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### *Who at the Door is Standing?*

*Who at the door is standing,  
Patiently drawing near,  
Entrance within demanding?  
Whose is the voice I hear?*

*All through the dark hours dreary,  
Knocking again is He;  
Jesus, art Thou not weary,  
Waiting so long for me?*

*Door of my hear, I hasten!  
Thee will I open wide;  
Though He rebuke and chasten,  
He shall with me abide.*

*Refrain:  
Sweetly the tones are falling:  
"Open the door for me!  
If thou wilt heed my calling,  
I will abide with thee."*

**WORDS: Mrs. M. B. C. Slade**

**MUSIC: A. B. Everett**

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*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears  
my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and  
eat with him, and he with me. Revelation 3:20*

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Fred Willmon

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### **Doors**

A door that won't stay shut can be annoying. It can be frustrating to close the door and then within a few seconds it pops open again. When that happens, there needs to be an adjustment made to the latch. Doors basically have two purposes. When they are open, they let people or things in, and when they are shut, they keep people or things out.

David writes in Psalm 141:3, "Set a guard over my mouth O Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips."

Have you ever spoken words in anger? Have you ever gossiped? Criticized? Belittled or said something you later learned was not true? How do we keep from speaking words that would be better left unsaid? Our words are powerful. They can do much good or they can do much harm. Like David, we all need a guard over the door of our lips. How do we set a guard on our mouths?

It doesn't start with our lips or mouths. It begins with our minds. Paul's advice in Philippians 4:8 has become my litmus test. This verse has become my guard over my mouth. "Finally, brothers (sisters) whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about these things." What we think about often becomes what we talk about.

When I am tempted to pass on a bit of news about somebody, I begin silently reciting this verse. Is it true? I generally pass this portion of Paul's test. But that's where it stops. Usually what I want to pass on is not noble, righteous, pure, lovely, or admirable. That's my guard. That's what keeps me from saying something that will harm another, and I will later regret.

Philippians 4:8 is the adjustment that keeps the door to my mouth shut when it needs to be. I think we can all

pray with David, "Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips."

Sally Shank  
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## DOORS

A door is an entrance to whatever we may want to go into or leave. There are doors into every building, every means of transportation, and doors into every country in the world. However, there are always restrictions on entering each of those places. Most businesses have rules, especially government buildings, such as appropriate dress, no weapons, etc. There is a rule of quietness in libraries.

We must have passports and visas to enter other countries. Recently, we have undergone quarantine restrictions and mandates for Covid. The doors are there. We just have to follow the rules. I loved the recent article our minister included with his lesson about the dress and behavior code for entering a jail or prison.

We see signs on many doors, especially restaurants, that say, "No shirt, no shoes, no service." Jesus also has a code for the dress and behavior of His people, 1 Timothy 2:8-10 (modest dress), Galatians 5:22-26 (Fruit of the Spirit), and 1 Peter 1:15 (the virtues) that we are to add to our lives.

Can you imagine a world without doors – being permanently barred from either inside or outside – no way to get in and no way to get out? Imagine a fire inside a building, and there's no way out or no way to enter to rescue someone! It is absurd to imagine a world without doors. Every blueprint imaginable in the physical world has doors and windows in the plans.

There is also a door in the spiritual world. It is a door that is always open—the door to salvation. It is free to every human being. Jesus has already paid the ticket price for entry into His kingdom. In Matthew 7:7-9, Jesus gives the invitation to come. "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." (NIV) What a wonderful promise that we can count on! There are also rules (commandments) that must be obeyed to enter His kingdom.

When Jesus knocks on the door of my heart, do I let Him in? Do I keep Him in my heart as a permanent dweller? In Revelation 3:19-20, Jesus says to the lukewarm church

in Laodicea, "Those whom I love, I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person and they with Me." What a spiritual feast!

Jesus will not force His way in. That would take away our free will. He lets us choose. We can lock Him out if we want. He is always waiting and continually knocking at the heart of the one who has chosen not to follow Him, but eventually, Jesus will stop knocking at the heart that is hard and unreceptive. My heart is a door. Is it hard and unreceptive, or is it soft and pliable?

When Jesus comes back again or at our death, *all* doors will be closed. When our bodies lie cold in the ground, it will either be a happy and joyous day or a very sad day for the soul that lives on. I pray that your soul and mine will be at rest.

Mary Anna Melton  
Rolla, MO



## *The Door that is Opened for Me* *Cliff Holmes*

*When the going is tough,  
And my pathway is rough,  
There's a door that is opened for me.*

*When the mountains are steep,  
And dark valleys so deep,  
There's a door that is opened for me.*

*When souls have been lost,  
For they count not the cost,  
There's a door that is opened for me.*

*When I'm free from all sin,  
And I am bid to come in,  
There's a door that is opened for me.*

*When my journey shall end,  
I'll see Jesus my friend,  
By the door He has opened for me.*

Via Voice of Truth International



## ARE DOORS IMPORTANT?

What kind of door do you have? What is the purpose of your door? What does it do or not do?

Doors have long existed in the lives of humans. The first mention of doors in the Bible is in Genesis 4:7: *If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door.* “The door” stood between man and sin, but it was man’s choice to open or close the door, to reject sin or participate in it.

The Bible uses the word “door” in various ways, one being the figurative sense as in John 10: 7, 9, where Jesus called Himself “the door.” Also, Acts 14:27 tells us that God opened a way for the Gentiles: *“And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.* David wrote in Psalm 141:3, *“Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips!”*

Gates to cities were sometimes referred to as doors. Gates were massive wooden structures and were frequently reinforced with iron or bronze for greater security for a city’s inhabitants. Open gates allowed entry to a city for religious or personal business purposes. Closed gates provided security; in times of conflict, the gates could be quickly closed.



