

## CLOSED DOORS – Sermon by Stephanie Smith

### ***Trusting God, Moving Forward, and Stepping Into What's Next***

**Key Scripture -Revelation 3:7 (NKJV)** “These things says He who is holy, He who is true, ‘He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens.’”

**We don't always like closed doors.** Let's be honest—when a door shuts, our first reaction is usually confusion, disappointment, or even grief. We knock again. We peek through the window. We replay the “what ifs.”

#### **But a closed door in God's hands is not rejection—it's redirection.**

Sometimes God closes a door because what's behind it no longer fits who He's shaping you to become.

#### **Biblical Truth**

God is sovereign over doors—**open and closed.**

What God closes, no amount of effort can reopen.

And what God opens, no obstacle can stop.

Closed doors are often **answers to prayers we prayed in faith** but didn't recognize when the answer came.

#### **Biblical Points**

##### **1. God Closes Doors for Our Protection**

###### **Proverbs 16:9 (NKJV)**

“A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.”

Some doors close because God sees what we cannot see.

He sees the harm, the delay, the distraction, or the detour that would pull us away from His purpose.

A closed door is often God saying, “*I love you too much to let you walk into that.*”

## 2. Closed Doors Require Trust, Not Resistance

### Isaiah 55:8–9 (NKJV)

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the Lord.”

Fighting a closed door leads to frustration.  
Trusting God through a closed door leads to peace.

Sometimes obedience looks like **walking away without full understanding.**

## 3. Moving On Is an Act of Faith

### Philippians 3:13–14 (NKJV)

“Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead...”

You cannot step into what's next while holding onto what God has already closed.

Faith means releasing the past—even when it felt good, familiar, or comfortable.

Closed doors teach us to **move forward without dragging yesterday behind us.**

## 4. God Always Has Another Door Ahead

### 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

**God never closes a door without preparing another path—**  
sometimes not immediately visible, but always purposeful.

What feels like an ending is often God preparing a **new beginning**.

### Holy Highlights

- Closed doors are **not failures**—they are divine guidance.
- God’s “no” is just as loving as His “yes.”
- When God shuts a door, He’s protecting your future, not punishing your past.

### Praying Through Closed Doors

Closed doors are invitations to pray, not panic.

### Prayer Focus

- Pray for **peace** instead of answers
- Pray for **strength** instead of control
- Pray for **trust** instead of clarity
- Pray for **courage** to keep walking forward

### Guided Prayer for Strength and Forward Movement

**Dear Father God,**

We thank You for being the God who opens and closes doors. Even when we don’t understand, we choose to trust You. Help us release what You have closed and give us the strength to stop looking back. Heal our hearts where the door closing hurt, and steady our steps as we move forward in faith. We pray for courage to walk into what You have prepared and wisdom to leave behind what no longer serves Your purpose. We trust that You are leading us—step by step—into Your perfect will. In Jesus’ mighty name, Amen. 

## Faith Declarations (Speak These Out Loud!)

- I trust God with every closed door in my life.
- I release the past and step forward in faith.
- God is guiding my steps, even when the path is unclear.
- What God has for me is greater than what I left behind.

## Conclusion

If God closed the door, don't camp there.

Don't knock again.

Don't mourn what God removed.

Lift your head, straighten your crown, and keep walking. 

The same God who closed that door is already standing at the next one—waiting for you to arrive.

Notes:

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