



'More than Conqueror' focus

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERCOMERS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP INT'L MAY 2016 – VOLUME 8 ISSUE 4

Pastor's Desk

GOD OF OPEN DOORS.

In life, God is the only One who can open doors as declares in *Revelation 3:7-8* during a terrible battle at the door of breakthrough..” I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it.....”. Doors speak of opportunities, chances or possibilities that will cause a person to make progress and advance in life and make it meaningful. These doors can be marked as marriage, career, finances, health or fruit of the womb. Opened doors make impossibilities become possibilities! God can give you open doors in response to your earnest prayer; or through your praise and worship, or even can turns the King’s heart to open doors and grant you access to the privileges normally reserved only for the movers in the society. Whenever a child of God has reached a dead end the only way out is the miraculous opening of the door for you. The irony of life is that every great and glorious door could be closed by adversaries as Apostle Paul noted in *1 Corin.16:9*. We should not fear these adversaries because our Lord has given us the ingredients for divine open doors.

The ingredients for divine open doors are well stated and very clear in both *Revelation 3:8* and *Col.4:3*. One of the ingredients is depending on God because you have little strength to struggle; since the difference between struggling and being favor is open door. You can not open the door yourself, so you need to call upon the Lord to open it for you.

This is the season of your open doors when heaven will smile on you and you will enter into the arena of your jubilation, in Jesus name. Keeping and applying God’s Word to our lives is another ingredient for open door. Do not say “heaven helps those who help themselves” which is not Scriptural; but let God’s Words abide in you so that when you ask for the open door, it would be opened unto you! As you have confessed Jesus name; do not deny Him in the public like Apo. Peter did, the night Jesus was arrested before His crucifixion; so that Jesus will not deny you before His Father for open doors.

Violent binding and losing prayer is also necessary to win the battles at the door of breakthrough. There is door of salvation (*Rev.3:20; John 10:9*) which is the first door you will definitely need if you are not yet born – again; so that other doors could be opened unto you. As you are entering into the month of May 2016 which has been declared by God as your month of openings; your doors of uncommon answers to prayers, job opportunities, marital breakthroughs, prophetic inspiration, fulfilment, divine release and all round academic and financial success shall be opened unto you, in Jesus name.

JESUS IS LORD.

PASTOR MIKE ILELADEWA

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday Service: 10:30am—1pm;

Monday Bible Study: 7pm - 9pm

Tuesday Prayer Warrior : 11pm— 2am;

Monthly Activities

Vigil Prayer Meeting

2nd Friday of Every month:10pm-3am

[Next meeting: 13th May, 2016]

Women's Fellowship Meeting:

Third Sunday of Every month, 1pm-3pm

[Next meeting: 15th May, 2016]

Men's Fellowship Meeting:

First Sunday of Every month, 1pm-3pm

[Next meeting: 15th May, 2016]

General Evangelism:

Third Saturday of Every Month, 3pm-4pm

[Next meeting: 21st May, 2016]

Breakthrough Prayer Meeting:

Last Friday of Every Month: 7pm-9pm

[Next meeting: 27th May, 2016]

“I am an Overcomer because Jesus Christ who lives in me is greater than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4)”

DO WE PARTICIPATE IN OUR OWN SALVATION?

By Andrew Shanks

©desiringgod.org

The hopeless situation seems to have no end in sight until a young girl comes and sprinkles some drops of water over the dust, causing it to drift back to the floor where it can be swept into a neat pile and disposed of properly. This vision, Christian comes to understand, represents the futile human effort to deal with sin through effort apart from the gracious working of the gospel. Bunyan teaches us that our great effort in fighting sin must be undertaken in the power of the Holy Spirit through the gospel. If our efforts are divorced from the work of the Spirit, they will prove futile — just like the ineffectual sweeping of the serving man in Bunyan's tale. It is a valuable lesson: We cannot sanctify ourselves in our own strength any more than we can save ourselves in our own strength. Unfortunately, it is startlingly easy to build an unstable, lawless shack on this solid, theological foundation and to live contentedly there with our sins as we wait for the Holy Spirit to take out the trash. This approach is a misunderstanding of both Bunyan and the Bible, and it proceeds from a confusion of two distinct but related aspects of sanctification, called definitive and progressive.

Once-for-All Sanctification: Definitive sanctification entails the single act of God by which he sets the believer apart for his divine purpose. This truth is glorious, and preaches well, especially in our Reformed circles. We stand firm on the fact that we contribute nothing to our right standing with God, and so it seems theologically consistent to insist that we contribute nothing to our sanctification either. It is, after all, solely the grace of God that enables the entire scope of salvation. This is one of the implications of Paul's words in Romans 8:29–30: Our conformity to Christ is the purpose of God's choosing and predestining us, and he alone is the one who brings it about. This is "definitive sanctification," which John Frame calls a "once-for-all event, simultaneous with effectual calling and regeneration that transfers us from the sphere of sin to the sphere of God's holiness" (Systematic Theology, 986). Definitive sanctification is an act of God's grace, not our effort, to which we contribute no virtue, but only receive by

Ongoing Sanctification: Progressive sanctification is the practical development in our earthly lives of the definitive sanctification that God accomplished once-for-all. Progressive sanctification, unlike definitive sanctification actually empowers the believer to respond with diligent, God-supplied effort. "Think of [progressive] sanctification as the outworking of the new life given in regeneration" (Frame, 987).

The Bible describes progressive sanctification repeatedly and does so within the context of the sovereign working of God's Spirit. So we read in *Philippians 2:12–13* that we are to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure." And *Colossians 1:29*: "For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me." We must be careful not to speed-read through the first parts of those verses — the parts that talk about human "work" and "toil" — in order to get to the more exciting parts that emphasize the working of God. Now we are in a better position to understand Bunyan's image of the sweeper. Yes, the water of gospel grace is necessary to deal effectively with the dust of sin, but the girl who sprinkles the water still diligently picks up her broom to sweep the dust away. Definitive and progressive sanctification are both necessary facets of our redemption. So how do they work together? TO BE CONTINUED...

The Overcomers Sanctuary,

15 Gordon Terrace, Mutley, Plymouth, PL4 6EP, UK .

Tel: (+44) 07862710378, 07780994236.

Web: www.tocfi.com

Email: pastor@tocfi.com; ocfplymouth@hotmail.co.uk

Find us on Twitter and Facebook:



@TOCFIPlymouth



The Overcomers Christian Fellowship Int'l, Plymouth

Upcoming Events

OCFI Annual Men's Fellowship Anniversary is coming up in June 2016. Watch out for more details.

Testimonies

Sis G.: Thank God for granting my mother-in-law an entry clearance to assist my family with babysitting while we finish our studies at the University after series of refused application.

Bro A.: Thank God for giving me a divine inspiration to publish my thesis, following several oppositions and discouragement , my article has been approved for publication.