



GAINING
ACCESS

To all God Has for You



The

Access as defined by the dictionary is the means or opportunity to approach or enter a place. This means that the implication of not having access to a desired location is that we will not be able to avail ourselves of all that location offers, even if we can see it and have a legal right to whatever the place offers.

A location can be entered through several means, some of which include doors, gates and keys which all give us a level of access, but in different ways. For instance, a person may have the key to a building, but if the gate to that building is bolted shut, that person still will not be able to gain access to the building.

As we go through the Bible we see several references to ways in which we can gain access to desired places. This series we are looking at the tools of access, understanding how they function and how we can use them so we can have the full experience of all God has for us. May the Holy Spirit grant us wisdom and understanding of the tools He has made available to us.

Day 1

Understanding Keys

'And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Matthew 16:19

When you have a key to a place, you automatically have unrestricted ability to enter and leave the place at will. The thing about keys however is that are specific by nature: we need to have the correct one to access a specific location. For instance, the key to the bedroom of a house may not necessarily be able to unlock the kitchen. So a hungry person holding a bedroom key will still not have his/her needs met. How then do we access the right keys?

'He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.' Matthew 13:11

The first thing we must appreciate is that keys are given to people. If we happen to stumble upon an outcome we do not yet have the key to, that outcome may not be replicable or expandable as we don't even understand how it happened in the first place. However, if we were to ask the Holy Spirit to give us the specific key to that outcome, then we have better understanding of what to do consistently.

'Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.' Matthew 7:7

The way to receive keys is in the place of prayer, however many times our prayers are for an outcome rather than asking specifically for the key to the outcome we desire. This may be a shift to our existing prayer patterns, but it is necessary for us to gain mastery over the issues of life. For instance, a general prayer may be, "Lord give me more money" which speaks to the outcome while someone looking for the key would pray, "Lord give me the key to consistently generate wealth". Another example may be praying, "Lord bless me this season", rather than "Lord give me the key that will unlock all You have for me this season". Asking for keys typically results in a spiritual download of a strategy that will require some action on our part as keys have to be used to be useful. We will look at how to use keys in the next devotional.

Prayer: Holy Spirit please teach me how to pray for keys so I am equipped to gain mastery over the issues of life.

Day 2 Using Keys

'A severe famine now struck the land, as had happened before in Abraham's time. So Isaac moved to Gerar...The Lord appeared to Isaac and said, "Do not go down to Egypt, but do as I tell you. So Isaac stayed in Gerar... When Isaac planted his crops that year, he harvested a hundred times more grain than he planted, for the Lord blessed him.' Genesis 26:1-2,6,12

Keys are used to unlock mysteries of life, but they have to be used to be effective. When Isaac faced a severe famine, he was about to do what his father Abraham had done during a similar situation and leave for Egypt, but he received a key that would enable him to not just survive but thrive during the famine: stay in Gerar. As simple and as contradictory as it appeared, staying in Gerar rather than migrating to Egypt opened the door to the multiplication that made Isaac prosperous.

Once a key has been received, the next step is to use it. In Isaac's case, stay in Gerar continue planting his crops which would ultimately yield a multiple harvest. Isaac's story teaches us that God's keys may not necessarily be obvious or conventional and that as we obey the initial instruction, other instructions and enablement begin to follow.

'I will bless the Lord who guides me; even at night my heart instructs me.' Psalms 16:7

'Ask me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come.'
Jeremiah 33:3

'When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.' John 16:13

Keys must be used to be effective – the holder of the key has to put it in the door and unlock it for the door to open. Isaac had to plant seeds for there to be a bumper harvest. One of Daniel's keys to promotion was the spirit of excellence in his place of work, but Daniel had to exercise this by being consistently diligent in all his dealings (Dan1-12). Bezalel and Oholiab received the key to craftsmanship of various metals and textiles, but the Bible notes that they were experts at this, meaning they had to exercise what they had been given to the stage of expertise (Exo 38:23). Likewise whatever key we receive must be used to get results.

It's worth noting that Abraham was told to go to Egypt while Isaac instructed to do the opposite. So the fact that a particular key worked for someone doesn't mean it will work for another even in an apparently similar situation,

Prayer: Lord grant me wisdom to effectively use the keys You give me.



Day 3 The Power of Doors

“... The race is not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor riches to men of understanding, Nor favor to men of skill; But time and chance happen to them all.” Ecclesiastes 9:11

We have established that Keys give repeated success by giving access to mysteries that unlock certain dimensions of life. Doors on the other hand speak of opportunity. Whenever God wants to create advancement for His word, people, etc. He creates opportunities. In order to gain access to an opportunity, there must be a door to lead to that opportunity. As the scripture above illustrates, the progress a person makes in life is directly related to the opportunities that person is able to access. So doors are very important.

“meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ...” Colossians 4:3

“... and a door was opened to me by the Lord,” II Corinthians 2:12

“But He needed to go through Samaria... A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.”... And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I ever did.” John 4:4, 7, 39

On His way back to Galilee, Jesus perceived that He had to go through Samaria because a door was open to spread the Gospel in that city and that the woman at the well was the access to the city. In the natural there was no correlation between the two. As with all things spiritual, discernment and sensitivity are required to identify when a door has been opened by God. Wisdom and understanding are also required so we can handle that opportunity effectively: Jesus knew exactly what to say to her to activate the right response and take the city. There may be times we have missed opportunities because they didn't look like what we were expecting, or we lacked the requisite spiritual intelligence to take full advantage of the opportunity provided.

Prayer: Lord please give me the ability to discern when you have opened a door of opportunity for me and grant me the wisdom to maximise the opportunity. Let nothing You have opened to me fall off my radar.

