

An Open Door

by Carter Conlon

Carter Conlon's sermon emphasizes the importance of recognizing and responding to God's open door for a new life in Christ, despite our weaknesses and struggles.

Duration: 21:20

Scripture: Joshua 24:15, John 10:9, John 14:6, Acts 4:12, Revelation 3:8-12

Topics: "Hope"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher shares a testimony of a person who sought God and experienced a miraculous transformation in their life. The preacher emphasizes the importance of being sensitive to the Holy Spirit in order to witness the miraculous in our own lives. The sermon then focuses on the words of Jesus to the church of Philadelphia in the Book of Revelation. The preacher highlights the promise of God to keep His people from the hour of temptation that will come upon the world. He encourages the congregation to enter through the door of life, which is found in Christ, and to overcome the challenges they face by choosing to serve and walk with Him.

Transcript

Bless the Lord. Folks, after that testimony this evening, I feel compelled to bring to you the word that the Lord strongly put on my heart this afternoon. Actually, earlier this week, the Lord just began to speak to me a word.

And there is a defining moment in every service when you meet like this together, where God is speaking. And if we're sensitive to the Holy Spirit, that's where the miraculous can begin to happen in people's lives. Now, you've heard a phenomenal testimony tonight of what God has done in somebody's life, who had the courage to seek Him.

Now, tonight, I want you to open your heart and turn to the book of Revelation, chapter 3, please, if you will. Revelation, chapter 3. The words of Jesus Christ to one of the churches called Philadelphia. Now, Father, I thank you, Lord, for this service tonight.

I thank you, God, that you have brought a specific type of person into this service tonight. Somebody with just a little bit of strength, believes in God, believes in God's word, but doesn't know where to go from here. And tonight, Lord, as you did through Daniel, you're going to dissolve these doubts, and you're going to open the door to a new life.

God, thank you for this tonight. Thank you, Lord. There is a divine moment in every life where you speak, and this is that moment for somebody here tonight.

I thank you for this in Jesus' mighty name. And to the angel, verse 7, Revelation 3, 7. And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia, write, These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that has the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth. And shutteth, and no man openeth.

So God says, I'm coming to you to speak to you. But I'm coming to you to speak to you as the one who has the power to open anything before you that I choose to. And whatever I open, nobody can shut.

And whatever I shut, nobody can open. In other words, if I open the door to give you a future, you walk through it, and you'll have a future. And I'll shut the door behind you to your enemies, so they won't be able to get at you.

And it doesn't matter if 10,000 of them bang on that door, they can find the biggest battering ram that hell has to offer. But I close it, and nobody can open it. Nobody, nobody can catch you from behind when I open the door before you and you make the choice to walk through it.

He says in verse 8, I know your words. And I'm so thankful that God speaks kindly to us, even though he knows us. He knows everything about us.

He knows what we think before we think it. He knows where we're going before we go there. He knows our struggles, our strengths, the most intimate details of our life, he knows it.

But yet in spite of knowing it, the good as well as the bad, he comes to us with kindness. Because the law of kindness is in our God. Remember the temple song, God is good and his mercy endures forever.

I know your words. You know, I'm thinking tonight of those that you're struggling with besetting sin, or you're doing or going, thinking, places and things that you know are not right. And you really don't want to do these things because you do believe in God.

You do believe in a Redeemer. You do believe in a heaven and a hell. And you say, God, I'm coming to church, but I have so little strength.

I've not denied your name and I believe your word, but God almighty, I have so little strength. And pastors in this church are talking about difficult days ahead. If it gets any more difficult than it is now, I don't know what I'm going to do.

I don't know where I'm going to find the strength. I don't know how I'm going to keep from falling apart in this generation I'm now living in. And the Lord says, but I know your words.

But I've sent before you an open door that no man can shut it. For you have a little strength, and you've kept my word, and you've not denied my name. You have a little strength.

Not a lot of strength, but a little strength. And you believe that this is the word of God. You may not always walk in complete success and victory, but you believe it.

You've kept it, in a sense. It doesn't mean you're meticulously perfect in every letter of the law or the word of God, but you've kept it. You've held to it.

You've not watered it down. You've not tried to explain it away. You believe that what it says is what the word of God means.

And you've not denied. While so many people are so casually casting out and down and around the name of Jesus Christ, you have kept his name. There's a reverence of his name in your heart.

You cringe. You may not have the courage to say anything, but you cringe when his name is cursed in the workplace. Something inside.

You've kept his name. You're not among those that are casually throwing his name around in every fashion of our day. He said, Behold, I'll make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews and are not, but do lie.

In other words, those who say they know me, but they don't. I will make them to come and worship before your feet, to know that I have loved you. God says, I've opened a door to you.

If you walk through that door, I will bless you so powerfully that even your enemies will have to acknowledge that my hand is on you. I'll bless you with a new mind. I'll bless you with a new heart.

I'll bless you with the provision you need to get through life. I'll bless you with strength that does not come from anything of the natural. I'll bless you.

