

Now What? Seasons and Transitions

The Preferred Future - The Mega Door - Part 4

February 28, 2021

Rev. Dr. Tony Soldano

The Big Idea

God is an incredible engineer, and He loves to employ something called, “reverse engineering”. In other words, God starts from the end in mind and works from *the finished work* to the present. In God’s economy all things have been completed and the rest of the process is His workmanship. This can be called the preferred future. Consider some of the following thoughts regarding the preferred future:

- God always has an ideal future in mind
- God always moves us towards a better future
- God speaks to us in advance and He does nothing until He communicates to His prophets
- Grace is an “inviter” and faith must answer the invitation; therefore, live your life from the present to the future and not from the present to the past
- God opens the future through “doors” or effectual openings (effectual means effective - mega or great doors)
- When you carry promises you are pregnant.

Definition of the Preferred Future

The definition of the preferred future is where the intersection of the Kingdom and the desires of the heart collide.

Matthew 6 – Thy Kingdom come

Psalms 37:4 – meet/align/collide/actualize/blossom

The preferred future is where:

- Your dreams and God’s dreams are realized
- The will of God and your passions align themselves.

Main Text

Paul’s Plans for Travel – A Great and Effective Door

1Corinthians 16:5-9

⁵ Now I will come to you when I pass through Macedonia (for I am passing through Macedonia). ⁶ And it may be that I will remain, or even spend the winter with you, that you may send me on my journey, wherever I go. ⁷ For I do not wish to see you now on the way; but I hope to stay a while with you, if the Lord permits. ⁸ But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost. ⁹ **For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.**

Main Points

In order to understand how God is operating in your life you have to understand biblical language. In the Bible, the term “door” communicates an opportunity, it is something that we either are invited to come into, or we are restricted from entering. When the door is closed, perhaps it is not the right opportunity, or it is the wrong season. Therefore, you could have the right door in the wrong season. Consider some key points regarding the mega door:

it is not the right timing or the right season.

1. God's opportunities always come to us as an open door

a. The DOOR

- An **effective door** – it means “MEGA” or huge
 - Think big – dream big – if you are going to think, think big
 - God will fill what you give Him
- It is the opening—the place of blessing
- Go through the door – it leads to the “next”
- Jesus said:
 - “I am the door”
 - “I stand at the door”
 - “I set a door before you”.

b. Opportunity comes from God

- The Latin word “opportune” - In the Roman world the word was used as, *favourable conditions to enter into the harbour.*

c. The opportunity demands adjustments

- Good is the enemy of God
- Let go of the old things and allow the new to come forth.

2. Seasons change when times change

- a. What time is it? This is the question that we should be asking when we are talking about timing and seasons.
- b. As it relates to transition, timing is incredibly important, maybe timing is everything, consider:
 - The “Kronos” and “Kairos”
 - Kronos means “father time”, the calendar, for example, actual time moving
 - Kairos, means a catalytic moment, the appointed time
 - Every new “thing” is a prepared thing – in other words, God already prepared it and we are now walking into it. TIMING:
 - Something old always dies in order for the new to be birthed
 - Breakthroughs cannot be scheduled – God creates them
 - Every promise has a “due date” (for example, babies are born when their environment becomes too small and uncomfortable).
- c. Right and wrong timing/doors

Timing	Door	Position	Result
Right	Open	Favour	Blessing
Wrong	Closed	No Favour	Disaster
Wrong	Open Right	Favour	Frustration/Delay
Right	Closed	No Favour	Restriction

- d. Stop living in ***cycles*** – Many people live in a circle; constantly going around the mountain repeatedly and never really acquiring the lessons needed to move into the next season. Consider some thoughts about God and when He **moves**:
 - Avoid the “compound mistakes syndrome”- this is where one bad decision and mistake leads to another and then another and then another.
 - Issues are repeated over and over again sometimes they are generational (i.e., Isaac and Abraham)
 - *“Cycles change when you change”*
 - God is always moving, in God there is always progress
 - *You don’t always know the way, but God does, He leads, and we follow*
 - When God moves, that is our signal that we should move as well
 - I.e., the children of Israel followed the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night— when the cloud moved, they moved.

3. God orchestrates the opening and the closing of the door

- a. The book of Revelation speaks of the door that Christ opens and shuts

Revelation 3:8

I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

- **STRENGTH:**
 - It is not by our own energy
 - God’s energy impacts our energy
 - It is a personal door for you.

b. The “in-between”

- Sometimes there are stops along the way before we arrive at the final destiny
 - Joseph – the pit, Potiphar’s house, the prison
 - David was anointed three times before he became king – Horeb, Ziklag and the Philistines
 - Jesus – Nazareth, Capernaum, Jerusalem
 - Moses – Egypt, Midian, Egypt – the mouth of the promise land – Canaan
- Get your compass out – you are in uncharted territory.

