

Open Doors
Pastor Joe Oakley
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How many of you are believing God to open a door for you? We all are. We need God to make a way for us to get in somewhere or to get out of some places. We need God to cause the stopped-up places in our lives to open up and flow freely again. We need God to help us break out of some areas where we are stuck. We need God to open doors for us at home, at work and in everyday life!

In praying about what to preach I felt led to preach a series called Open. I read every Bible verse that had the word open or opened or opening in it. I also studied what the word open means.

Open can be a noun or a verb. The noun means an opening through which you enter or exit. This speaks of doors or gates.

The Biblical verb for open mean to open wide. It also means to loosen, unstop, to cause to flow, to break forth, to set free, to begin or to plough. All of us have areas of life where we need God to open doors for us. Fortunately,

1- God has given us keys to open doors

In Matthew 16:18-19 Jesus said:

On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

In one of the most important passages in the Bible about the church – Jesus said He was giving us the keys of the kingdom. Yet, if I asked you what those keys are – would you know?

In our house we have a key rack just inside the garage door. We hang our keys there when we walk in the house so we don't waste time looking for them when we're ready to leave. Over the years we've lived in that house, many keys to various locks had accumulated on that rack. Awhile back Pastor Deb and I were doing a deep cleaning of our house. One of the things we did was to go through the keys on that rack and there were many keys hanging that we didn't know what locks they went to – maybe to something we no longer had or to a lock that had been broken and fixed and now used a different key.

What I discovered was this – having a key that I could not identify or match to a lock is as useless as not having a key at all. What good are keys you cannot use? That is the exact problem many Christians face today. We have a bunch of keys to the kingdom of God that we don't know how to use.

In our natural lives, there are 5 basic types of keys-

1. A piece of metal used to open or lock a door
2. A set of answers for a test – known as “the answer key”
3. The thing that will do the most to help you achieve something – i.e., “proper planning is the key to success.”
4. The thing that provides understanding to something – i.e., “The key to his behavior was his unhappy childhood.”
5. The thing that provides a solution to a problem – i.e., “The key to our scientific breakthrough was our research team.”

I want you to understand that the keys of the kingdom provide all of these things for us. The Keys of the Kingdom:

- open and close doors in life
- provide answers for the tests of life
- help us succeed in life
- provide the understanding we need in life
- provide solutions to the problems of life

Think about it. What do keys do? Lock or unlock. Open or close. Bind or loose. And God has given us the authority to bind and loose in Jesus’ name! Bind means: to tie up, make unmovable, stop, put an end to, forbid, refuse to allow. Loose means to: unfasten, unbind, untie, release, pardon, and forgive.

One of our ministries is to set captives free. We do this through prayer, intercession and spiritual warfare. Things people need to be loosed from include: Demons, curses, sins of the fathers, deception, false teaching, soul ties, unhealthy relationships, addictions, any bondage.

We have the power to bind and loose. We have the keys of the kingdom. How do we use them to open doors?

2- Doors open through prayer

In Colossians 4:2-4, Paul said:

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Paul was in prison as he wrote this letter. But he did not ask people to pray for an open door to get out of prison. He prayed for an open door to share the good news about Jesus.

We too need to pray for discernment about open doors. Then we must walk through the open doors.

Acts 14:27 says God opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. In 1 Corinthians 16:8-9, Paul said:

I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.

Just because you face some opposition doesn't mean the door isn't open! But sometimes the door does slam in our face. For instance, Paul said in Romans 1:13

Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now).

So – who's doing the hindering? Sometimes it's people. Sometimes it's Satan. 1 Thessalonians 2:18 says:

We wanted to come to you — even I, Paul, time and again — but Satan hindered us.

Obviously, Satan does not want to use the keys of the kingdom to open doors and will do anything to stop us. But look at Acts 16:6-10

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. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 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.

Notice that the Holy Spirit closed some doors to Paul. Why? Because of timing. The people of Asia and Bithynia were not ready yet to receive the good news, but the people of Macedonia were. So, God closed some doors to open another.

