

A GREAT DOOR

⁹ *because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.*

1 Corinthians 16:9

I. Where was Paul when a great and effectual door opened to him?

* Paul was in Ephesus, one of the largest pagan Roman cities in the world, demonic resistance was crumbling. The hour had come for the Good news of Jesus to triumph.

II. Four facts about the open and effectual door.

A. Fact #1. It was Paul's door! "...a great door is opened unto me, ..."

The words "unto me" come from the Greek word "moi" meaning "uniquely to me"

Paul was keenly aware this door was uniquely open to him.

B. Fact #2. It was a great door! "...a great and effectual door..."

The word "great" is "mega", something "huge" or "massive."

C. Fact #3. It was a unique opportunity unseen before!

The word "door" is "Thura."

A metaphor describing a unique opportunity for Paul.

D. Fact #4. It was a powerful door! "...an effectual door."

The Greek word is "energes" meaning a forceful, effective, active, powerful door.

E. This door opened uniquely to Paul creating a divine release of power that engulfed the entire city of Ephesus.

III. The companion of an open door / Many adversaries

A. "Adversaries" in the Greek is "antikeimai." Something "lying around waiting for an opportunity to strike."

B. Paul was very aware that there were deceptive people opposed to him, who would love to remove him and steal the place God had given him in Ephesus.

C. On the other side of every great and effectual door there are enemies who desire to steal your opportunity for themselves.

D. As God opens this new opportunity unique to you, walk through the door

and expect the power of God to be mightily released.

- E. Yet be sensitive to the Holy Spirit who will warn you if anyone seeks to sneak up behind you to steal that which God has given you.

VI. Beyond the open door / Themes from Ephesus

- A. Ephesus was an important city of 250,000 people. The site of one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, the Temple of Artemis.
- B. In Ephesus the most hotly debated verses about the role of women in leadership were written. There was an overwhelming influence of women over men in the city. Gender roles were deeply confused.

- C. Apollos was discipled and trained in Ephesus. (Acts 18:24 -27)

²⁴ Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. ²⁵ He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. ²⁶ He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately. ²⁷ When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers and sisters encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. When he arrived, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed.

- D. This sick were healed with usual manifestations. (Acts 19:12)

¹² so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

- E. There was great authority against demonic spirits. (Acts 19:13-17)

¹³ Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." ¹⁴ Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. ¹⁵ One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?" ¹⁶ Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. ¹⁷ When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor.

F. Magic books and all occult fetishes were destroyed. (Acts 19:19)

¹⁹ *A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas.*

G. Paul was horribly opposed by Demetrius.

H. There were false apostles. (Revelation 2:4)

⁴ *Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.*

I. False doctrines. (I Timothy 6:20-21)

²⁰ *Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge,*
²¹ *which some have professed and in so doing have departed from the faith. Grace be with you all.*

J. Some had an unhealthy interest in myths, genealogies, and false understandings of the Bible. (I Timothy 1:4)

⁴ *or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God's work-- which is by faith.*

K. Paul had to name individuals who were teaching false doctrine or were corrupting the faith.

Hymaneus (I Timothy 1:20; II Timothy 2:17),
Alexander (I Timothy 1:20), and
Philetus (II Timothy 2:17).