

## ***Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 63***

### ***The Letter of Jesus to the Church in Philadelphia Part 2***

We continue in this message to speak about the victorious church in Philadelphia, ***“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) This victorious church had kept the Word of Jesus and did not compromise and did not give in to the persecution, to the threats and to the pressure of the synagogue of Satan. *We need to do the same and we will not give in to the pressure of those who pressurize us to give in to their wants and their evil and corruptive desires.*

***Behold, I have set before thee an open door,*** we read also about the effective door that God opened to His church in the writing of Apostle Paul in ***2 Corinthians 2:12, “Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord.”*** (2 Corinthians 2:12 KJV) Here Apostle Paul when he came to Troas he found an opportunity to preach the Word of God. This is what we need to ask God to open to us a door to preach His Word. I pray that God will open a door to me to reach new people. Pray, *‘Lord help me to reach new people and to open my mouth in preaching your Word in Jesus name, Amen.’* The Lord shall respond and answer our prayers and He will help us in our lives. Paul said, ***“and a door was opened unto me of the Lord,”*** *therefore we need to be careful that the open door is from the Lord and not from other source as we will read later on.* Let us read now the Scriptures about the door that the Lord opened for Paul in Troas.

The door that God opened for Paul in Troas to reach Macedonia, we read in ***Acts 16: “6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, 7 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not. 8 And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. 10 And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them. 11 Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis; 12 And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.”*** (Acts 16:6-12 KJV) They were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel in Asia minor (that is Turkey today), and they wanted to go to Bithynia but the Holy Spirit did not allow them. God knows where they were needed and where the souls who were ready to receive the message of salvation. The hindrances of the Holy Spirit was to direct them to the right place. *So put also in your mind that a hindrance it might be a redirection from God. We also in the same way as we desire to preach the Gospel and to reach new people, God will honor that, but still we need to heed the leading of the Holy Spirit of where we need to go and move. Because if we move only with our desire to reach new people without the leading of the Holy Spirit, we might be led to wrong people who either does not need us, or who will trouble us, abuse us, or it might be unfruitful our mission to them.* The call of Paul to Macedonia was the call to bring the salvation of God to people who were ready to receive Christ. Paul was with Silas and Timothy. Therefore, when the Lord opened that door for them in Troas they immediately moved

from there and reached Philippi the main city in Macedonia. The fruit of that mission was the plantation of the church in Philippi, Thessalonica and Beria. The plantation of the church in Philippi we can read about in ***Acts 16***, and the plantation of the churches in Thessalonica and Berea we can read about them in ***Acts 17***.

*We need to travail in prayer and in hearing the voice of God, pleading with Him for the great and effectual door that He would open for us to evangelize. We need to be sure that we are led by the Holy Spirit and not by our mere desire.*

We can read also about the great and effective door to evangelize in ***Colossians 4:2-3, “2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; 3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:”*** (Colossians 4:2-3 KJV) Paul was arrested and he asked from the church to pray for him not only to go out from the prison, but that the Lord shall open a door that he can speak and preach about the mystery of Christ. *“A door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ,” is not only about evangelism but to give the sound teaching that the body of Christ and many churches today are in need of. Pray now for yourself, as you have the Word of God and you have the teaching, pray that God shall lead you to people, to churches, to congregations that need His Word.* Pray also for me that God shall open a door for me to declare and speak about the mystery of Christ and the teaching that He had revealed unto us. Our priority to preach the Word of God and to reach new people and to teach them, will show if we are loving the Lord or not. The problems will come and the pressures will come and the Synagogues of Satan are there, but the Lord shall be with us and uphold us if we are willing to continue to obey Him and do His work.

***“9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.”*** (Revelation 3:9 KJV) The Church in Philadelphia was surrounded with the synagogue of Satan, who were Jewish or Christians; by name they were the people of God, but they were liars. They were not living according to the truth. They were not applying the Word of God in their lives. *\* We in the same way, we might be opposed and pressurized by people who are called Christians but they are liars, troublemakers, and evil doers, but we face all that with love and be willing to continue to preach His Word. \* We express that by our love to the brethren, our love to the Lord and our love to reach new people who are far away from the Lord with the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to bring the Word of God and His mystery and His teaching to those who are in need of His Word.*

The difference between this church in Philadelphia and the church in Ephesus the following: The church in Ephesus did great work in the ministry and in the evangelism, but when they faced the liars and the evil doers and those who caused division in the church they were discouraged. *\* God does not want you and us to face troubles and problems with discouragement. God does not want you to give up. God does not want you to tell him I am tired and I want to quit. Brethren, not like that, but God wants you to pray when you face troubles in such a way ‘Lord thank you for all what had happened, but now Lord open a great and effectual door for me, a door of utterance, to preach your Word for the people who needs you.’ \* Be sure that there are people who are in need of you to reach them with God's Word. In the same place that you are,*

there are people who are in need of God's Word, who are in need of direction, who are in need of encouragement, and who are in need of a rebuke to mend their ways.