What I want you to see is that Paul knocked on every door. If the door wouldn't open, he moved on to the next one and the next one until he found an open door.

This is what happens with our Taking Jesus to the Streets teams. They go out knocking on doors. Some doors are closed, but they keep knocking until they find an open door to share. They don't try to force their way through a closed door.

And it's the same for all of us in our life of faith. Some doors are open and some are closed. We need discernment about what doors God wants to open. So, we should pray about that and ask God to open those doors according to His will!

And we should not give up if they don't open at first!

The Amplified Version of Matthew 7:7-8 says:

Keep on asking and it will be given you; keep on seeking and you will find; keep on knocking and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who keeps on asking receives; and he who keeps on seeking finds; and to him who keeps on knocking, the door will be opened.

So always pray and never give up.

3- Doors open through Praise

That is why our vision is to touch heaven and change earth! When we touch heaven through our corporate worship and prayer – it opens doors on earth! Praise draws people to God and it opens the door for God’s presence. Psalm 118:19-20 says:

Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter.

What is the gate through which we enter God’s presence? Isaiah 60:18 tells us!

You will call your walls Salvation and your gates Praise.

That’s why Psalm 100:4 says:

Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise.

Praise is the key to opening the door to God and closing the door to the enemy! The key of praise works by providing access. A key gives you instant access to everything that key opens. That access gives us freedom. When you have the keys, you are free to come and go as you please.

I remember when Deb and I bought our house. When it was finished we wanted to start moving our stuff in. But the deal had not closed yet so that house was not ours yet. So, the builder refused to give us the key until we actually owned it. Once we owned it – we were given the key. That gave us free access to the house and we could open and close it.

Likewise, the keys of the kingdom give us instant access to all the resources of heaven! It opens doors for us and others! That’s what happened to Paul and Silas when there were put in jail. Acts 16:25-26 says:

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose.

The keys of prayer and praise open doors for us and others!

4- Biblically, keys represent 2 things: authority and knowledge.

Keys work by giving us authority to open or to close. Not everyone who works in business is a key holder. Only those with authority. By giving us the keys to the kingdom, Jesus gave us authority.

Keys also represent knowledge. They are the laws and principles of the kingdom of God. But we must not just know the word – we must be doers of the word. That's because keys activate function.

Have you ever locked your keys in your car? I have and it's very frustrating. There sits a perfectly good car, in working order, full of gas, ready to take you anywhere you want to go. But without the keys, you cannot start the car!

It's the same way with the kingdom of God. It's always there, in working order, full of power, but without the keys to the kingdom, you go nowhere!

Keys cannot be substituted by need, feelings or wishful thinking.
If you are locked out of your car, you are going nowhere.
No matter how much you need to move.
No matter how bad you feel about not moving.
No matter how much you wish you were moving – you're going nowhere without keys.

It's the same way in the kingdom of God. Just needing something is not enough!
No matter how much desire for good you have or how bad you feel about where you are in life – you'll go nowhere without keys. Keys are the key to the kingdom of God!

Revelation 3:7-8 says this about Jesus:

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. I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.

What's the key of David? King David built a palace on Mount Zion; and as you can imagine, not just anyone had a key to that house. Whoever had those keys had authority in the government. They must have been very trustworthy because they had access to the king's treasures and armory and food and family – and they had access to the king himself!

Just as King David was the highest authority in Israel, so is Jesus the highest authority in the kingdom of heaven.

Think about it, King David could shut or open the kingdom of Israel to whomever he pleased. He had complete control! Likewise, the kingdom of God is under the control of Christ. He can open it to whomever He pleases and shut it to whom He will. His decisions will stand forever and none can reverse them.

When Jesus opens a door, no one can shut it. When He closes a door, no one can open it.

What are the doors He opens?

