

An Open Door ***(Pastor John T. Kurien)***

The church in Philadelphia (the sixth church mentioned in the book of Revelations) received a letter from our Lord Jesus Christ and a part of the letter said, “I know your works: behold, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it: for thou has a little strength, hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name” (Rev. 3:8). The writer, Jesus Christ, the savior of all, identifies Himself as the faithful witness, the first-born from the dead, the ruler over the kings of the earth, and the one who has the keys of Hades and of death in the first chapter of the book of Revelation.

Satan tries to stop many of our blessings, but praise the Lord, when Jesus opens the door, nobody else can shut it. Let us keep our confidence in Him who controls everything. In the ministry of the Apostle Paul, a great and effective door was opened but there were much opposition as well (1 Corinthians 16:9). Let us pray so that He will make openings for us, and openings for the gospel to be spread. If the Lord is the one who opens the door, then He will provide sufficient strength to go through it. Paul was not discouraged by the oppositions, but rather was emboldened and entered into the opportunity God gave him and preached very effectively. Our good Lord keeps many doors open and let us use those opportunities instead of making excuses. Our enemy is not made up of flesh or blood, but is Satan who is the eternal enemy of all saints. However, our Jesus has already won the victory over all the powers of Satan over two thousand years ago.

When Jesus looked at the Philadelphia church, He was pleased that they were able to keep the word of God. Yet, despite the fact it seemed that they could not do much with their own strength, they also did not deny His name. Since they only had a little strength, they needed to get more strength by waiting on the Lord. In Isaiah 40: 29 it says, “He gives power to the faint and weary , and to him who has no might He increases strength” (Amplified version). In 2 Corinthians 12:9 Jesus said to Paul, “My power is made perfect in weakness.” Our forefathers, the first generation of Keralites Pentecostals, kept the word even though they had to pay heavy prices for it. Some of them were dragged through the streets, considered as outcasts, hated by their own families, not welcomed at weddings, and not even at public places like barbershops. Fortunately God not only blessed those loved ones, but also their children with spiritual and material blessings. Jesus made a promise to the church that He will keep them from the hour of trial. It is meaningless to ask for the promises of God without keeping His words. Let us be faithful to the Lord and become intercessors for the city and villages where we reside, and win many for Jesus Christ so that His name may be glorified.