

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 37

The Giver of Spiritual Gifts...the Holy Spirit
The Door

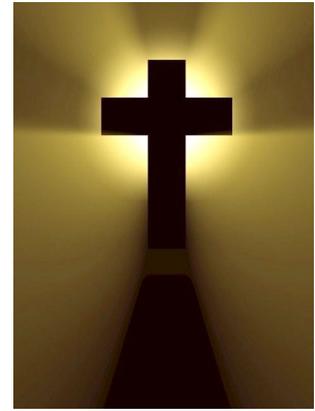


Sunday, April 3, 2011

John 10:9 "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture (rest)."

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."* *(John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave us One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



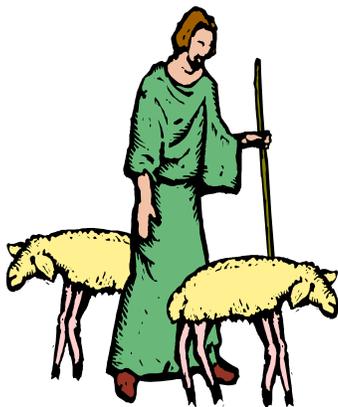
Lesson

And here is the amazing thing that we didn't get to in our last lesson... God has also placed the open doorway to eternity in our lives. It is Jesus Christ. He is the Door to eternity and it is a door that anyone can enter each and every day! The Bible tells us how to get it. Jesus said in John 5:24, "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears my word, and believes Him (the Father) who sent me (Jesus), has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into (eternal) life."



The Bible tells us what eternal life is in John 17:3. "This is eternal life that they may know you (Father), the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." This is something we can do every day if we haven't already. The Bible tells us where eternity is. 1 John 5:11 "And the testimony (witness) is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son."

The Lord has given us a passageway...a DOOR...to eternity and it is a door we can use every day. John 10:9-10 "**I am the door.** If anyone enters through me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture (rest). (10)The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have (eternal) life, and have it abundantly."



Every day of your life, there is an open door and it leads to eternity. It leads to eternal life in Heaven forever with God. The door is Christ. John 10:11 "I am the good Shepherd; the good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. (12) If anyone enters through me he will be saved, and (after that) he will go in and out and FIND PASTURE (rest and comfort)." John 10:7 "So Jesus again said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, **I am the door** of the sheep.'" Please note carefully that our Lord talks about Himself as the being the DOOR, and it is a door that He wants His sheep (believers) to go in and out of OVER AND OVER AGAIN. He explains Himself. He said, "I came that they may have (eternal) life (salvation) and (once they do) have it ABUNDANTLY (tastes of Heaven in resurrection life but to enjoy in time as well)."

Remember when we studied repentance? I told you that repentance is a door. God invites you to walk through the door of "changing your mind." Repentance means to "change your mind" about something. In this discussion right here it means to change your mind about

Christ and believe in Him for eternal life in Heaven. That's of course if you haven't already...I know you all have believed.

Let's look at this carefully because we all have family members and friends who are not saved yet. This is your opportunity to get to understand this so you can witness to them about Jesus so they can repent or "change their minds" about believing in Jesus as their Savior.

So Jesus is the door to salvation...eternal life with God forever in Heaven with no end...perfect happiness forever and ever. That is the most important door...Jesus...faith alone in Christ alone and it represents our adjustment to God's justice and perfect righteousness in regard to salvation...our eternal life in Him.

But guess what, kids? God gave two other doors besides the most important one. Each door represents the adjustments to the justice of God. Adjustment to the justice of God means we must obey the perfect way and follow the plan of God from His perfect righteousness and justice. He is perfectly fair and never makes us do anything but He shows us what we MUST do to have His eternal LIFE and then a great happy life afterwards.

Let's look at the other doors:

1. Of course the first door is the door of salvation. You were invited to change your mind about Christ. When you walked through that door you were saved. Jesus said "**I am the way**" and you believed Him and you said "yes" to Him and you were saved for eternity.
2. The second door is the door of repentance or "changing your mind" about your lifestyle if it is one that follows the sin nature. When you walk through that door because your conscience tells you to do so, you are immediately welcomed back and can continue to learn and apply God's Word. Jesus said, "**I am the truth.**"
3. The third door is the door of spiritual maturity, adjusting to the truth of God's word. It is having your minds renewed everyday by learning and believing the Word of God, the Truth that sets you free in this world. Repenting or "changing your mind" about the Truth is that door and it leads to the abundant life...many, many blessings and happiness in life. Jesus said, "**I am the life.**"



We saw back then when we studied repentance the power of realizing that our Lord Jesus Christ is all three doors. Here is what we did not see or I did not realize back then...no matter what time it is, it is always time for one of those doors. Each one leads you back to the road to eternity.



