

When God Opens Doors Your Commitment Must Hold

DAY:

Monday

TITLE:

The Two Most Important Days

KEY VERSE:

Jeremiah 29:11 -- "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

REFLECTION:

I've been in ministry for 60 years, and I still believe the two most important days of your life are the day you were born and the day you finally figure out why. Some of you have been praying, "God, open a door," and yet when He does, you hesitate. You wonder, "Is that you, God?" Friend, I want to tell you -- He knows exactly why He made you. You are not an accident. You are not a placeholder. You are a person with a divine assignment that only you can carry. The urgency I feel at 78 isn't panic -- it's clarity. When the days ahead become fewer than the days behind, you stop wasting time wondering and start walking forward. Today, dare to believe that God's purpose for your life is still unfolding. The game is not over yet.

PRAYER:

Lord, show me today why You made me. Help me stop waiting for a perfect moment and start walking toward the purpose You've already prepared for me. I trust Your plan.

DAILY ACTION:

Write down one God-given gift or passion you've been ignoring, and ask Him today how He wants to use it.

DAY:

Tuesday

TITLE:

Keep Your Hand on the Handle

KEY VERSE:

1 Corinthians 16:9 -- "For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries."

REFLECTION:

I carry a door handle with me sometimes -- not as a prop, but as a reminder. When God sovereignly opens a door, your hand better already be on the handle. Paul told the church at Corinth that a great, effectual door had been opened to him -- designed by God to have a real effect on real people. He didn't say, "Let me pray about whether I should walk through it." He said, "I'm staying in Ephesus because something is happening here and I need to be present for it." That's what I'm asking you today. Are you living with your hand on the handle? Opportunities from God don't come with a second warning bell. They come, they open, and you either go through or you don't. Stay ready. Don't wait to get ready. Keep your hand on the handle every single day.

PRAYER:

Father, I don't want to miss what You're opening for me. Help me stay sensitive, stay ready, and walk boldly through every door You set before me. I trust Your timing.

DAILY ACTION:

Find a door handle -- a spare one, a photo, anything -- and place it somewhere visible today as a daily reminder to stay ready for what God opens.

DAY:

Wednesday

TITLE:

The Door of Obligation

KEY VERSE:

Ephesians 2:10 -- "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

REFLECTION:

Here's the hard truth I've learned after six concussions, time in Haiti, Gaza, Ukraine, and Brooklyn -- when God opens a door for you, it isn't just an invitation. It's an obligation. When my friend asked me to go to Papua New Guinea, I never flinched. Not because I felt great. My head was still healing. But because I've chosen to live with my hand on the handle. When God says go, you are obligated to go. Paul knew this. He stayed in Ephesus not because it was comfortable, but because God had opened something and walking away would have been a betrayal of that calling. You've been praying for purpose. You've been asking God to use you. Friend, the answer may already be sitting right in front of you -- a need in your church, your neighborhood, your family. Stop asking if you should go through the door. Walk through it.

PRAYER:

God, forgive me for treating Your open doors like suggestions. Today I choose to honor my obligation to walk through what You've opened. Give me courage that's stronger than my excuses.

DAILY ACTION:

Identify one open door in your church or community -- a volunteer need, a mission trip, a neighbor who needs help -- and take one concrete step toward it today.

DAY:

Thursday

TITLE:

Your Commitment Must Be Stronger Than Your Emotions

KEY VERSE:

Galatians 6:9 -- "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

REFLECTION:

I bought a plane ticket once. I was done. Blind in both eyes after getting hit with a brick in Brooklyn, packed

my bags, ready to walk away from everything. But I've learned this the hard way -- your commitment must be stronger than your emotions. Emotions will tell you to quit. Commitment will keep you in the fight. I woke up that night, turned on the light, and could see again. God showed up right at my two-minute warning. Some of you are at your two-minute warning right now. You're tired. You've been hurt. Maybe the church disappointed you, maybe life disappointed you. But don't you dare confuse a hard season with a closed door. The game isn't over. Paul didn't leave Ephesus because it got difficult. He stayed because his commitment was rooted in something deeper than feeling -- it was rooted in calling.

PRAYER:

Lord, on the days when my emotions scream quit, let my commitment to You speak louder. Remind me that You've never abandoned me, and I won't abandon You. Keep me in the fight.

DAILY ACTION:

Think of one area of your faith life where you've been emotionally pulling back. Write one sentence of recommitment and speak it out loud today.

DAY:

Friday

TITLE:

Same Door, Different Players

KEY VERSE:

1 Peter 5:8 -- "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

REFLECTION:

Here's something that knocked me sideways when I really studied 1 Corinthians 16:9 closely. Paul doesn't just say there's a great door open to him and there happen to be adversaries nearby. He's saying the same door is open to both -- and the question is who walks through it first. That stopped me cold. The same opportunity you've been hesitating about, the same neighborhood, the same school, the same workplace -- something else is already moving through that door if you're not. That's not meant to terrify you. It's meant to wake you up. We do 65 mission trips a year not because it's easy, but because we understand that if we don't go, somebody or something else fills that space. Opposition is real. But greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world. Go through the door. Go first. Go now.

PRAYER:

Father, I refuse to let fear or hesitation give ground to the enemy. I'm walking through every door You open with boldness, because You go before me. I'm not going alone.

DAILY ACTION:

Pray specifically today for one person, place, or situation where you know God is calling you to step in -- and ask Him to make you brave enough to go first.