- Acts 16:14 says He opens the door of people's hearts
- Revelation 4:1 says He opens the door to heaven
- Colossians 4:3 says He opens doors to speak His word
- Luke 24:45 says He opens our understanding of the Scriptures
- Acts 14:27 says He opens the door to faith
- 1 Cor. 16:9 says He opens the door to ministry

In that passage the apostle Paul said-

A great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.

When God opens the door to you, it doesn't matter who opposes you!

When God opens a door, no one can shut it!

No devil in hell or no circumstance on earth can shut what God opens!

2 Kings 20:12-17 tells the story of how the King of Babylon sent messengers to King Hezekiah when he was sick. They brought presents, but they were really there as spies. Verse 13 says that:

Hezekiah was attentive to them, and showed them all the house of his treasures - the silver and gold, the spices and precious ointment, and all his armory - all that was found among his treasures. There was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.

The prophet Isaiah rebuked Hezekiah for showing his enemies everything in his kingdom.

What I want to show you from this story is what things were under lock and key in the kingdom. There were three main storerooms: the king's treasury, the king's armory and the king's apothecary. They held the king's wealth, the king's weapons and the king's anointing.

Hezekiah got in trouble for opening doors that should've been kept closed. In the natural, a kingdom never reveals all its assets, weapons or power. In worldly kingdoms, certain things are kept under lock and key. You must have top secret clearance to access certain places and certain information.

But here's what I love –

5- In the kingdom of God, all citizens have all the keys to the kingdom!

All citizens of God's kingdom have clearance for all information.

All citizens of God's kingdom have an all access pass to everything.

In fact – one of the keys of the kingdom gives you open access to the very throne room of God. You can enter the presence of the Ruler of the Universe at any time – boldly and confidently – because He gave you the key!! It’s a key called the blood of Jesus!

I told you earlier how businesses do not give everyone a key. But in the kingdom of God – our King has given everyone in His kingdom the keys to the kingdom. And He expects us to use those keys!

When I managed a store, I gave certain trustworthy people keys to open and close the door. On the days I opened or closed, I used the keys. But on the days someone else was scheduled to open the store, I did not want them calling me to come in and open up. I wanted them to open the store – that’s why I gave them a key.

And many of us are waiting around for God to open or close a door and I believe He’s saying to us, “I gave you the keys of the kingdom... so use them!” Those keys give us access to the King’s treasury, the King’s armory and the King’s anointing.

So – whenever we have a need – we use the keys of the kingdom to access the wealth of heaven. That’s why Philippians 4:19 says

My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

God will supply how many needs? All!
 How will He supply? According to His riches!
 And where are those riches? In glory!
 The keys of the kingdom unlock the treasures of God in heaven!

They also unlock the King’s armory! Did you know God has an armory? Jeremiah 50:25 says:

The Lord has opened His arsenal and brought out the weapons of His wrath.

So, whenever the devil attacks – you can access the armor and weapons of God and overcome every attack of the evil one.

And the keys of the kingdom give us access to God’s anointing. So – when you’re feeling weak – use those keys to tap into God’s power – it’s the power of the Holy Spirit. So, I encourage you today to begin using the keys of the kingdom of God.

- When we’re sick, we have a key called the blood of Jesus.
- When we need wisdom, we have a key called prayer.
- When we feel like we aren’t good enough, we have a key called the grace of God.
- When we need direction, we have a key called the word of God.

- When we feel alone, we have the keys of the presence of God and the family of God.
- When the enemy attacks, we have a key called the name of Jesus.
- When we're been hurt by other people, we have a key called forgiveness.
- When we're depressed, we have a key called the garment of praise.
- When we feel condemnation, we have a key called the righteousness of God.
- When we're afraid, we have a key called faith!
- When we have a need, we have a key called tithes and offerings that causes God to open up the windows of heaven and pour out blessing!

You have the keys to the kingdom and you can access the wealth of heaven, the wisdom of heaven and the power and anointing of God!

You have access into the very throne room of God!

You have the authority to overcome the evil one!

You have the keys to the kingdom... so start using them in Jesus' name!