It's a supernatural blessing. It's the power of God coming into your life. It's the power of the creative thinking of God in your mind.

The power of a heart does not cringe or fall or falter because bad news comes around the corner every second of the day. No, somebody who knows where they're going, and they know who's going to get them there. Because you've kept the word of my patience, verse 10, I will also keep you from the hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world to try them that dwell upon the earth.

God says there's a time coming, Church of Philadelphia, that's going to try everybody in the world. But if you will get up and go through this door that I set before you, it's the door of life that can only be found in Christ. It's the door of forgiveness of your sin.

It's the door of the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. It's the door of the clarity of thinking because of the word of God. If you will get up and go through this door, I will keep you from the hour of trial.

It doesn't mean you won't go through it, but it won't go through you. I will close the door to it. It will not have the power to overwhelm you.

You'll go into the fire, but you'll go through it. It will not consume you. You'll go into the flood, but it will not drown you.

It will not overwhelm you. I will be with you. I will guide you with mine eye.

I will hold you in the strength of my hand. Behold, I come quickly, says in verse 11. Hold fast that which you have, that no man take your crown.

Don't let a contradictory argument of the frailty of your own heart, nor of any demonic power of hell take this truth from you. Take this promise from your heart. Take this position in God that is freely offered to you

through Jesus Christ.

God says, I offer you something. You cannot find it in human strength. You cannot find it in the philosophies of man.

You cannot find it even in your own religious zeal. It is something that comes into the heart through faith. It is a supernatural touch of Almighty God that comes in to the heart and the life of the man or woman that realizes, as Jesus said in the Gospel of John, I am the door.

You come in through me, says you'll go in and out and you'll find power. I am the door. There's no other door.

I'm the door. It's my life that I'm willing to give to you. It's my power.

It's my strength that I'm willing to plant within you. Verse 12, he said, him that overcomes. Now you have to overcome.

You and I have to overcome. We have to choose whom we're going to serve. We have to choose where we're going to walk.

We have to make a choice. Antoinette shared tonight, she had to make a choice. God was speaking, but she had to make a choice.

Do I obey his voice? Do I go where he's leading? It means leaving my six-figure salary and having everyone think I'm nuts and going home and just praying. But do I choose to obey God? He that overcomes. He that overcomes.

The frailty, the fears of the human heart, the what-ifs, this doesn't work. As if God is a man who can lie. But he who overcomes, he said, I will make a pillar in the temple of my God and he shall go no more out.

A pillar. Christ said, I will make you in my house. No longer coming in, seeing, evaluating and going back out again to weakness.

Coming in, singing, listening, going back out to bondage. Coming in, trying to understand and comprehend, going back out to the frailties of this life and the human heart. He said, if you go through the door, I'll make you a pillar in the temple of God.

You'll be planted in the temple of God. There'll be no more going back out to the old bondages. And he says, and I'll write upon him the name of my God.

The father God, the father of all comfort, the father of all mercy. I'll write upon you the name of my God, Jesus said. My father, merciful, kind, long-suffering, gentle, kind even to the unthankful and the unholy.

I'll write his name, he said upon you. Hallelujah. The father's love will be in your heart.

And he says, in the name of the city of my God, which is New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from my God. Not only the father's name when I write upon you, but I'll write upon you the name of promises of things to come. Hallelujah.

You will have a heart that is alive with the promises of God. Alive with the future that is promised of God, no matter what's happening around you in the world at this time. You go through the door and he says, I

will write this name on you.

And lastly, he says, and I will write upon him my new name. King of kings, Lord of lords, more than a conqueror, victorious savior. The one who triumphed over the powers of darkness.

He said, I will write upon you my new name. Hallelujah. I'll write it upon you.

I will engrave it as it is into your character. It's not just as if God comes with a pen and just tattoos you with something. No, it goes deeper than that.

I'll write it in you. The name of God will be written in you. At every level of your character and your being, you'll begin to grow and move and live in the grace of almighty God.

I set before you, Philadelphia, an open door. He that has an ear, let him hear what the spirit says unto the churches. I guess the question tonight, the Lord puts into my heart, can you hear when God is speaking to you? And if you can hear, are you willing to say, God, I believe this is true.

And I believe this word is for me. And I believe I've heard a testimony tonight that confirms it. So by the grace of God, I'm getting out of where I am and I'm going through the door.

I'm coming to Christ. Jesus, if you're willing to take me, I give you everything I am. I'll give you my faults and my sins and my failure, my struggles, my fears.

I give it all. And Christ says, I gladly take it. You bring it all to me.

And you come through that door of forgiveness that was freely offered you on a cross 2,000 years ago. And you give me what you have and I'll give you now what I have. I'll give you a new mind.

I'll give you a new heart, a new future, a new hope, a new strength, a new joy, a new glory. I'll give you protection the world can't afford and doesn't give anyone. I'll so bless you.

I'll so come into your life. I'll so walk with you that people who hate you will have to acknowledge that I have loved you. Praise be to God.

Praise be to God. Praise be to God. Jesus Christ is the door.

