

## Responding to Closed Doors

Is. 22:22

Rev. 3: 7-8

The reference to the key of David speaks of authority or control, and the key of David is to have authority over David's domain. It was used for a natural official in Isaiah but the term is also messianic. It shows us Jesus has ultimate control over His church, the Israel of God (Gal. 6:16).

Sometimes God closed some doors to open other ones. However, how do I know if a closed door is the Lord, the enemy, or just life in general without a supernatural origin? Does every closed door have a spiritual cause? Is there such a thing as a natural origin? Or should every negative situation be seen as spiritual in nature? And is every closed door a negative thing?

If closed doors are to be seen as spiritual, is there a way to know who's responsible? And further, are there different ways to respond based on the source? Let's look at each of these questions.

Is it possible that the devil can be responsible for some doors being closed? Yes, in certain circumstances, but even this is within the ultimate purpose of God.

I Thess. 2: 18 Therefore we wanted to come to you - even I, Paul, time and again – but Satan hindered us.

Was Paul exaggerating, speaking metaphorically, mistaken, or was it really the devil hindering him and his team?

Are there any examples of God closing doors?

Acts 16: 6-10 "...they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia...they tried to go to Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them...they came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the

night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.'...immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them."

This is an example of God using the key of David. He shut one door and opened another. In fact, He does this in our lives more often than we may realize.

Are there any examples of closed doors that don't indicate a supernatural origin either way?

Rom. 1: 13 "...I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now)..."

The door for Paul to visit was closed until this time, but perhaps the open door was for him to write this letter to them instead. Paul doesn't attribute his hindrance to the Lord or to Satan.

So is it possible to know the source of closed doors, and are there different ways to respond?

It's not always possible to know the source of a closed door. Sometimes it is possible and other times it's not. We must walk by faith, not by sight. And yes, there are different ways to respond. There is a time to speak to the Lord about it, a time to speak to the mountain or the door directly, and a time to speak to ourselves and encourage ourselves in the Lord.

How do I know which one to do? For example, is it appropriate to speak to the Lord and to the mountain? Yes, but not every time.

So if that's true, how do I know when it's not appropriate to speak to the mountain? When it involves another person's will. We don't have the authority over other people's wills. Trying to control other people's wills is

witchcraft. God does not even control the will of His people. He gives us choice.

An example would be a wayward child or other loved one. We should pray for them but we don't speak to them in the spirit to come in line. However, if the Lord reveals a demonic spirit behind it, you can speak to the evil influence directly. In fact, Jesus once equated spiritual warfare to speaking to mountains to be removed (Matt. 17: 18-21).

Another example of not having authority over another person's will would be in waiting to hear about getting a job or a loan. We don't have authority to speak in the spirit to the employer or the loan officer and command them to comply. However, we are to speak to the Lord about it and ask for His favor with them.

What would be the right time to speak to a closed door like speaking to the mountain? When inanimate objects are involved. This allows for many opportunities. Once Jesus even cursed a fig tree and equated that with our ability to speak to circumstances (Matt. 21: 18-22). Notice in this passage He mentions both speaking and praying. There is a time to speak and a time to ask in prayer. If your faith is developed you can speak to a car and cause it to run or even to a washing machine! (Ex. Strand Theatre)

There have been a number of times the Lord has spoken to my heart and said "don't speak to me about it. Speak to it about me."

What about speaking to ourselves and encouraging ourselves? When is it appropriate to do this?

We know that David did this in I Sam. 30: 6. Notice here that when David did it he was greatly distressed because of his situation. That is exactly the time for us to do it as well.

We are also told in Eph. 5: 19 to speak to ourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in our hearts to the Lord.

Verse 18 says we are to be filled with the Spirit. This tells us the two go together.

So speaking to ourselves in song is a part of continually filled with the Spirit. And speaking to ourselves this way leads to an attitude of giving God thanks always (v. 20).

Is it appropriate to speak to ourselves in every situation? Yes, because it goes together with edifying ourselves and staying filled with the Spirit (1 Cor. 14: 4-28).

When God closes a door he has another door He will open. He has another plan, and we have to trust Him and stay faithful to Him just as much as if the first door were opened.

Sometimes we had our hearts set on that door being opened, and when it shuts we get discouraged. However, if we had our hearts set on it, that reveals to us that our hearts were in the wrong place. Our hearts should be set on Him, not on a specific outcome. When they are set on Him, we don't lose our joy and peace when something does not work out. We look to Him in faith to open another door, and trust Him to do it.

So God alone has the key of David. He opens doors no one can shut, and shuts doors no one can open. He does this for us as His beloved, because He has a plan. Even when the enemy is responsible for some hindrances, God is still in control. We can trust God and speak to situations in His name with His authority, and when we do we will often see miraculous outcomes.

And in all things, speak to yourself and encourage yourself in distress, to stay filled with His Spirit, to give God thanks, and to build yourself up.