Day 4 Open & Shut Doors

“...He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”... See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it... Revelation 3:7-8

Many times when we speak of doors it is often within the context of God opening doors. Yes God opens doors, but He also shuts them. Doors are opened by God for advancement and closed by Him for a number of reasons including protection, preservation, realignment to His will among others. So every opportunity or hindrance to accessing opportunities have to be assessed spiritually so we know what's really going on.

“Next Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit had prevented them from preaching the word in the province of Asia at that time.” Acts 16:6 NLT

Even though Paul and Silas were already on their missionary journey, the door wasn't open to them to preach in Asia at the time as the Holy Spirit Himself shut the door to that region. The Holy Spirit didn't manifest and stop them from getting up and moving, but they may have faced challenges in moving ahead and a check in their spirit that the time wasn't right for Asia. Which tells us that there's a role timing plays in taking advantage of opportunities.

“Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel... And God was displeased with this thing; therefore He struck Israel.” I Chronicles 21:1, 7

It's critical we are aware that both God and Satan create opportunities. When God wants to empower a person He creates opportunities for empowerment, likewise when Satan wants to destroy a person he also creates opportunities with the goal to derail and destroy. This is why the Bible says the spiritual person is supposed to judge all things (1 Cor 2:15) and not take life only at face value. A seeming promotion could be a distraction orchestrated by the enemy to make person becomes too busy for God or subsumed in an environment that leads to compromise. Likewise a seemingly difficult circumstance could be an orchestration by God to mature us and bring us into expansion. We will deal more with handling God ordained opportunities tomorrow.

Prayer: Lord help me identify the doors of opportunity You have opened for me and direct me away from those You didn't orchestrate.

Day 5 Dealing with hindrances to doors

“When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king of Israel, they mobilized all their forces to capture him. But David was told they were coming, so he went into the stronghold.” 2 Samuel 5:17 NLT

When the opportunity for kingship came for David, the first thing he had to deal with was warfare. Question: why did the Philistines wait for David to be king before mobilizing to attack him? One of the things we must always keep in mind is that the enemy is not our cheerleader. God’s open doors means advancement of His children and His kingdom and a corresponding reduction in the influence of the kingdom of darkness over that area. So there will be resistance and we must expect it and be ready to persist regardless.

“For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.” 1 Corinthians 16:9

“Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us.” 1 Thessalonians 2:18

When David was told the Philistines were coming he went into the stronghold. Likewise we must anticipate that there will be resistance to open doors and deal with hindrances in our own stronghold: the place of prayer where we download from God the strategy to address the hindrance. David knew he had to handle the adversaries so his reign as king would be effective, Paul also knew he had to address the adversaries to spreading the gospel in Ephesus.

“No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn...” Isaiah 54:17

It would be folly for us not to anticipate and proactively deal with hindrances. We have two assurances in the scripture above. First is that while no weapon formed against us will prosper, the enemy will certainly try so we must be prepared. Open doors will always attract opposition and the danger of not dealing with them is that while the door may be open, we won’t get the full experience that God planned for us.

Prayer: Lord help me stay alert as I press into the opportunities you’ve made available to me. Help me to remain mindful that there will be opposition and give me the strength to press in until I receive the fullness of all you planned for me.

Day 6 Dealing with Gates

“Thus says the LORD to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held...to open before him the double doors, so that the gates will not be shut: ‘I will go before you and make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze And cut the bars of iron.’ Isaiah 45:1-2

Imagine having an estate where the key to every room has been made available and every door opened, however the gates to the estate are closed – no one will be able to access anything in the houses. Life is controlled by spiritual gates and it is critical we realize and understand this. The Bible speaks of gates of bronze which gives us a sense of the level of power they have to either give or prevent access and as long as gates stay closed, entrance will not be possible. So gates cannot be wished away, they have to be dealt with.

'Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, The Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah' Psalms 24:7-10

Jesus is our template to follow and He had to tackle gates also. His example made it clear that gates have to be addressed head on and not from a position of supplication but based on the authority we have because of the victory we have in Jesus. There are gates to everything in life: time, years, seasons, lives, families, industries, nations, spiritual levels, etc. It's the person that understands how to take the gates that will have consistent victory in life because gates have to be addressed. What are the gates confronting you? Are you running from or addressing them? Remember without addressing the gates access will be impossible. We will look at how to possess the gates at the next devotional.

Prayer: Lord open my eyes to see where I have been limited by gates and show me how to address them.



Day 7 Opening gates

“Then, looking up to heaven, He sighed, and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.”
Mark 7:34

We have established that there are many barriers in life, one of which is gates. We have also established that these gates either give or prevent access. To gain access to gates, we do not tread fearfully, but forcefully and persistently. Forcefully because the gates are not weak (Isaiah 45:2-3) and persistently because they may not open immediately (Psalm 24:7-10). The Bible speaks of direct confrontation with any gates preventing the required access and while the results of closed gates are experienced in the natural, to alter the situation we must go to the source in the spirit through prayer.

“and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,”
Ephesians 2:6

The first step is to understand what we are dealing with as we ask God in prayer to reveal the specific gates that are closed and the appropriate strategy required to take the gates. Next is to seek God’s face and direction and ask for a revelation of who you are in Jesus. This is necessary because we are basing our confrontation of the gates on the victory Jesus won for us, so we must understand both who He is and who we are in Him.

“Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church.” Ephesians 1:21-22
NLT

Then we are to address the gates and command them to open because of who we are in Jesus and the authority we carry, understanding that we are seated in Him who is head over all for our benefit. Nothing happens if we do not pray and address the situation, once we do and the gates open the evidence will be clear in our lives.

Prayer: I stand on the authority of the name of Jesus and in my position in Him who is seated far above all and has authority over all and I command the gates of (insert what you are addressing) to be open to me now in the name of Jesus.

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