

Speaker : Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
Title : The Church of the Open Door & the Test of Faith
Text : Revelation 3:7-13; Hebrews 3:16-19, 4:1-2

The Church of the Open Door

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, “He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”:⁸ “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.⁹ Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie – indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.¹⁰ Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.¹¹ Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.¹² He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.¹³ “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches”
(Revelation 3:7-13)

Key notes from the text:

Revelation 3:7

- “**The angel of**” - the minister or Pastor
- “**These things says He**” – Who is He?

He who is Holy, True and has the key of David – this is Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church

- What “**doors**” – Doors of opportunity

Revelation 3:8 – “**I know your works**”

Jesus recognises our works.

Jesus gives the Church that works or does the will of God, obeys the Word of God and does not deny His name – an open door or opportunities.

- “**You have little strength**” – this is not in terms of lacking or not having sufficient

But, the little is sufficient. It is the same as having faith like a mustard seed – the smallest of seed, yet able to move mountain (Matthew 17:20).

“So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you” (Matthew 17:20).

- It is a Church that has:

1. Little strength – of faith
2. Obedient to God’s Word
3. Persevere in obedience
4. Did not deny His name

Jesus gives the Church an open door.

Revelation 3:9-12

Jesus promised the Church of the Open Door:

1. He will protect them in the face of challenge (Revelation 3:10)
2. He will make those who profess but are not possesses of the household of faith to repent (2 Timothy 3:5)

“having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”

3. He will show them that God loves the Church of the Open Door
4. He is coming soon for them
5. No one can take their crown
6. He will make us pillars
7. He will write God’s name on it and the name of God’s city and give us a new name

Can we take courage from God’s Word to us?

We must be bold, obedient and have faith to trust God and rejoice!

Revelation 3:13

We may have ears but hear not

We hear but do not heed.

The Test of Faith

“For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? 17 Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

1 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. 2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it” (Hebrews 3:16-19; 4:1-2)

Faith that cannot be tested is not worthy (eg. Hebrews 11)

- Elijah’s faith

“Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 9 “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.” 10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink.” 11 And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, “Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” 12 So she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.” 13 And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. 14 For thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.’” 15 So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days. 16 The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah” (1 Kings 17:8-16).

There Are Two Essentials for Faith to Work: The Word and Obedience

- Elijah:

- The Word

“Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you” (1 Kings 17:8, 9).

- Obedience

“So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink” (1 Kings 17:10).

- The Widow:

- The Word

“For thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth’” (1 Kings 17:14).

- Obedience

“So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days” (1 Kings 17:15).

There Are Two Types of People

The Moses Generation & the Joshua Generation

- The Moses Generation

- They are people who want blessings without believing
 - Instead of believing, they murmured and lusted after the ways of Egypt.

“Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, 2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. 5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. 6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. 7 And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. 8 Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; 9 nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; 10 nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. 12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (1 Corinthians 10:1-12).

- They did not experience God’s blessings because they did not mix faith and the Word (Hebrews 4:2).

“For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.”

- Living by faith is spiritual – it is being led by the Spirit.
 - Living by sight is carnal – it is walking after the flesh.

- The Joshua Generation

“But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; 7 and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: “The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. 8 If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, ‘a land which flows with milk and honey.’ 9 Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them” (Numbers 14:6-9).

- God delights in us, when we “Trust and Rejoice in Him”.
- We believe, “it is not by might, nor by power, but by the Spirit”
- We can say,

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us” (Romans 8:35-37).

Conclusion

- It is going to take a “Joshua Generation” to possess and actualise God’s vision for us.
- It is going to take people of faith and obedience.
- We must trust, obey and rejoice in the Lord?