When Nehemiah rebuilt Jerusalem, many gates were built. Each gate had a name, such as the Fountain Gate,



Valley Gate, Dung Gate, Sheep Gate, Water Gate, Horse Gate, East Gate (photo [above](#)), and several others. The Lions’ Gate in current day Jerusalem (photo [left](#)) is also known as St. Stephen’s Gate because it is believed that Stephen was stoned to death near that gate.

Doors close out the world from the sanctuary of our homes. While sin is not welcome, family and friends are welcomed by our open door.

In northern New Mexico, it is not uncommon to see lots of blue doors. The Hispanic and native American cultures in the Southwest believe that blue is a welcoming color representing the sky. “A blue front door may symbolize prosperity and abundance, and the darker you go, the more a blue door can project a sense of tranquility, peace, and elegance.” (Aug 25, 2017 reference via the internet).



Doors in our country, though few of them are blue, are essential in life. Open doors welcome visitors and are considered hospitable. Closed doors are at times disappointing in that someone you wished to visit is not at home or is not receptive to visits.

Doors can be wide (accommodating) or narrow (more selective). They provide safety from intruders as in Genesis 19:6 when Lot pulled the men into his home because his neighbors were attempting to behave abominably toward the men who, in fact, were angels.

Interestingly, doors were sometimes used in an Old Testament ritual showing loyalty and/or adoption as in Exodus 21:6. If a servant or slave chose to remain with his master rather than to go free, his master would take him to a door or doorpost and pierce his ear. That was an indication to all that he would be a slave forever—by his own choice.

God commanded the children of Israel in Deuteronomy 6:6-9: *“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.* This shows the significance God placed on their teaching their children to love and obey God. It is *no less important* for us to constantly teach God’s word to our children.

Doors are protective as in Exodus when the children of Israel were instructed in Exodus 12:17 to kill a lamb and put its blood on the doorposts of their homes. If they complied with God’s instructions as relayed to them by Moses, they would be protected from the death angel



taking the lives of every first born in unprotected homes. Failure to follow this procedure resulted in death to every firstborn in households without blood on the doorposts. This included even Pharaoh's household. God's promise was proven true when He passed over the homes that followed His directive in Exodus 12:23.

Some doors are wide; some are narrow. In Luke 13:24, Jesus said, *"Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able."* In our day, there are fewer spiritual implications in our doors. However, hospitality and physical security are still important factors for Christians.

The doors of our hearts must be open to God's word. His word is our guide and compass as we journey through this life. May the doors to our hearts be open wide to Him, and the doors to our homes be open to our Christian family and to others who seek to know God and His will.

Evelyn Waite  
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### Take Me to the Door, Lord

Perhaps one of the strangest laws to be found within the pages of Holy Writ is recorded in Exodus 21:1-6. Under the Old Law, the Israelites were required to release Hebrew slaves after six years of servitude. Most Hebrews who were slaves became such out of necessity. More often than not, they enslaved themselves to pay off a great debt.

After six years of servitude, they were free to go, whether or not the debt had been completely paid. However, the Hebrew slaves had the choice to begin their lives anew as free citizens, or they could remain with their masters for the rest of their lives.

You may ask yourself why a slave would choose to remain a slave rather than to go free. If the slave loved his master, he had the legal right to remain with his master for life. By making known his desire to remain with his master, the slave was then taken to the doorpost. The master then pierced the servant's ear with an awl, thereby allowing all who saw this servant to know the decision he had made to remain in service to his master.

It is the case today that slavery still exists all over the world. Whether or not everyone realizes it, all people in this world are slaves. Either man is in service to God, or he is in bondage to sin. There is no middle ground (Matthew 6:24). Slavery to sin does bring with it some

freedoms—freedom from God (Isaiah 59:1-2), freedom from the blessings that can be found only in Christ (Ephesians 1:3), and freedom from salvation (Romans 6:23). Servitude to Christ also has its freedoms—freedom from the guilt of sins (Acts 2:38) and freedom from the torment of a devil's hell (John 3:16).

We owe a debt to God that can never be repaid, not in 6 years, not in 6,000 years and not even in 6 million years. It is our choice to remain with God, to whom we are all indebted, or walk the pathway of sin, where we will find ourselves toiling under the burden of sin's dreadful consequences. God will not hold us against our wills, but Satan will attempt to keep us within his evil clutches. It is also the case that Satan cares not how his servants are treated, but God counts those who serve Him as sons rather than as slaves (Luke 5). Those who serve God can attest to the fact that God is indeed a merciful and loving Master.

Do you love the Lord? If we truly love Him, then we will do what He has asked us to do in His word (John 14:15). Let us all make the decision to serve the Lord for as long as we live on this earth. May the entire world see that we have made the decision to remain with our Master forever. The world should see that we have had our ears pierced with the Lord's awl, spiritually speaking. May all who have chosen to remain with God never forget to whom they have given their allegiance. Will you choose to be a free citizen of God's kingdom by putting yourself into His service? The Lord stands at the door waiting. May our lives speak to the Lord, saying, "Lord, take me to the door this day."

Patrick Morrison, Jasper, Alabama  
Via Voice of Truth International



*Sunrise* is a monthly newsletter written and/or assembled by members of the Rolla Church of Christ. Sunrise is printed and distributed (primarily via email) to individuals and congregations around the country. All previous issues can be accessed by going to <http://www.seekgrowserveLove.org>. Click on the Resources tab, then on Sunrise Newsletter. You will find the current issue plus all previous issues.

