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More Than Conquerors

School of Theology

STUDENT GUIDE

OPEN DOORS - CLOSED DOORS



Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. John 4:35

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Message from the President.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Course Objectives	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
How to Use This Manual	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	6
1. Opened and Closed Doors	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7
2. When God Closes Doors	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	14
3. Unlocking Closed Doors.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	29
4. Spiritual Warfare-Part I	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	37
5. Spiritual Warfare-Part II	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	45
6. Delayed and Stolen Opportunities	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	53
7. Unlocking Doors Through Praise	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	60
8. Seedtime and Harvest	68
9. The Doors of Ministry	76
10. Faithfulness	83
Final Exam	95

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More Than Conquerors School of Theology

A Message from the President

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Doors! We encounter them each and every day of our lives. It is practically impossible to go throughout the day without walking through a door. Some doors are closed, which means we must reach down, turn the doorknob, and open the door before walking through it. Some doors are locked, which requires us to have the key if we want to enter through the passageway.

The same situation applies to the spiritual realm, and it can be used symbolically, referring to life's opportunities and blessings. There are times we try and try to accomplish something, taking advantage of an opportunity, but it doesn't work out. No matter what we do, it seems the door is closed on us. We can't get through!

There are doors of opportunity, doors of blessings, doors of financial prosperity, doors of education, doors of spiritual blessings, and so on. But not all of us seem to be able to walk through many of these doors.

Have you ever tried over and over again to obtain a goal that should have been easy to get to, but you can't ever seem to get there? Every time you make an effort, something gets in your way or opposes you. Each time it seems like you get to the entrance of receiving your objective, the doors slam shut in your face.

This is because the door has been closed on you for some reason or another. Did God shut the door? Or, is it something you are doing that you are not aware of? Perhaps other people have been opposing you.

Of course, there is always our spiritual enemy. Satan does not want us to go through some doors in life. Also, there are some doors he would love to see us walk through. These are dangerous doors that lead to places the Bible warns about.

Then there are areas in life you know is necessary for you to pursue. But you are tired of the rejection and failure, when attempting to go through these doors, so you quit. Yet, many of your friends, family, and spiritual leaders tell you that you should continue to pursue the matter. They say it is your destiny. But why can't you ever seem to get through the door.

When a door is closed against someone, it means clearly that it is closed. Period! How does it come about? What are the causes and the consequences? How do we get out through a closed door? What are the implications and repercussions of closed doors on a person, on a family, land, community, church, or business?

This course is about open and closed doors. As we study this important subject together we will take a biblical look at how we can open closed doors. We will answer many of the questions just

asked, such as why are doors closed, and how can they be opened?

Furthermore, we will discuss the reason we should not walk through every open door. This subject will help us understand life in a much better way. When you finish this course you should have a much stronger understanding about the spiritual realm surrounding “open doors - closed doors.”

It is the staff of MTC and my prayer that this course will change your life.

Let's approach it now with an Spirit-led mind and a prayerful attitude knowing that the best is yet to come!

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon the completion of this course, you should be able to:

- ✕ Define the normal use of the term “door”
- ✕ Define the biblical use of the term “door”
- ✕ Define the biblical terms of open and closed “heavens”
- ✕ Explain when and why God closes doors on His own children
- ✕ Define how to deal with godly and ungodly delays
- ✕ Define what we mean by “spiritual warfare”
- ✕ Identify the origin of spiritual warfare
- ✕ List the participants in spiritual warfare
- ✕ List the weapons and armor of spiritual warfare
- ✕ Explain the purpose of each weapon and piece of armor of spiritual warfare
- ✕ Identify the purpose and special prayers of spiritual warfare
- ✕ Explain God’s dealings with us about divine delays
- ✕ Identify reasons why we should not share our visions and dreams with some people
- ✕ List some elements of spiritual warfare that may cause delayed doors
- ✕ Demonstrate how to open doors through praising and worshipping the Lord
- ✕ List the methods of praise to open closed doors
- ✕ Demonstrate the biblical principles of receiving
- ✕ List the reasons for closed doors in ministry
- ✕ List the three doors that are prerequisites to ordained ministry
- ✕ Explain what it means for the church to be faithful
- ✕ List nine biblical promises to the faithful
- ✕ List four primary biblical instructions that will lead to unlocked doors

HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL

MANUAL FORMAT

Each chapter consists of:

Objectives: Before beginning each chapter, carefully read the *Objectives*. These are the goals you should achieve as you study that particular chapter.

Key Verse: This verse emphasizes the main concept of the chapter. Memorize it.

Study Questions: At the end of each chapter, there are *study questions*. After you have studied each chapter in class, complete all of these study questions. Although these questions will not be graded, they are an important part of this course.

Final Exam: If you are enrolled in this course for credit, upon completion of the course, you will be required to take the final examination. Since this is an open book exam, you may use your *Students Guide* while taking the examination. After you have completed the examination, please return it for grading.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS NEEDED

A King James Version of the Bible

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION: OPENED AND CLOSED DOORS

OBJECTIVES

Upon the completion of this chapter, you should be able to:

- ✕ Write the Key Verse from memory
- ✕ Define the normal use of the term “door”
- ✕ Define the biblical use of the term “door”
- ✕ Identify the features of closed doors
- ✕ Define the biblical terms of open and closed “heavens”
- ✕ Display a solid knowledge of the features of open and closed heavens



KEY VERSE

**I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.
(Revelation 3:8)**

INTRODUCTION

I. DEFINING DOORS

A. DEFINING AN “_____ DOOR”

1. An open door gives us an _____ into a room or building.
2. An open door becomes a _____, as we can interact and receive from what is now within our reach.
 - a) When a door is open to us, we are able to _____ of what is behind that particular door
 - b) Open doors make it possible for us to _____ our aspirations.
 - c) Open doors _____ up to us the best things in life that the Lord has for us.