Our Lord also tells us what it is we can do daily in order to have a deeper, more intimate knowledge of Him, to get even closer to Him and walk with Him in **Luke 9:23** where He said. "**And He was saying to them all, if anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me.**" Wow "take up our cross?" What does that mean? Well you know kids, this is how we get closer to Jesus. You also know we're pretty weak when you think about it...we're hopeless and helpless without God or His grace and in our human weakness, we see the horror and shame of Jesus' crucifixion, and so we tend to react to the mention of the cross, let alone picking it up ourselves! The thought of it and how Jesus suffered kind of scares us a bit, right? So we may tend to think of our cross, the one Jesus asked us to take up, and treat it like it is a problem for us. Well, guess what? That is precisely 100% wrong. In fact the opposite is true. We are not called to be ON our cross.

We are called to PICK UP our cross...CARRY OUR cross and THEN follow Him. This brings us close to Him. We can lean on Him to help in any way.

The cross is always there every day of our lives. The cross is the ultimate open door. Before we are "born again" and saved, it is the open door to salvation. After we are "born again" and saved, it is the open door to resurrection life in time...happiness and peace no matter what happens to us. It is the ultimate open door, and it is there available to walk through every day of our lives.

Look at the CROSS and what it does for you:

- When I am arrogant, the cross is the open door to humility.
- When I am selfish, the cross is the open door to putting others ahead of me.
- When I am greedy, the cross is the open door to giving.
- When I am crushed, the cross is the open door to the comfort and support of Christ.
- When I am burdened, the cross is the open door to ease and rest.
- When I am in slavery, the cross is the open door to freedom.
- When I am weak, the cross is the open door to spiritual and physical strength.

Again when it comes to taking up our cross, we usually think that the cross is a problem that we need to solve. But that is exactly the opposite of the truth. The cross is the ultimate solution. That's why it's the open door every day of our lives. Take up our cross daily. The cross is the open door. On one side is our problem. On the other side is Christ. **Luke 9:23 "And He was saying to them all, 'If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.'"**

All of our problems come from ourselves usually. The cross is the open door that allows us to solve the problem and go walk with Christ. **Luke 9:23 And He was saying to them all, 'If anyone wishes to come after me (your destiny), he must deny himself (the source of problems), and take up his cross daily (solution...the Door) and follow me (resurrection life in time)."** This is true if we need salvation or any other help in our lives. Once we have salvation through the Door...Jesus...everything else we need is easy for God to supply. We just continue to use the other two doors with constant daily learning of the Word and applying it or using it to please God.

Let's say I have the problem of an unhealthy attachment to something in my life. It could be anything...a person or a thing that I think I cannot be away from or without for very long and it causes me to stop doing important things for myself and others because I'm so attached to that person or thing. This is very unhealthy for me and it's a problem. In fact, suffering and affliction may come from this unhealthy attachment to whatever it is...person or thing. My inability to let go of that and my inability to accept things I do not like about the situation, about other people, about myself is a huge problem. On my own, I will never solve this problem but...the cross is given as the gift in my life...that open door that is there every day...the cross is the ability from God to allow that unhealthy attachment to die and free me from it. NOW I am free to follow Christ more completely. I don't need whatever it was I was so attached to...I needed Christ and what His cross can do for me!!!! The cross is not the

problem. The cross is the solution.

When our Lord Jesus Christ was on the cross dying for our sins, He was crucified between two thieves. One thief represents the past...full of regrets, guilt, or condemnation and the other thief represents the future full of worry or fear and both of these thieves can rob us of abundant life in time, which God promises to us. We can either live for the cross today revealed by our Lord upon the cross at Calvary or we can choose to focus in on the two thieves crucified with Him. One thief representing regrets for past sins on the one hand, and the other thief representing fears for the future on the other. Wouldn't you rather live for the present...represented by the CROSS of Christ. That is time on earth in a nutshell. Past regrets...future fears...or the cross today...the ultimate present and our doors to eternal life and abundant life in Christ on earth.

Close in prayer.

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on Thursday, November 21, 2010
Lighthouse Bible Church