4. Opposition is an indicator that you are at the door!

- a. The way you know that you are at the door
 - Mushrooming problems
 - There are many adversaries
 - There were no giants in the wilderness – they were encountered in the promised land.
- b. The enemy pushes back against us and the open door that God has created for us
 - Spiritual warfare increases and intensifies because the enemy wants to overwhelm us and bewilder us
 - The enemy’s desire is to discourage us from going through the door
 - Sadly, some people create their own “hell” and they make the enemy’s job so much easier.

- c. The key is to always focus on the open door and the opportunity rather than the adversity
 - *If your only focus is on your adversary, you have probably lost already.*

Final Thought

In Faith – Faith Forward

The battle of our life is always in regard to our faith. Will we remain in faith? In other words, will we remain constant, rooted, and established, steadfast in God?

- Will you remain in faith until the Word comes to pass?
- When we only focus on the problems and the adversity, faith will be drained from our lives.
- Hebrews – you have need of endurance – having done the will of God
- Who can believe that God is able?
- **PRAY \DREAM \ ENTERPRISE**

Endless Opportunities/Possibilities

Ephesians 2:10

¹⁰ For we are His workmanship (*masterpiece*), created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Workmanship = masterpiece handiwork

- We have been created by God in Christ Jesus
- God has made **good works** for us to walk in
- Prepared (in the past for an appointed time – the preferred future) He planned it for us
- *Wherever we walk, God has prepared progress for us*
- Make good use of **opportunities**
 - God has already designed opportunities for us without violating scripture
 - Our responsibility is to maximize opportunity by walking in them to the fullest
 - Progress – to make one's way fruitful - to live one's life to full potential.

What Do We Mean by Endless Opportunities?

Ephesians 3:20-21 - The Apostle Paul

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do **exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think**, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

- We can imagine a lot
- Get comfortable with ideas and concepts outside your box
- We believe too small and wait too long
- God is waiting on us

John 10:10 - Christ

¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 - Jeremiah

¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

1Corinthians 3:21-23 - Paul

²¹ Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come — all are yours. ²³ And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

2Peter 1:3-4 - Peter

³ as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

How can we ensure that the preferred future we desire and that God desires are one and the same?

Because we have the desires of the Father!

Psalms 37:4

Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. (NKJV)

- In Latin the word desire: "De" (of the) "Sire" (Father) = the desires of the Father

Romans 8:29

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

- If I am being changed/conformed into the image of His Son my desire is not to violate scripture

Because we have a renewed Mind!

Romans 12:1-2

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies **a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- I am a living, breathing walking sacrifice
- Transformation by the renewing of my mind
- I think His thoughts
- Mind of Christ - 1Corinthians 2:16 - But we have the mind of Christ.
 - Illustration: Butterfly example of transformation

Opportunities Need Evaluation

Do you have a filter system in place?

- The right group or the inner circle around you
- The right plan – does it match your life plan
- The right vehicle to drive the future.

The Protection

Can we create protection and barriers around the opportunities that are presented to us? Consider:

Counsel and coaching

- Abide in Christ: John 15:1-8
- Through a renewed mind: Romans 12:1-4
- Talk to your Coach daily: Christ

The “fixed point” – the Word of God – the Bible

- Create protection in your life (i.e., a mountain climber fastens his harness to a rope and the mountain
 - If you are your own fixed point you will fall
- “Live to play another day” - Greg Salciccioli
- The scriptures are your protection - you are to be connected to a fixed point – otherwise ‘go’ but have your harness on.

Quotes

- Do not back into your future by default
- When you only focus on the problems in front of you, it will drain the faith out of you
- If you are going to think, think bigger than yourself
- Every “new” thing is a prepared thing
- Opposition is an indicator that you were at the door of opportunity
- Do not allow the “in-between” to keep you from your final destination
- God’s victory is assured when He is present
- Live your life from the present to the future, this creates hunger and hope
- Seasons change when...
 - Times change
 - Cycles change
 - You change

Questions & Discussion

- 1) Describe the door that is in front of you right now. What does it look like?
- 2) List your many adversaries. What makes them so intimidating and daunting? How are they a confirmation of your assignment?
- 3) List some places that you can identify as the “in-between” in your life.
- 4) Describe some of the “protections” that you have utilized in your life.
- 5) What is meant by the term, “endless opportunities”? Discuss the scriptures listed above.
- 6) How are we God’s workmanship?
- 7) According to Ephesians 2:10, what are good works?