There are people who are in need that you will sit down with them. Most of the time we focus on the synagogue of Satan, we focus on those who oppose us, who focus on arguments and fighting, but there are many people in the same place they need you. Therefore direct your energy and your love to those people, and the Lord shall be with you. If we continue in the same attitude and thinking, the Lord will make our enemies to be losers and will decrease. The Lord is telling to this church and assuring them ***"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."*** This church had small strength. For us to serve the Lord we don't need big power. True we have humble resources, humble material and body resources, but when we do what we need to do from our part, and we pray, we fast, we cry to God, we give what is due for God from tithes, offerings, firstfruits, and alms to the poor, and ask God to help us and protect us, these things will show that our dependence is on God. When you do such small things it shows that your dependence is on God. But the things that are outside your power and your control the Lord will not call you accountable on them. You do your small part and God will do the rest. For example you can fast, you can pray, you can help a poor person, visit a family, visit a person, you give an advice, and encouraging a person passing into problem, give a Bible study; in all such you are doing small things with your small power but you are doing it through the great and effective door, the door of utterance that God had opened to you. In ***Zechariah 4:6 "Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts."*** (Zechariah 4:6 KJV) We need the Holy Spirit to work on our behalf. If the Holy Spirit will not work for us or open the door for us then we cannot do anything and we cannot progress. Therefore, the small things that we are led to do are done with the Holy Spirit and will be of big yield to us. Healing, doing miracles, and opening of the heart of people to believe, all these are the blessings of the Holy Spirit in the ministry of us. Our filling with the Holy Spirit are the work of God in the life of the church. We have little strength and little resources. The Lord knows all these things. But we are filled with love and we continue to persevere in giving the Word of God and see the great effective door that God had opened to us, the door of effective evangelism to declare the Mystery of the gospel of Jesus, to declare the death of Jesus on the cross for our sins, and the sins of the whole world to give us eternal life to everyone who believe on Him. The Lord shall uphold us, shall help us, to live as a victorious church, so we continue to love the Lord to love His work and to love the brethren, and to continue to fight the good fight till He come and take us with Him to Heaven.

Jesus encouraged the brethren in the church of Philadelphia, ***"9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee."*** (Revelation 3:9 KJV) The persecution against this church when the letter of John was sent to them, the persecution was from the Jewish. The Jewish or the false Christians were saying that they believe in the Lord, but they were liars. They were not living in the truth and in the Word that they received from Jesus. The Lord promised, ***"I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee."*** The Lord promised that He will do miracles so that those who oppose you, the day will come and they will kneel down at your feet, surrendering and acknowledging that Jesus had

loved you as God promised in ***Isaiah 49: 22-23, "22 Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders.*** (Your enemies will bring your disciples back to you. This is the new standard that God will do for us as His church). ***23 And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers:*** (The kings and the queens of the gentiles they shall be the one to care for our disciples and they will be the one to support the ministry of God), ***they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth*** (Yes they will confess their sins and their mistakes and wrong doings against God's church and they will humble down before you and acknowledge that God is with you. They will come and say, we clearly saq that God is with you), ***and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me."*** (Isaiah 49:22-23 KJV) We who wait upon the Lord and trust on Him we will not be ashamed. To lick up the dust is for Satan our enemy, the cursed serpent, that will eat dust all the days of its life as we can read in the book of Genesis, ***"And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life"*** (Genesis 3:14 KJV): This is an encouraging Word to us. The Lord wants you to be encouraged, that those who wait upon the Lord, they will not be put to shame. Satan will be defeated and those who used by Satan will be put to shame.

