

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKING



"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20).

Opportunity Knocking

Many recall seeing that famous painting of Christ as He stands with lamp in hand, knocking at the vine-covered door. Truly this scene is of literal nature but portrays a very spiritual meaning. The Savior, although unseen with the natural eye, stands knocking at the heart's door of lost humanity. "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

What love and compassion Christ has for the perishing! He was willing to leave His home in Heaven so that He might redeem mankind. One can clearly see the concern He has for souls in the parable of the lost sheep. The parable speaks of a man who had a hundred sheep and one went astray from the flock. The good shepherd left the ninety and nine sheep where they were safe and began searching the wilderness for the one that wandered away. This is likened to man who goes astray and ends up in the wilderness of sin. Christ, because of His love and concern, goes about seeking those who are lost. He stops at every heart and knocks gently to see if anyone will open the door and allow Him to come in.

An individual can recognize the Spirit of God as He speaks to his heart. God speaks through His Word, through a minister, or through a child of God. That still, small voice you hear is the Holy Spirit encouraging you to surrender. He causes you to begin thinking about the things of God and your lost condition and tells you what you must do to be saved.

God may choose to bless in some special way. Romans 2:4 informs us, "... the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance." If the goodness of God fails to move you, He may allow adversity to come your way to awaken you to your need of Him. He has but

one thought in mind, and that is to bring you to an awareness of your lost state. He is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). "As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways ..." (Ezekiel 33:11). If you would only realize how much Christ wants to save you and how much better your life would be with Him, you would not hesitate a moment longer.

Precious soul, do not put off yielding your life to God. There is danger in neglecting your soul's salvation. Since salvation is offered by invitation only, one must realize that God is not obligated to invite an individual to accept this gift more than once. It is true, in many cases, that the love and mercy of God will make repeated appeals to the unsaved; but there is no guarantee that He will knock at your heart over and over again. John 6:44 tells us, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him...." Without the Spirit of God wooing at the heart, inviting a man or a woman to be saved, it would be impossible for a person to ever gain this pearl of great price.

Many a person has made the foolish statement, "I will get saved when I am ready." The only problem with this theory is, when you get ready, God might have already passed you by. Felix had the ridiculous thought that he could become a Christian at some more convenient season; but sorry to say, we find nowhere in the Scriptures where that season ever came. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2). "To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts" (Hebrews 3:15).

Jesus Christ is very much interested in you. Will you take advantage of this opportunity and allow Him to come into your heart? "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19). First John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

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