

# The Life Challenge

*"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10*

**Title:** An Open Door  
**Speaker:** Doug Harder  
**Text:** Revelation 3:7-8, Colossians 4:2-3,  
Psalm 98:4, 7-9  
**Date:** May 13, 2018



## WARM-UP

- What happens at your house when two individuals, dressed nicely, with some material in hand, ring your doorbell?
  - ⇒ Do you simply not open your door?
  - ⇒ Do you open the door and immediately tell them to get lost; you're not interested?
  - ⇒ Do you listen to their 'presentation' and then tell them you're not interested?
  - ⇒ Do you listen to them and welcome them in for a conversation?
- Have you personally been involved in a "door-knocking" exercise?
  - ⇒ What approach did you use?
  - ⇒ What was that experience like?
  - ⇒ What kinds of responses did you get from people when you knocked at their door?

## DISCUSSION

### REVIEW:

- Re-read Revelation 3:7-8  
"See I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut." Doug shared his missionary experience in Thailand.
- Apostle Paul's means to opening doors: Colossians 4:2,3-6
  - ⇒ Prayer: v. 2-3
  - ⇒ Proclaiming the message: v.4-5
  - ⇒ How you say it:
    - \* Clearly
    - \* Be wise in your behaviour
    - \* A conversation laced with grace
    - \* Know your message
- What **is** the message? It must be shared!!
  - ⇒ Jesus Christ is Lord, not Buddha, not animistic spirits
  - ⇒ Jesus is the King, who holds the keys of the Kingdom
  - ⇒ We are all created to know and exalt Jesus as Lord
- Are we the rocks that don't cry out? Psalm 98:4, 7-9
  - ⇒ Getting tired of hearing the message?

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⇒ Inflow but no outflow? We become silent Christians.

• Challenging questions:

⇒ "Does your heart burn within you to proclaim Jesus to your world?"

⇒ Do you treasure Jesus so much that you can hardly wait for the next chance to exalt Him?

⇒ Are we challenging young millennials to investigate a long-term commitment to become missionaries who are willing to suffer and walk the path less-travelled?

**APPLICATION:**

• Doug Harder said that we become "stagnant" Christians when there is no outflow (to proclaim Jesus). We become "silent Christians." Is it true that we don't speak even *with each other* about Jesus and the Gospel in our own conversations?

• What is our attitude regarding "open doors" in our community? Is the door to share Jesus *open or closed* for us? Or is it hopeless to try to reach out? Why?

• What are the challenges for us to see the open door in our community and country?

• How can we *begin* with "outflow" – to exalt Jesus? (Some "Godspace" ideas)

⇒ **With a refreshed perspective:** "Maybe we need 'Jesus glasses,' the kind that allows us to see the world the way Jesus does. When we start to notice others with our Jesus glasses on, something happens inside us—the Holy Spirit stimulates the heart of Jesus to beat in us. His compassion melts away the coldness in our hearts. Our callousness toward others is replaced with genuine concern." P. 37

⇒ In what situations do we have opportunities to put Jesus glasses on? Think of examples.

⇒ **Develop spiritual conversation skills** - Conversations laced with grace:

\* **Good wondering questions:**

- i. Born of a desire to understand people better
- ii. Flow naturally out of your context and conversations
- iii. Demonstrate that you have listened thoughtfully
- iv. That are open-ended and promote more conversation
- v. Stimulate people to investigate the Christian life

\* **Some Possible Wondering Questions:**

- i. I'm wondering why the topic of God seems to stir up such strong emotions in you?
- ii. I'm wondering what the role of religion has played in shaping your life?
- iii. If I could have you speak at our church about your impression of Christians, I'm wondering what you would say?
- iv. I'm wondering what you think it would take for you to acknowledge the reality of God's existence?