A Message To A Weary Church

Revelation 3:7-8

7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;
8 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.

Intro

• When John takes his pen in his hand
  o to write to the church in Philadelphia,
    ▪ he makes it plain
    ▪ that he is writing to a church under siege.
• Philadelphia was a little church
  o with little strength.
• She was a struggling church,
  o one who was harried and harassed
    ▪ by her enemies,
  o a church that that had
    ▪ possibly seen better days,
  o a church that had possibly
    ▪ had larger crowds,
  o a church that may have only been a shadow
    ▪ of what it once was.
• Philadelphia was weary church.
  o But before we go too far down that line,
    ▪ lets remember that the message to Philadelphia
      • doesn’t start
        o with their beleaguered condition.
• No the message to Philadelphia
  o starts with a reminder
    ▪ of who is on their side.
      • These things saith he that is holy,
        o he that is true,
        o he that hath the key of David,
        o he that openeth, and no man shutteth;
          ▪ and shutteth, and no man openeth.
• Philadelphia may only have a little strength,
  o but the one that is standing with her
    ▪ is the strongest of the strong,
      • the mightiest of the mighty.
  o And before we get around
to acknowledging the fact
  • that the Church in Philadelphia is weary,
• first we must establish the fact
  • that God is on her side!

• She’s not much to look at,
  o but she’s mighty through God.
    ▪ She may not have as many members
      • as she used to have.
  o The finances may not be
    ▪ as robust as they used to be.
• The enemy may be harassing her on every side
  o and the fight may be wearing her down,
    ▪ but take notice:
      • The Lord God Almighty
        o stands with his church!
      • He has not forsaken her
        o and he has not abandoned her!
    ▪ The message to weary church
      • starts with the acknowledgement
        o that God is on her side!

• And here’s the truth about Philadelphia,
  o she may be weary
    ▪ and she may be weak,
      • but she remains undefeated.
• Through the trial,
  o she hasn’t lost her faith in God.
    ▪ Through the storm
      • she’s stood on the promises of God.
• Though the enemy has tried to destroy her,
  o though a multitude of voices
    ▪ have called on her to just give up and die,
      • the Lord says,
        o “You have kept my word
          ▪ and not denied my name!”

• There’s something to be said
  o for a church that refuse to break.
• A church that may be tired,
  o that may be weary,
    ▪ that may only have a little strength
      • but continues to hold fast
        o to the word of God.
• The message to a weary church
  o is that the Lord has seen your weariness
    ▪ and he has seen the tenacity of your faith
    ▪ and he has set before you an open door.

The Church As A Door
• There is a lot of debate
  o over what that open door
    ▪ is supposed to represent.
  o Some say that it represents the church itself.
    ▪ To the lost, God has given His church
      ▪ as a beacon of light,
        o a ray of hope in this dark world.
  o That in this weak and weary church
    ▪ that has refused to close her doors,
      ▪ but has stood her ground
        o and maintained her witness,
    ▪ God has established an open door
      ▪ to the kingdom of God
        ▪ that no man can close!
  o Because of the testimony of their faithfulness
    ▪ because they have kept the word
      ▪ and refused to deny the name,
        o God has established them
          ▪ as a open door for a lost world.

• Indeed the church is shelter
  o in the midst of the storms of this life.
    ▪ The church is a city of refuge,
      ▪ a haven of hope,
        o a place where love
          ▪ and mercy flows,
      ▪ where forgiveness is found
        ▪ and where the grace of God
          ▪ reigns supreme.
    o In the church there is place of restoration,
      ▪ a place of redemption,
        ▪ an opportunity,
          ▪ an open door,
            ▪ which cannot be found
              ▪ anywhere else in the world.
  • The message to a weary church
    o may very well be
      ▪ that God is the one
• who opened the doors of your sanctuary
  ▪ and no matter what you come up against,
  • nothing in this world
    ○ can shut the door that God has opened.
• The world has tried
  ○ to close the door of the church,
    ▪ but it cannot!
• This door will stay open
  ○ no matter what the world does.
    ▪ Times may change,
      • generations may come and go,
        ○ but the door of the church
          ▪ will always be open!
• The world may think it has found a better way.
  ○ They may argue that religion
    ▪ is not relevant any more.
  ○ They may get puffed up in their knowledge
    ▪ and declare that they’ve become
      • too smart for God.
• But there will always be
  ○ hurting, lonely, desperate people
    ▪ looking for a place of refuge
      • and the doorway to the church
        ○ will always be open to them!
• This door was opened by the Lord,
  ○ and no man can close it.
    ▪ That’s enough to shout about!
• Go tell the prodigal,
  ○ the door to the father’s house
    ▪ will never be closed!
• Go tell the lost
  ○ that a way has been found!
• This open door is a powerful door.
  ○ The gates of hell cannot prevail against it!
• It is an effective door;
  ○ the gospel works.
    ▪ No power in hell is greater than this gospel.
      • There’s no sin it can’t overcome.
        ○ There’s no bondage it cannot break.
    ▪ There is no enemy that it cannot conquer.
      • There’s no devil in the world
        ○ that can stop the church.
• She may be weary,
she may be a little worse for the wear,
  • but this door is a door
    • that was opened by God
      o and nothing in this world
        • has the power to shut it!

