

AN OPEN DOOR

In my ministry, I have often used an illustration about how life can be a struggle when people try to make a door where there is none. They walk right into a wall, thinking they see a door. The Bible records the words of Christ thusly: “**Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep *by name*, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.**” (John 10:1-4; italics supplied)

The Savior knows His sheep *by name*, and it is He who opens the way for them, and they follow Him. Yahshua continues, “**I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**” (John 10:9, 10)

The Giver of life seeks to bless all of His creation with the abundant life that only He can supply. Man has built towers to heaven, amassed great wealth, built huge cities, boasted of innumerable scientific discoveries, and achieved greatness with new and advanced technology, having chosen to create his own way to earthly bliss and success. Nevertheless, the secret to abundant living generally escapes the human race.

“And when they had arrived and gathered the church together, they began to report all things that God had done with them and how *He had opened a door of faith* to the Gentiles.” (Acts 14:27; NASB; italics supplied) Those who had long been the repositories of YAH’s oracles failed in becoming recipients of living faith. Israel’s inability to advance opened a door of grace and opportunity for others to discover the way to life and its abundance in Christ.

In 2 Corinthians, chapter two, Paul refers to a door of opportunity opened to him by Christ that the Gospel may be preached effectually. In the prophecy of Revelation, we read of another opened door, “**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; italics supplied) This is a wonderful promise to the church of Philadelphia. And we now understand that the 144,000 church, being composed of Creation Seventh Day Adventists who repented of the Laodicean condition, has become the church of brotherly love or Philadelphian church. The foregoing promise is based on three conditions: 1) they have little strength of their own, 2) they have been faithful and victorious, and 3) they have not denied the name whereby they were called. I suggest to you that Creation Seventh Day Adventists are blessed with *an open door* of abundant living, *an open door* of living faith, and *an open door* of grace and opportunity to spread the Gospel without anyone being able to shut that door.

You may wonder, “How can this be?” “Behold the dead bodies of the witnesses are lying in the street of the great city,” you say. It is true that the voice of the two witnesses is hushed for “three days and an half.” (Revelation 11:9) However, you also notice that the nations “shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.” Creation Seventh Day Adventists are *not* hidden from view, and just because signs and announcements of their “cyber death” appear along the information highway, remnants of the final grand message of mercy remain available to the diligent truth-seeker. The loud cry may be temporarily muted, but a day of glory is yet foreseen.

“And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and *they stood upon their feet*; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.” (Revelation 11:11; italics supplied) Notice that *they stood upon their feet*. Read what the servant of YAH writes, “Graves are opened, and ‘many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth . . . awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt’ (Dan. 12:2). All who have died in the faith of the third angel’s message *come forth from the tomb* glorified to hear God’s covenant of peace with those who have kept His law. ‘They also which pierced Him’ (Rev. 1:7), those that mocked and derided Christ’s dying agonies, and the most violent opposers of His truth and His people, are raised to behold Him in His glory, and to see the honor placed upon the loyal and obedient.” (*The Great Controversy*, pages 636, 637; italics supplied) The Scripture further testifies, “**Behold, I will make**

them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are [SDA], and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and *worship before thy feet*, and to know that I have loved thee.” (Revelation 3:9; brackets and emphases supplied)

Let me summarize what has been discussed thus far. There is initially a terrible persecution of YAH’s people that appears to fully disorganize His Church – “The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out—the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place.” (*Last Day Events*, page 180) During this final phase of persecution, the voice of YAH’s messengers is reduced to “dead bodies lying in the street” or broken links and descriptions of their defeat in civil courts scattered about on the Internet information highway. Because the Creator does not forsake the remnant people, His promise to honor them is at long last granted, as *they stood upon their feet*. This occurs within a brief period following the divine providence of “an open door” referred to in Revelation 3:8. That open door of grace and opportunity is established for a short time before the end of the world when the light of the mighty angel of Revelation 18 is poured upon the whole earth. Remember what the Spirit of Prophecy says, “Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers.” (*The Great Controversy*, page 612) It is by the miraculous healing of the sick that “signs and wonders will follow the believers.” When it is witnessed by all that the door has been opened for Creation Seventh Day Adventists to heal the sick by the Hand of YAHWEH, that is when the “synagogue of Satan” (those who are nominal professors of Christianity in general and Seventh-day Adventism in particular) will seek healing, even at the feet of the saints. The Scripture says, “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, *both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles*, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?” (Hebrews 2:3, 4; italics supplied)

