

October 23, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Seven Letters of Love: Part 6

To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of Him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What He opens no one can shut, and what He shuts no one can open. I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied My name. I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. Since you have kept My command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of My God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from My God; and I will also write on them My new name. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
—Revelation 3:7–13 (NIV)

Letter 6: To the Church in Philadelphia

Jesus begins this letter to the church by reminding them that He knows all. “I know your deeds. I have placed an open door that no one can shut.” This refers to His authority to open the doors of opportunity for the Gospel to be proclaimed. “You have little strength.” This was a small congregation with a huge heart to share the good news. Paul states, “When I am weak, then am I strong.” “Yet you have kept My Word.” This church believed the Word of God and obeyed it. *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. (James 1:22 NIV)*

“And have not denied My name.” Whoever acknowledges Me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven, but whoever disowns Me before others, I will disown before My Father in heaven. (Matthew 10:32–33 NIV) “I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have so that no one will take your crown.” They were living as though He could return at any moment! *And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. (1 Peter 5:4 NIV)* “The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it.” A pillar speaks of stability. Christians have stability in this life only in Christ. They are often buffeted and rejected for their faith, but in the life to come, they will not be outsiders. They will be on the “in” with relation to Christ. “I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God.” The writing of the name of God is indicative of the fact that true believers are identified with Christ by the seal of the name of God, which entitles them to enter the city of God. “And I will also write on them my new name.” This signifies that we are His alone: *Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, Who is in you, Whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies (1 Corinthians 6:19–20 NIV)* And what is this significance? *No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the*

Lamb will be in the city, and His servants will serve Him. They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. (Revelation 22:3–4 NIV)

Dear Father, I praise You because of who You are. I praise You that You love all people and have made a way for us to come to You. I praise You that Your way was Jesus and that He was willing to lay down His life for us. Even so, Lord, come soon. In Jesus's name, Amen.