A Door of Revival
• There are others that say
  o that the door represents revival.
    • And indeed God has promised revival to his church:

2 Chronicles 7:14-16
14 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.
15 Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attend unto the prayer that is made in this place.
16 For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

• I have chosen THIS house, God said.
  o I have sanctified THIS house!
    • I have my name here
      • and my name will be here forever and ever!
• I do believe that there is an open door of revival.
  o I do believe that they are coming:
    • our families,
    • our children,
    • our neighbors,
    • and our friends.
  o They are going to come
    • through that open door
      • into the church
    • and they are going to come
      • down this aisle,
        o into these altars
        • and they are going to find God here!

• Strangers driving down the street
  o are going to feel compelled
    • to stop, and come in.
• Some one said, just the other day,
  o that they have driven by our church sign
    • for weeks upon end
      • with the advertisement
        o for the Endtime series on the marquee
and they said,
   ▪  you just don’t know how many times
      ▪  I’ve almost come on Wednesday night.

•  I want to tell you something:
  o  They are coming!
     ▪  Revival is coming.

•  This the message to a weary church,
  o  hang on,
     ▪  help is in its way.
        ▪  Keep the door open
           o  because a lost world
              ▪  is getting ready
                 ▪  to walk through that door!

•  It’s going to happen.
  o  They’ve been preaching
     ▪  about end time revival
        ▪  my whole life.
  o  It’s going to happen
     ▪  and its going to happen here!

•  The burden will catch on.
  o  People will walk through those doors
     ▪  who will love this church,
        ▪  who will support this church
     ▪  and who will be willing
        ▪  to give their lives to this church
  o  because this church
     ▪  is the best thing
        ▪  that they will ever find
           o  in this world!

•  Bible study teachers are coming.
  o  Bus ministry workers are coming.
     ▪  People who will knock doors
        ▪  and reach out to the lost,
           o  they are coming!
              ▪  It is going to happen.

•  We may have just a little strength.
  o  We may have just a few in number.
     ▪  We may not have much
        ▪  in the way of resources.
  o  But don’t count the church out.
     ▪  Revival is coming.
        ▪  God opened this door
           o  and nothing in this world can close it!
A Door of Power

- Some say that the door
  - represents a door of power.
    - The sick will be healed.
    - The lost will be saved.
  - Those who are bound
    - will be set free,
      - through the power of the Holy Ghost.
  - The hurting will find healing;
    - the lonely will find a friend.

- The spirit of God
  - will settle upon His church
    - and the power of God
      - will be loosed to work
        - like it is supposed to work
          - in the church.

- The anointing will flow out of this house
  - like the rushing mighty river
    - that the prophet Ezekiel
      - saw in his vision.
  - It will flow through this community,
    - into the homes of our neighbors,
      - through the businesses,
        - through the city hall.

- Like a mighty river,
  - a spiritual awakening is going to happen.
    - Nothing will ever be the same again.

- There won’t be any more ordinary services.
  - There won’t be any more normal Sundays.
    - No more business as usual.

- The power of God will be loosed
  - in the house of God
    - and every service
      - is going to be a demonstration
        - of the power and anointing of God.
  - Every time the people of God
    - come together
      - God is going to show up
        - and show out.
  - Miracles are going to happen.
    - Signs and wonders will follow
      - the preaching of the word.

- Not because of anything we will do
but because of the power
  • of the spirit of God
    • that abides in this house
      o among this people!
  • We may only have a little strength,
    o but our God has more than enough power
      • to make the mountains tremble
        • and to cause the kingdom of Hell
          o to crumble.
  • You might as well go ahead
    o and blow the trumpet in Zion,
      • and let it be known far and wide,
        • the year of deliverance has come,
          o the year of the Lord is upon us.
  • This is a door that only God can open
    o and he's getting ready to swing it wide
      • in the midst of his church!
  • Get ready.
    o Deliverance is coming to this house.
  • Get ready.
    o Healing is coming to this house.
  • Get ready.
    o Broken homes are going
      • to be put back together again.
  • Get ready.
    o Years of spiritual bondage and depression
      • are going to fade away
        • in just moment in his presence.
    o Joy unspeakable and full of glory
      • will fill this house.
    o A peace that passes all understanding
      • is going to be loosed here.

