

CLOSED DOORS, OPEN DOORS – REV. 3:7-8

⁶ Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. ⁷ When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. **Acts 16:6-7 (NIV)**

➤ *There are few, if any, answers from the Lord for “Why?” questions.*

1. WHO HOLDS THE KEY?

⁷ "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. ⁸ I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. **Revelation 3:7-8 (NIV)**

2. A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF CLOSED AND OPEN DOORS

¹ He came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose father was a Greek. ... ⁵ So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers. **Acts 16:1, 5 (NIV)**

⁶ Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. ⁷ When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. ⁸ So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. ⁹ During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. **Acts 16:6-10 (NIV)**

¹¹ From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day on to Neapolis. ¹² From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days. ¹³ On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴ One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.

Acts 16:11-14 (NIV)

3. CLOSED AND OPEN DOORS STILL HAPPEN

²² I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. **Isaiah 22:22 (NIV)**

¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. **Revelation 1:18 (NIV)**

4. FOUR GUIDELINES FOR DEALING WITH OPEN AND CLOSED DOORS

A. Since God is Sovereign, He is in full control

B. Being in full control, God takes full responsibility for the results.

C. The closing of a good opportunity occurs in order to lead you to a better one.

D. Not until we walk through the open door will we realize the necessity of the previously closed one.