

Transitions

Introduction

Over the past few weeks, God has led us into deep reflection on the transitions of life. From considering the journey 'in between' the promise and its fulfillment, to acknowledging the war on the inside, to today's topic of recognizing the open doors God has strategically placed before us. We must acknowledge the importance of transitioning into every new level of life.

The Contemporary English Version of Revelations 3:8 states "I know everything you have done. And I have placed before you an open door no one can close. You were not very strong, but you obeyed my message and did not deny you are my followers". What a word! What a promise! The fact that even though God knows we have limited strength, He honours our intentions and our obedience and opens the kind of doors that no one can shut! Thank you, Lord!

It is easy to become full of fear and anxiety when life moves us toward transition, because for many of us our greatest fear is the fear of the unknown. However, when we develop the mindset that recognises that God's plan for us are good and not evil, and that every setback has actually been a set up to see the hand of God work in ways beyond what we have hoped for and imagined....Our attitude towards transition changes. One writer sums it up by saying "I don't know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future". In other words, trust Him through the transition. You can't always see what's on the other side of an open door but walk through it anyhow.

Getting Started

Read **1 Corinthians 16:8-10; Acts 16:25-31**

1. What does the door signify in 1 Corinthians 16:9?
2. What is the connection between opportunity and effective and productive ministry?
3. What is the significance of the prison doors swinging open in Acts 16:26? Do you attach special significance to the foundations being shaken?

Let's Get Personal

1. What opportunities are you seeing God bring into your life? Are you in a position to take advantage of them?
2. Paul states in 1Corinthians 16:9 that because of the open door of opportunity in his life, his adversaries would be many. Assuming this is true also for you, how can you get ready? How can you prepare for where you believe the next level of your service to God will take you?

Take The Next Step

Read Genesis 7:16-24

1. Contemplate what happened in the ark when God shut the door. How long was it before they opened again?