



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

MINISTRY OF BIBLICAL STUDIES Handout

Rev. Leon Perry, III., Senior Servant

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**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 3:8



Welcome to the Metropolitan Community Church

Ministry of Biblical Study Classes

January 17, 2024

Open Doors in the Bible: What Doors Are God Opening For You?

How Can You Be Sure that An Open Door is One Opened by God?

Have you ever wondered if the door opening before you was opened by God? Or, perhaps if it was opened by Satan or neither?

This can be difficult to discern, but you can use the keys or "tests" below to help you identify if the open door is from God.

1. Does it line up with scripture?

The first and I believe one of the most important tests of evaluation is whether or not it lines up with scripture. God will not open a door to sin.

If an open door causes you to break a law, hurt another or find pleasure purely in the flesh, you can be sure that this open door is not from God.

Often, I hear women describe an opportunity that they believe was God opening a door. One shared that she received a job offer that would prevent her from attending Sunday services. Another, was meeting a man who was not a believer and put her in an uncomfortable situation (but "he's my soulmate", she gushed).

God will not open a door to an opportunity that does not line up with His Word.

As creations that are prone to sin, we tend to bend our wants and frame them in a way that convinces us that they are blessings from God.

If we have to bend the Word to fit our wants, that is a pretty clear indication that God did not open that door.

Hebrews 4:12

"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

2. Is it an Answered Prayer?

If you have been praying for something and a door opens, it may be an answer to prayer. Often, we will pray for something specific and, when it comes to pass, we question if it is the answered prayer or not.

God loves us and responds to our prayers – not always the way we expect, but He always answers.

If we are petitioning the Lord for a desire of our heart, know that God will answer and, possibly even perform miracles. Nothing is impossible for Him!

Mark 11:24

"Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

3. Has it Been Confirmed by Wise Counselors?

The Bible is rich with scripture advising us to seek wise counsel. If you are not sure if an open door is from God, seek out wisdom by a trusted godly friend, a Pastor or your small group.

Often, when we are close to a situation, we are unable to see it clearly. Wise counselors can listen and look for things that do not line up with scripture or could potentially harm us without the same "rose colored glasses" that we may have on.

Proverbs 28:26

"Those who trust in themselves are fools, but those who walk in wisdom are kept safe."

4. Has it Been Confirmed in General?

If God opens a door, it will not stay open for a split second so that you have to make an immediate decision. If you are presented an opportunity, and it is from God, it will be confirmed in other ways.

You may receive advice about it, God may speak to you in prayer or you may come across confirming scripture in your daily quiet time with Him.

An open door from God will not be just a one-time fleeting thought. It will be confirmed in other ways.

Matthew 18:15-16

"But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses'."

5. Is it Uncomfortable?

If an open door is causing you to feel uncomfortable, it may be a sign that God is opening a door to release you from something.

As humans, we often act in ways that are destructive to us. Leaving those behaviors behind can be uncomfortable, but they are meant to release us from harm.

God uses some discomfort to help us grow into the person He created us to be.

Remember, when God is asking you to let go of something, it is victory, not defeat!

John 15:2

"He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."

6. Is it Causing You to Rely on Him?

Anything that God does in our lives is going to cause us to lean on Him – not grow away from Him.

He created us for connection – with Him and others. If the open door makes you feel you can do it on your own, then most likely, it is not of Him. If you find yourself thinking, “I can do this if God is with me”, then it is likely a door opened by Him.

Often open doors or opportunities from God cause our faith to be tested and strengthened. That is what He wants from us: to grow closer to Him and become more like Christ.

Psalm 18:2

“The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

7. Is it an Open Door You Didn't Pray for or Ask for?

This one really isn't a test as it is something to consider. There may be opportunities that arise that seem to “fall out of thin air”. Open doors that you haven't been praying for or possibly, even considered. God will bless the obedient.

Think about Mary, mother of Jesus. She sure didn't ask to get pregnant as an unmarried woman! Yet, her gift changed her life and the life of many millions of others.

If an opportunity falls in your lap, consider the other “tests” and if it passes, it may simply be a blessing from God.

God opens doors all of the time and He wants to bless His flock.

Proverbs 19:21

“Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.”

8. Did it Come to You in a Dream?

Throughout scripture, we read of numerous times that the Lord spoke to people in dreams. Jacob, Daniel, Joseph and more. Some were prophetic, some symbolic, and others informational.

When we dream, we can't argue or convince ourselves that these are not doors open by Him.

Prayerfully look over your recent dreams and see if you see a pattern or if you feel that God is opening a door to something for you.

Numbers 12:6

"He said, "Listen to my words: "When there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams."

9. Does it Bless Others?

When you look at this opportunity or open door, does it bless others? Not every open door will bless others, but many will. If it will harm others, then it most certainly would not be a God-opened door.

God calls us to bless others. When we do this, we let others see Him through us. However, not every opportunity that blesses others will come from him. For example, robbing a bank would be a financial blessing to your family but will hurt others in the process.

Consider the ripple effect of your open door before taking action.

Matthew 5:16

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

10. Does it Bring Peace?

When God opens a door, it should bring peace, not confusion. That's not to say that open doors won't be scary, at times, but you can still have peace in Him.

You may also face battles from the enemy when deciding to walk through an open door or once you've entered, but knowing that God is with you should bring you peace to face whatever the evil one throws at you.

Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

11. Has it Been Confirmed through Prayer?

Whenever you face a decision, go to Him in prayer. When you are evaluating if an open door is from Him or not, go to Him in prayer. Be quiet; be still and listen for His voice.

While the above "tests" can help confirm if an opportunity is from God or not, the ultimate confirmation is from hearing His voice. I caution you, though, not to dismiss an opportunity right away if you don't hear Him. Listening for His voice doesn't come easily for everyone, but the more time you spend in prayer and having fellowship with God, the more you will learn to discern if what you are hearing is His voice.

Ask Him for confirmation if the open door was opened by Him. Ask Him daily and listen, truly listen, without distraction.

John 10:27

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

These are just a few signs that an open door is from God. When you are presented with an opportunity, evaluate it through prayer, wise counsel and above all, His Word.

When the Lord Opens the Door

One of most powerful messages is that not every open door is meant to go through (it may be of Satan and not God). Don't let money, fame or circumstances determine if you should go through a door – only God's Word.

Now that's some important wisdom!

