

MCD Just Checking In 7/26/2007 **Open Doors, not easy opportunities.**

**Psalm 39:12 “Hear my prayer, O Lord... for I am a stranger with You...”**

**Open doors, not easy opportunities.**

**1 Co 16:9 ...a great and effective door** has opened to meí and there are **many adversariesí**

**2 Co 2:12 ...when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel... a door was opened to me by the Lord...**

God is the one who opens and closes doors. From Noah's ark to His title in Revelation 3:7 í from the bottomless pit, death and Hadesí to Lydia's heartí to the jail cell of Peter and the prison of Paulí from the temple veil to your place of witnessí our God opens doors.

You are where you are because God has opened a door for you.

Take a moment to jot down some doors He has opened for you recently, as well as in the more distant past.

Paul was also familiar with **closed doorsí** check out Acts 16:6-7. I am not at all sure what ðforbidden by the Spiritö means. Was it a vision, audible voice, prophetic warning, or what? But however the Spirit communicated, it is evident God had closed the door to the region Paul really wanted to go. God also left Paul seemingly stranded without future insight as they waited and wondered what was next. Finally the ðMacedonian visionö came and they ðwere confidentö God had led them to Philippi. But that open door did not mean it was an easy opportunity. It brought immediate opposition.

**We need to remember that open doors don't guarantee easy opportunities.**

ðAn extremely wide and powerful door has opened wide for me and there are many adversaries.ö 1 Cor 16:9

Paul refers to a ðmegaö door ó a powerful door of opportunity.

He realized that God had opened the door wide to allow Him to be where he was and to do what he was doing.

Paul also reminds us that ðopen doorsö include ðmany adversariesö. Adversaries = opposition.

**Divine Opportunities always include Satanic Opposition.**

***Focus on the opportunities, but don't forget the opposition...***

***Big doors*** call us to hope, planning, effort and perseverance.

***Many adversaries*** call us to humility, prayer, and spiritual watchfulness.

We pray for ðmega doorsö for you continually.

We also pray for your insight, courage, spiritual strength and perseverance in the face of continual opposition.

**God's sovereignty does not exclude Satan's activity. It limits it, but does not yet eliminate it. (Job 1-2)**

**In the midst of your “struggle”, God intends to deepen your dependency on Himself. He intends to purify your faith, stretch your vision, increase your endurance, develop your maturity, reveal your weaknesses and prove Himself present and sufficient.**

**In the face of open doors, praise God and move ahead.**

**In the face of adversaries, trust God and move ahead on your knees!**

**For further study on Adversaries:** Books of 1 Peter and Philippians

Gal 5:17 flesh & spirit Phil 1:28 not terrified by Luke 12:58 a brother offended 1 Peter 5:8 the devil

ðLord, I am here today because you are the Door Opener. But I am facing adversaries. My own flesh wars against the Spirit. Satan is ever at work. My shortcomings seem to grow larger every day. O God Who Delivers, deliver me from my adversaries. Rescue me from my sin, from my fears, from my enemies, from myself! Grant me a deeper trust, a deeper dependency, a deeper honesty, a deeper watchfulness in prayer than I have ever known. You have opened the door. Go with me into the harvest and prove yourself victorious over every adversary to your gospel and your everlasting Kingdom. I pray in the Name of He who is THE DOOR! Amen.

**Remember, we love you and are praying for you continually. Living with leaving in view.... Jn 9:4 Adios, Ron & Val**