

Please read 2 Chronicles 32:1-8. How are King Hezekiah's words to his people applicable to your life? Why is this sometimes hard to believe? What "enemies" are you facing that discourage you? Ask God to help you realize that "greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world"!

## Wednesday

Part of Jesus' encouragement to the church at Philadelphia is: "I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the world." While this is a promise specific to the church there, it is also applicable to you in a general sense: Jesus promises that although you are not spared from all trials, no trial will conquer you. Please read Romans 8:28-38. What are the five questions in verses 31-35 and their answers? How do these answers encourage you about specific trials you are facing today? Bring to God the specific trials you are experiencing right now, and ask him to help you claim the promises in these verses as your own.

## Thursday

The most predominant metaphor used by Jesus in his words to the church Philadelphia, is the image of an open door. Read the following verses about different kinds of doors God opens, and write down what each "door" refers to...

Passage

What is the "door" in this passage?

Matthew 7:7-8

Luke 11:9-10

Acts 14:27

1 Corinthians 16:9

2 Corinthians 2:12

Revelation 3:20

Revelation 4:1

Do you tend to see God as one who opens doors, or closes doors? In these verses, how does God characterize himself? How could it help your walk of faith to see God in this way?

Ask God to help you see him as one who opens doors of answered prayer, doors of opportunity to share your faith, doors of fellowship with him, and doors to eternal life.

## Friday

What open doors has Jesus place before you? How have you taken advantage of the pathways he has made available to you? What is the Spirit saying to you through this letter? How will you act on it today?

Ask God to help you see the open doors before you and ask him to help you step through them.

## Saturday

Ask God to prepare your heart for tomorrow so that you can worship him in Spirit and truth as you come together with your brothers and sisters. Pray that our Sunday worship service will clearly show God's grace and truth to all who attend.



Dear  
Church...

Love,  
Jesus

Message by Rick McRostie on Sunday, August 9, 2015

## Jesus Speaks to Discouraged People

Chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation contain seven letters from Jesus to seven ancient churches, but his letters are also addressed directly to you!

### Revelation 3:7-13 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars--I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. <sup>10</sup> Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.

<sup>11</sup> I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. <sup>12</sup> Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name. <sup>13</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."



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**Discouragement can make me:**

**Blind to** \_\_\_\_\_

**Vulnerable to** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pessimistic about my** \_\_\_\_\_

**Three promises from Jesus for those who feel discouraged:**

**1. Jesus replaces my** \_\_\_\_\_  
**with** \_\_\_\_\_

*“To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.”* Revelation 3:7, 8a

*“But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, because a great door for effective work has opened to me.”* 1 Corinthians 16:8-9

*“Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me.”* 2 Corinthians 2:12

*“And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.”*  
Colossians 4:3-4

**2. Jesus replaces my** \_\_\_\_\_  
**with** \_\_\_\_\_

*“I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.”* Revelation 3:8b

*“Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth. I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.”*  
Revelation 3:10-11

**3. Jesus replaces my** \_\_\_\_\_  
**with** \_\_\_\_\_

*“I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.”*  
Revelation 3:9

*“Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.”* Revelation 3:12

**Two key questions to ask yourself when you feel discouraged:**

**1. Who am I** \_\_\_\_\_?

**2. Am I looking at the** \_\_\_\_\_  
**or the** \_\_\_\_\_?

## Daily Meditations

Daily Bible studies and questions for reflection on Sunday’s topic.

## This week’s memory verse:

*“See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.”* Revelation 3:8a

## Monday

Look back over your notes and please read Revelation 3:7-13. When have you been the most discouraged? What, if anything, is making you feel defeated or discouraged right now?

___ My work	___ My family	___ Unanswered prayer
___ Finances	___ Health	___ School
___ My spiritual life	___ Unmet goals	___ Unconquered habits
___ My hope of being married	___ Other:	

How do Jesus’ words to this weak, discouraged church help you? What point or points in Sunday’s message meant the most to you?

*Ask Jesus to help you not be discouraged, but instead to look to him and his promises!*

## Tuesday

Eleven times the Bible says “do not be afraid and do not be discouraged”. Why do you think this is such a common emphasis of Scripture? Which effect of discouragement do you tend to feel?

I become...

\_\_\_ Blind to opportunity    \_\_\_ Vulnerable to temptation    \_\_\_ Pessimistic about my identity