A Door Of Grace
  • Some say that the door represents a door of grace.
    o Grace is unmerited favor.
      • It is help I don’t deserve,
        • deliverance I did not earn.
          o No man can open the door to grace.
            • That’s God's business;
              • only he can open that door.
  • But honey, when door swings open
    o you better get ready
      • because his grace
• is where my help comes from.
  ▪ His grace is where my hope lives.
  ▪ His grace will do so much more
    o than just meet our needs.
  o It will equip us
    ▪ to fulfill his calling in our lives!
      ▪ When our resources run out,
        o his grace is going to step in
          ▪ and take over.
  o When we’ve given all we have to give,
    ▪ when we’ve done all we know to do,
      ▪ his grace is going to
        o make up the difference.
• He will never abandon us in the fight.
  o He will not fail.
    ▪ And he will not disappoint.
  o His grace is more than sufficient
    ▪ to meet every single need!
      ▪ We will be equipped to every good work,
        o prepared and enabled
          ▪ to every ministry
            ▪ that he has called us to.
• There are ministries on these pews
  o that haven’t even been conceived of yet
    ▪ in your mind,
    ▪ but that God has called you to.
• There are things that he is getting ready to do,
  o in our midst,
    ▪ through this people,
      ▪ that when it is all said and done
        o you will step back and say,
    ▪ I don’t even know
      ▪ where that idea came from.
        o I didn’t know I had it in me.
      ▪ I didn’t know that God
        o could use me like that.
• He’s getting ready to give dreams
  o to some dreamers.
    ▪ He’s getting ready to issue callings
      ▪ and to establish purpose
        o in the lives of his own.
• The grace of God
  o is about to be loosed in this house
    ▪ and it is going to transform everything!
• God has a better plan for your life.
  o God has a greater purpose for you.
• You better get ready
  o because his grace
    ▪ is about to empower you
  o and his spirit
    ▪ is about to inspire you
      • and a holy boldness is going
        o to come upon you
    ▪ and you are about
      • to walk into the harvest
        o with a divine anointing on your life.
• Revival is going to happen.
  o God’s not waiting
    ▪ for someone else to come along.
  o He’s not looking
    ▪ for another group of people.
  o He’s not saying,
    ▪ well if only we had the right people...
      • He’s getting ready to use what he has.
        o He’s getting ready to empower what is his.
          ▪ The grace of God is about to be loosed.

CLOSE
• The message to a weary church
  o is that God has opened a door
    ▪ that no man can shut.
• We can talk all night long
  o about what that might or might not mean
    ▪ but I think it means all of this,
      • and more.
• I think that what God
  o is getting ready to do for his church
    ▪ is beyond the scope
      • of our ability to comprehend.
  o I feel like the spirit
    ▪ is saying to the church:
      • Hang in there,
        o don’t give up now.
      • I know where you are.
        o I know what you are going through
          ▪ and I want you to know
            • that I have established you.
    ▪ You are the door
• that I have opened to the lost.
  o You are the door
    ▪ that I have opened to this world.

• So get ready.
  o Revival is coming through that door.
    ▪ Get ready.
      • The power of Holy Ghost
        o is about to flow through that door.
  o Get ready.
    ▪ The empowering grace of God
      • is about to be loosed in this house.

• You may be tired,
  o you may be weary,
    ▪ you may only have a little strength,
      • but hang on.
  o Help isn’t just on its way.
    ▪ Your help is here.
      • Lift up your eyes
        o to the hills
          ▪ from which your redeemer comes.

The story of the gold miner.
• He toils long and hard.
  o He braves the elements
    ▪ and sticks through the lean times.
• Through it all he barely scrapes by.
  o The mine never produces enough
    ▪ to amount to anything
      • more than a meager existence.
• Until finally one day he gives up.
  o He buries his pick and his candle
    ▪ at the end of the shaft
      • and he walks away.
  o He is forever lost to the pages of history.
• Years go by
  o and a speculator moves in
    ▪ and buys the old mine shaft.
• He cleared the opening,
  o shored up the shaft
    ▪ and made his way to the end of the tunnel
  o and picked up
    ▪ where the long forgotten miner
      • had left off.
• Six inches further into the mineshaft
The message to a weary church is simple:
- Don't give up now.
- Whatever you do,
  - don't stop praying now.
    - Don't stop fasting now.
    - Don't stop believing now.
- Somewhere in the havens
  - there is door getting ready
    - to swing open.
- There is a revival
  - getting ready to take place.
    - There is demonstration
      - Of the power and grace of God
        - that is getting ready
          - to be made manifest.
  - Whatever you do,
    - whatever it takes,
      - don't quit the fight now!

Somebody needs to settle the issue.
- Somebody needs to look Hell in the eyes
  - and declare:
    - I may be weak
      - and I may be weary
    - but I'm still in this fight.
      - I'm not going anywhere.
- Because greater is he that is in me
  - than he that is against me.
- Come on somebody.
  - A door to grace
    - is swinging open in this house right now.