Continue to work in your home, in your family, with your neighbours, and with the rest of the people that you are reaching out, because that is the great and effective door for evangelism that God had opened to you today. We will read also the encouragement of the Lord from Isaiah as the Lord encouraged the church in Philadelphia through the letter of John to continue the service and the ministry of the Lord. The Lord today encouraging us from the Holy revelation in the Old Testament to continue in the service, ***"14 The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet;*** (All those that caused you troubles will be subject to you, and all those that insulted you, their sons and daughters, will come to you and bow down at your feet as they see God is with you.) ***and they shall call thee; The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.*** (They will call us the Blessed Church of God). ***15 Whereas thou has been forsaken and hated, so that no man went through thee, I will make thee an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations.*** (You are despised and forsaken, but the Lord shall make you a renown and glory. While you are ill treated and forsaken, the Lord will make you an excellency and a joyful congregation). ***16 Thou shalt also suck the milk of the Gentiles, and shalt suck the breast of kings: and thou shalt know that I the LORD am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.*** (Yes the Lord is power and salvation, the Lord our refuge and our help, our shield and our peace, and He will let us to receive God's blessings from and through the Gentles; their kings and their queens, they will come to the Lord and they will be a blessing to us). ***17 For brass I will bring gold,*** (If you loss the brass God will return to you and compensate it to you with gold. Yes, the Lord will return to us the gold as we obey and go on and evangelize). ***and for iron I will bring silver*** (Yes the Lord instead of iron that we lost or that taken from us He will return to us silver), ***and for wood brass, and for stones iron: I will also make thy officers peace, and thine exactors righteousness.*** (The Lord shall compensate to us all our losses. Instead of wood we will receive brass. Instead of stones we will receive iron. Let us pray: Yes Lord compensate us, intead of the pain and suffering Lord replace us with good things and keep them for us as well as reward us in the eternal life. Yes Lord for all the workers and

*the brethren who continued to serve you and who are opposed by Satan and those from the synagogue of Satan, and did your works and persevere in them, and did not deny your name, Lord reward them in Jesus name, Amen.) “I will also make thy officers peace, and thine exactors righteousness”:* (What He means here, that our workers who will execute and implement discipline will be seen as peace-makers and righteous people, and will be accepted by those who were opposing them). **18 Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise.** (The Lord after we persevere He will not allow violence, wasting and destruction to be done in our midst, but salvation and praise and joy in our midst). **19 The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.** (As we obey the Lord and continue to do His work, we will no more depend on the natural resources to supply our needs, the sun and the moon for the light, all will continue to be there, but the Lord Himself will supply and support us). **20 Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the LORD shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.** (The natural resources will be continually present in our lives and the reason behind that is that the Lord Himself is supplying us continually with all these resources, the light, the sun, the moon, the gold, the silver, the wood, the iron, His favor, His grace, His mercy and His presence in our lives will be there and we will be no more mourning). **21 Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified.** (God also shall glorify His church and His people who delight in Him to serve Him in standing firm. He will allow us to inherit the land and bless us and stabilize us and give us resources to continue and to be maintained in the place that He located us, and we will be prevailed against all persecution. The Lord as He prosper us and maintain us, His name will be glorified. The blessings and the abundance and the multiplication that He will bestow in us on His perfect time will give Him the glory and the honor and the praise. We will be blessed and multiplied and have the strength of the Lord to go on and serve Him), **22 A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the LORD will hasten it in his time.” (Isaiah 60:14-22 KJV)** As we obey Him, then He will do it in His perfect timing.

**My dear and beloved:** Let us persevere now in serving the Lord and in doing His will, in not compromising and in not giving in to the evil that the evil doers are doing. There are open doors ahead of us that no one can close as long as we are willing to serve the Lord. As God had opened to Paul and to the church of Philadelphia open doors, He is doing the same with us today. There are great rewards ahead of us from the Lord, with assuring promises that will sustain us to continue in the way that God ordained for us to go through. Let us behold the great and effective door and the door of utterance that He would open to us as we cry in prayer to Him, and let us go on through it to serve the Lord. Let us pray, *‘Here am I Lord, direct me to reach the people who are ready to receive your grace and your salvation’*.

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.

*Lord I thank you for the open doors that you opened up to us to preach your Word and to declare your teaching and the mystery of Christ. Lord thank you for all your assuring promises to us as your church and your servants that you will reward all our labors and services unto you. Thank you that you enable us to stand firm against all the work of Satan and that you will subdued the enemy before us and give us the victory and the fruit in our ministry unto you.*

*Lord, protect us from all the work of the evil one and help us not to give in to the compromises and the pressure of the enemy. Lord increase our faith and trust in you. Lord I pray for revival in the midst of us, refill us once again with the Holy Spirit and lead to the new places that you had prepared for us and the souls that are to ready to receive your Word and the Gospel of Jesus.*

*Lord go ahead of us and lead us in the right direction to the souls that you prepared for us. Lord speak to us, we are listening, \_\_\_\_\_. Allow God to speak to you, \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Lord go before us and break bondages and do miracles and healing and set people free from bondages and save them from the power of Satan, and plant new congregations for your church. Lord continue to give us boldness to preach your Word, to drive out demons, to heal the sick and to reach new places with your Word. 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 63. The Letter of Jesus to the church in Philadelphia Part 2. Revelation 3:8-9. 2 Corinthians 2:12. Acts 16:6-12. Colossians 4:2-3. Zechariah 4:6. Isaiah 49:22-23. Genesis 3:14. Isaiah 60:14-22.

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