He's not only the door to eternal life. He's the door to life. He's the door to protection.

He's the door to everything that you've ever longed for in your heart that was planted there because you were created in the image of God. You'll never find this outside of the life of Christ. The time of trial is coming to the whole world, folks.

You'll be able to stand. He says, I'll keep you from it. Don't let anybody take this crown from you.

I'm going to give an altar call. And it's an altar call for everybody here tonight that says, Oh, Jesus, I hear you calling to me. And you set before me a door of forgiveness.

You set before me a door of incredible grace, which means I don't deserve this. But God, in your mercy to me, you've opened it to me and offered it to me. And Lord, with the little strength I have and the little faith I can muster in my heart, I'm coming.

And God, I'm going to believe that what you say to me is the truth. I'm going to give you the right to my life. I'm going to accept your offer of forgiveness through the cross where you paid for my sin.

But I'm going to give you the reins of my life. I'm going to go through this door. And I'm asking you tonight to close everything behind me that needs to be left behind.

My old way of thinking, my old way of living, my old way of doing. God, close the door and open the door tonight to me to a new life. If that's you tonight, could you just unashamedly say, Pastor, I know this is God speaking to my heart.

I know I've come here with a question. And God in his mercy has answered it tonight. And I'm willing, I'm willing tonight to receive Christ as my Savior and go through this door and the life that he promises me.

Could you raise your hand? All over the sanctuary. Just do that. God bless you all over the sanctuary.

Praise God. Now, for those who raised, we're going to stand in a moment. For those who raised your hand, would you take a step of faith? Now, it's just a step of faith.

The issue is really an issue of the heart. But he said, I set before you an open door. So I'm just going to ask you to get out of your seat in a moment and come to this altar as a sign that you're going through this door.

You're making that first physical step to come towards Jesus Christ. And say, Lord Jesus, I give you the rights to my life. Now, many raised their hands.

In a moment, I'm going to ask you to slip out and come here. We're going to pray together. We're going to believe God that this door where you go through, you're going to keep on going through it.

Now, there may be others here that you brought a friend with you. And maybe your friend's a little scared to make that public proclamation by himself or herself. So you can turn to your friend and say, if you want to go there, I'll go with you.

That's completely acceptable. We all need help to make that step. Let's stand it as we worship.

Let's all stand. You'd slip out of your seats. Those who want Christ as Savior, you want the life that he offers.

Folks, the hour is late. Get out of your seat now. Don't let anything stop you.

There's no sin he can't break. There's no power of evil he can't destroy. There's no bondage deep enough that he can't set you free.

There's no fear so great that faith can't overcome it. Don't go to hell when you can go to heaven. Don't live in bondage when you can be free.

Hallelujah. I set before you an open door, Jesus said. It's an open door to you.

I beg you. Young people, my friend, my brother, my sister, I beg you in Christ's name. Walk through the door tonight.

Walk through this door to life. Make the journey now. Unashamedly join these young people that are coming this evening.

The Bible says that angels in heaven are rejoicing over you. That's what the Bible said. Jesus said that.

Angels in heaven are rejoicing for those of you who are coming tonight. And you're receiving the forgiveness of all the wrong things you've done against God and man. All the violations of God's ways and God's law.

That Jesus took all of that penalty on himself on the cross. And he died in your place. And not only did he die, but then he offers forgiveness in life.

He said, I set before you a door. And I'm going to close the door to your old ways and your old sins and your old captivities. And I'm going to open a brand new door before you.

A new life, a new heart, a new mind. And nobody's going to take that from you. Nobody.

Young lady, look at me. Nobody's going to take it from you. You understand? Nobody.

Nobody. Nobody's going to take it. Now, here's how you go through the door.

Let's just pray a prayer together tonight. Would we do this? Lord Jesus. I am a sinner.

I'm sorry for my sin. I'm sorry that my sin. Sent you to a cross.

To die such a brutal death. But I am thankful. That you went to a cross.

Because you loved me. With a passionate love. And you wanted to give me life.

On this earth. And for eternity. Tonight.

You've invited me. To go through a new door. Of forgiveness.

And life. In Jesus Christ. And to close the door.

On all the things. And all the ways. That I have been living.

Apart from God. I accept this. Invitation.

Of God's mercy. Into my heart. And into my life.

Jesus Christ. Son of God. From this day forward.

You are. The Lord. Of my life.

Lead me. Guide me. Show me.

Teach me. Help me. Open to me.

The ways of God. And write on my name. The name of your victory.

The name of your life. I thank you God. That you will give me the power.

Not to turn back. To my old ways of living. But to go forward.
Into the new life. In God. That you have promised me.
Lord you promised me a new name. A new future. A new heart.
And protection. From all of my fears. And all of my failures.
My heart is so glad tonight. I'm encouraged. I feel oh God.
Like a new life. Has just opened up. Before me.
I love you Jesus. I love you Lord. I love you.
God I love you. Thank you. For saving me.
Amen. Hallelujah. Give him praise.

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