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. (Jeremiah 29:11)

B. DEFINING A “_____ DOOR”

1. A “closed door” is a _____ or barred passage or entry way.

2. What does it mean to us when the door is _____?

• “Closed” is translated from the same Hebrew word which means, “to shut up or shut out.” It means to imprison, or like a door, to be close or sealed shut against someone.

a) Closed doors will always keep us from _____ our dreams.

b) Closed doors stop the _____ of success in our lives.

c) Closed doors _____ the good things God has for us from coming our way.

Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?
(Galatians 5:7)

d) Closed doors are _____ which can keep us from fulfilling our destiny in the Lord.

C. _____ USES FOR THE TERM, “DOOR”

1. _____ is the door.

Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. (John 10:7)

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:6)

2. “Door” is used in reference to the _____ of the Gentiles.

And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles. (Acts 14:27)

3. “Door” is used in reference to the “opening” or spreading of the _____.

But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost. For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries. (I Corinthians 16:9)

Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ’s gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord, (II Corinthians 2:12)

Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds. (Colossians 4:3)

a) We should also _____ for the Lord to open doors to us.

b) We must look in the _____ place for doors to be open to us.

4. “Door” is used in reference to an entrance into the _____ of God.

Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. (Luke 13:24)

When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: (Luke 13:25)

5. “Door” is used in reference to _____.

After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will show thee things which must be hereafter. (Revelations 4:1)

II. THE EFFECTS OF CLOSED DOORS

A. THE _____ OF CLOSED DOORS

1. A closed door _____.

2. A closed door _____.

3. A closed door _____.

4. A closed door _____ its victims.

III. OPEN AND CLOSED HEAVENS

A. WHAT IS THE RESULT OF “_____ HEAVENS?”

And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass: (Leviticus 26:19)

1. In the days of the Bible, closed heavens often meant no _____.

If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to de-

vour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; (II Chronicles 7:13)

Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit. And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands. (Haggai 1:10-11)

And also I have withholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered. So two or three cities wandered unto one city, to drink water; but they were not satisfied: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. (Amos 4:7-8)

2. Closed heavens result in _____ in our lives.

Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house. (Haggai 1:9)

B. THE RESULT OF “_____ HEAVENS”

1. The heavens are opened to us with all of its _____.

C. GIVING _____ AND OFFERINGS OPEN THE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN.

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. (Malachi 3:10)

Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor seek their peace or their wealth for ever: that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children for ever. (Ezra 9:12)

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: (Isaiah 1:19)

D. NEGLECTING TO PAY OUR _____ WILL CAUSE THE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN TO REMAIN CLOSED

If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth. (Numbers 30:2)

1. Our commitment to our _____ is a vow.

Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not

pay. (Ecclesiastes 5:5)

My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him. (Psalms 22:25)

2. Our commitment to our _____ is a vow.

Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest. (2 Kings 4:7)

3. Our _____ is our vow.

Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. (Ecclesiastes 5:2)

When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee. (Deuteronomy 23:21)

4. We must _____ what we have borrowed.

But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed. (2 Kings 6:5)

And the man of God said, Where fell it? And he shewed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim. (2 Kings 6:6)

5. We must give our _____ a fair day's work.

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own? (Luke 16:10-12)

When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. (Ecclesiastes 5:4)

E. _____ OPENS THE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. (II Chronicles 7:13-14)

1. God will not bless us until we meet the _____ for His blessings.

2. If the people _____ from their sin, God will heal their land.

IV. EXAMPLES OF THE HEAVENS BEING OPENED

A. OPEN HEAVENS AT JESUS'S _____.

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: (Matthew 3:16)

1. The Holy Spirit, descended like a _____.

2. God _____ from heaven.

B. _____ EXPERIENCED OPEN HEAVENS.

Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. (Ezekiel 1:1)

C. JACOB SAW THE _____ OF HEAVEN.

And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. (Genesis 28:17)

1. God _____ to him, reassuring him of His promise to his forefathers.

2. God _____ to him.

3. God _____ his coast.

4. Divine _____ was promised.

5. Open heavens revealed _____ to him.

V. HEAVENS AND DOORS

A. OPEN HEAVENS AND _____ DOORS

1. Open heavens _____ the way for open doors.

B. OPEN HEAVENS AND _____ DOORS

1. If the heavens are open and there is a closed door, it may be because _____ allowed the closed door for a purpose.

C. _____ HEAVENS AND CLOSED DOORS



STUDY QUESTIONS

CHAPTER ONE

1. Write the Key Verse from memory:

2. An “open door” is basically a blocked entrance way or gateway into another area.

True False

3. A “closed door” means to imprison, to be closed or sealed against someone, which is a forced way to keep someone out.

True False

4. Some of the consequences of closed doors delays or hinders certain opportunities regarding our mission, vision, and empowerment.

True False

6. An “open heaven” refers only to our prayers reaching the throne of God.

True False

7. Write a short essay on what the Word of God has to say about curses and blessings.