve the Lord and if you love to do the ministry of God.

I always pray to the Lord, 'Lord open a door for me,' If you want to pray for me, and I am aware that many are praying for me to have good health and strength, provision, resources, and protection, I thank you and I am in need of all of that, but please pray for me fervently that God shall open a door for me to evangelize. We can continue to persevere in trials and troubles when we continue to serve the Lord and when we continue to give the Word of God to the new people whom God is placing around us.

We can read about the open door, the great door, that the Lord had opened in **1 Corinthians**, **"8 But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost. 9 For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries."** (**1 Corinthians 16:8-9 KJV**) Here Paul told the Corinthians in his letter that he will stay in this city of Ephesus till the date of Pentecost. Why he will stay there? Not because the weather was good, and the people loving him, and the cost of living is less and he has no troubles there. No, not because of such, but because there was a great and effective door had been opened to him and there were many who were stubborn and opposing to him. Are you not aware that the many people around you who are opposing to you are the door of God for you to preach the Word of God? We always do all what we can to run away from stubborn people and from those who are opposing us. But now be sure that those people who are stubborn and opposing to you are the effective and the open door that God had opened to you to preach His Word, and that door inspite of all the opposition and the hardships no one will be able to close it in front of you. We need to stay till Pentecost, the Pentecost is the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to fill His disciples, the 120. The Pentecost day is 50 days from Jesus resurrection. We need to persevere and stay where we are till the Holy Spirit will go ahead of us to enable us to overcome the power of darkness that is working against us. If God wants you to stay in a place and He wants you to evangelize, there will be no power able to stop you from doing that and no power can overcome you. The Holy Spirit will sustain us to stay where God wants us to stay. They were not able to overcome the church in Philadelphia. The Jewish and the false Christians who were called the synagogue of Satan did all what they can to stop that church in Philadelphia but they were not able to close the mouths of the Philadelphian brethren from preaching and the Word of God preached and reached the world from the church in Philadelphia by the door that God opened for them to preach His Word.

My dear and beloved: Let us now commit ourselves to the Lord, let us ask the Holy Spirit to fill us once again so we can stand firm to be able to combat the power of darkness and to evangelize and reach new people who will accept Christ and will be set free from the power of darkness, sin and hell and got saved in the name of Jesus.

My prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for your Word that encouraged me much to go on and serve you and do the work of yours and to preach the gospel of Jesus.

Renounce now all your discouragements and fears and commit yourself to the Lord to go through the open door of the opposition and to continue to preach His Word in the place

that He had placed you in. Lord I commit once again my life to the task that you had entrusted me with to go and preach the gospel and to evangelize to the people that you placed around me.

Lord, I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who accepted your Word, and committed their lives to serve you, Lord give them boldness and courage to preach your Word. Lord protect them from all the attacks of the evil and preserve them and provide all their needs. Lord use their lives to preach the gospel and to bring others to you.

Lord bless us and sustain us as a church. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit and give us the Holy Spirit that we need to go on and serve you. Lord fight for us against the power of darkness. Lord, we pray that you will enable us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in Peace with Implementing the Whole Will of God'. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus' name, Amen.

Lessons from the sermon of Jesus on the mountain Part 62. The Letter of Jesus to the church in Philadelphia Part 1. Revelation 3:7-8. Acts 3:14. Revelation 4:8-11. John 14:6. Isaiah 22:20-23. Luke 1:31-33. Matthew 16:18-19. Revelation 1:17-18. 1 Corinthians 16:8-9.

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