I HAVE SET BEFORE YOU AN OPEN DOOR

Rev.3:8 - I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it...

I was praying on the last day of the year in 2017 and I kept hearing this verse of scripture in my heart, “I have set before you an open door”. One of the beautiful things about the Word of God is that it is alive and active. That means that it speaks specifically to us; it also means that it applies to many people and circumstances in our lives. In other words, the Word of God can have many applications in our lives. The first thing I thought of when I heard this verse was that the Lord is giving us fresh access into His heavenly places. I know we always have access into His presence by faith in His blood, but sometimes there are open doors for more of heaven itself in our lives. I believe we are moving into one of those seasons. Here is an interesting comment from Albert Barnes on today’s verse.

“He had given them the most unlimited privileges. The temple of salvation was thrown open to them; the celestial city was accessible; the whole world was before them as a field of usefulness, and anywhere, and everywhere, they might do good, and at all times they might have access to the kingdom of God.”

Open your heart wide as we begin this new year. Expect fresh outpourings and infusions of His glory. This verse also speaks to open doors of fruitful ministry. There are clearly distinct seasons of harvest from the Lord. I believe that is what the Lord is saying. He is giving an open door of fruitful ministry in this season. Here are some thoughts from john Gill on today’s verse.

“This "open door" may design an uncommon opportunity of preaching the Gospel; and a very great freedom of mind in the preachers of it, and great attention in the hearers, whose hearts will be opened to observe, receive, and embrace it; and a very large gathering in of souls to Christ, and his churches; much and frequent preaching of the word with great success, which it will not be in the power of any creature to stop or hinder: now will the abundance of the sea, the forces of the Gentiles flow in, and the nation of the Jews shall be born at once...”

I love those seasons of harvest. Engage in ministry, walk through the open doors of opportunity. This may be a time of unprecedented harvest in the kingdom of GOD.
I. WHAT DOORS ARE OPENING IN YOUR LIFE IN 2018

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WHAT DOORS ARE OPENING IN YOUR LIFE IN 2018?

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What kinds of open doors are opening up before you in the next year? The Lord opens doors that no man can shut, we just have to be in a place to see them and be willing to go through them. I was recently looking up today's verse in several commentaries. Here is a short thought from several of them. John Wesley spoke about a door of joy open to us as we serve the Lord.

"I have given before thee an opened door - To enter into the joy of thy Lord; and, meantime, to go on unhindered in every good work."

The Lord is the source of all of our joy. The good news is that it multiplies when we are involved in His endeavors.

II. HE OPENS THE PRISON DOORS

Acts 16:26,27 - Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open,

OPEN PRISON DOORS

Is 61:1 - The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God to bring liberty to every area of our lives. This scripture applies the picture of being held captive in a prison to all those who
are outside of Christ. It is in the gospel that prison doors are opened and we are free to
march through into our brand new lives. Our bondage seems to come in two basic
ways. The first (and most obvious) one is being enslaved to sin. Each one of us were
born with this inner nature of sinfulness. It is our common heritage being born as part
of a fallen race. Our natures are engrossed with sin, sin is what we are so sin is what
we do. The first open door we ever encounter in life is the one where the prison doors
of slavery to sinfulness swing open as we hear and embrace the gospel. The gospel is
the power of God and sets the captives free.
The second and more subtle bondage is the enslavement to some system of works.
For the jewish race it was the law of Moses. Every religion or self help program has
invented another form of or a type of the law. Though the principles may be good they
contain no power to change our lives. The open door into freedom is found only in the
gospel.
Most humans are bound in some degree to both of these types of slavery. Sadly, many
Christians, after finding freedom from the prison of sin, embrace another system of
works that brings them another kind of bondage. Still other Christians, after apparently
being forgiven from their past indiscretions, return to sinful behavior because of a
misunderstanding of grace. Whether it is enslavement to sin or some system of works
freedom is nowhere in sight and so locked up in a cell is where you stay.
There remains an open door in front of all of us. The open door is forgiveness and
deliverance from sin by the power of the gospel. The gospel is our open door into a
whole new life. Staying in that place of freedom is possible by the power of the Spirit.
Walk in the Spirit and you will stay free, where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty.

III. OPEN DOOR TO THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

OPEN DOOR IN HEAVEN

Rev.4:1,2 - After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven.
And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come
up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.” Immediately I was
in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.
IV. OPEN DOORS OF MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Col.4:2-2 - Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

V. OPEN THE DOOR OF YOUR HEART

Rev.3:20 - Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

God’s Word to the lukewarm Laodicean Church

Rev.3:15-19 - “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, “I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing”—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.”
VI. DOOR OF FAITH

Acts 14:27 - Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

VII. DOOR OF CHRIST’S RETURN

James 5:9 - Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!