The faith of the saints is sorely tested. They perceive a worldwide work, impossible for them to accomplish, for they have only “a little strength” remaining to accomplish the task of illuminating the whole earth. Creation Seventh Day Adventists have heretofore declared themselves to be the remnant church, the mighty fourth angel’s movement of Revelation 18, and the fulfillment of the prophecy of Revelation’s 144,000 saints standing in the “judgment of the living” “without fault before the throne.” During the final phase of their persecution, “...they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.” (Revelation 11:10) “The work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity, she will have to do in a terrible crisis, under most discouraging, forbidding, circumstances. The warnings that worldly conformity has silenced or withheld, must be given under the fiercest opposition from enemies of the faith. And at that time the superficial, conservative class, whose influence has steadily retarded the progress of the work, will renounce the faith, and take their stand with its avowed enemies, toward whom their sympathies have long been tending. These apostates will then manifest the most bitter enmity, doing all in their power to oppress and malign their former brethren, and to excite indignation against them.” (*Christian Service*, page 158)

So, how is it that YAH’s people prevail in this most trying segment of earth’s history? YAHWEH Himself “takes the reigns” and bestows a most impressive gift upon His faithful ones. In the midst of a world plagued with terrorist activity, war, disease, and suffering, He places a humble people of “little strength.” At the most crucial moment, the Father in Heaven unveils His solutions to one of earth’s most serious of scourges – HIV/AIDS. With these divine solutions in hand, the saints march forward “conquering, and to conquer.” (Revelation 6:2) The sick are healed, demons are cast out, and the dead are raised to life. “**Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give,**” said the Master. (Matthew 10:8; emphasis added) It is recognized by the inhabitants of the world that Creation Seventh Day Adventists are willing to sacrifice their own lives, if need be, to solve the diverse health problems and relieve human suffering among the multitudes. And all of this, they do *freely*, for it is their “divine commission.” “In this time of persecution the faith of the Lord's servants will be tried. They have faithfully given the warning, looking to God and to His word alone. God's Spirit,

moving upon their hearts, has constrained them to speak. Stimulated with holy zeal, and with the divine impulse strong upon them, they entered upon the performance of their duties without coldly calculating the consequences of speaking to the people the word which the Lord had given them. *They have not consulted their temporal interests, nor sought to preserve their reputation or their lives.*” (*The Great Controversy*, pages 608, 609; italics added)

“Health reform is as closely related to the gospel as the arm is to the body; but the arm can not take the place of the body. The proclamation of the gospel message, the commandments of God, and the testimony of Jesus, is the burden of our work. This message is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and is to go to the whole world. The presentation of health principles is to be united with the proclamation of this message, but it is not in any way to take the place of it, or be independent of it.” (*Testimony Studies on Diet and Foods*, page 88) “The medical missionary work is to be to the work of the church as the right arm to the body. The third angel goes forth proclaiming the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. The medical missionary work is the gospel in practice. All lines of work are to be harmoniously blended in giving the invitation: ‘Come; for all things are now ready.’” (*Testimonies for the Church Volume Eight*, page 77)

Ultimately, *an open door* of grace and opportunity, that no man can shut, is miraculously imparted by Christ; and this, via the “right arm of the gospel.” In the final conflict, YAH’s “little flock” aptly vindicates the character of YAHWEH through the inspiration and power of the Spirit of Life. “The message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God. The arguments have been presented. The seed has been sown, and now it will spring up and bear fruit. The publications distributed by missionary workers have exerted their influence, yet many whose minds were impressed have been prevented from fully comprehending the truth or from yielding obedience. Now the rays of light penetrate everywhere, the truth is seen in its clearness, and the honest children of God sever the bands which have held them. Family connections, church relations, are powerless to stay them now. Truth is more precious than all besides.” (*The Great Controversy*, page 612)

“I was pointed back to faithful Noah. When the rain descended and the flood came, Noah and his family had entered the ark, and God had shut them in. Noah had faithfully warned the inhabitants of the antediluvian world, while they had mocked and derided him. And as the waters descended upon the earth, and one after another was drowning, they beheld that ark, of which they had made so much sport, riding safely upon the waters, preserving the faithful Noah and His family. So I saw that the people of God, who had faithfully warned the world of His coming wrath, would be delivered. God would not suffer the wicked to destroy those who were expecting translation and who would not bow to the decree of the beast or receive his mark. I saw that if the wicked were permitted to slay the saints, Satan and all his evil host, and all who hate God, would be gratified. And oh, what a triumph it would be for his satanic majesty to have power, in the last closing struggle, over those who had so long waited to behold Him whom they loved! Those who have mocked at the idea of the saints' going up will witness the care of God for His people and behold their glorious deliverance.” (*Early Writings of Ellen G. White*, page 284) Creation Seventh Day Adventists, though hated, derided, and misrepresented, shall be encouraged to know that their “redemption draweth nigh.” (Luke 21:28) And the prophecy that states, “...they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them (Revelation 11:12),” shall be fulfilled in a short period of time.

“And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, [YAHWEH] shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. He which testifieth these things saith, **Surely I come quickly.** Amen. Even so, come, Lord [YAHshua]. The grace of our Lord [YAHshua] Christ be with you all. Amen.” (Revelation 22:19-21; brackets mine)

Pastor “Chick” McGill
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