



House Arrest—Somebody Please Open The Door!!!! by Laura Shaw



How many times have you prayed for "an open door" to help you with a decision? If you were to sit and reflect for a moment or two, you could probably think of countless times when He opened up opportunities to lead you **into** something new or to confirm a decision for you. It strengthens my faith to consider my own...In contrast, have you ever prayed for open doors to lead you **out** of an uncomfortable situation or a trying time of life? An opening for escape of some sorts? I can answer with a whole-hearted "yes!!!"

Doors can be an entrance to something new, and doors can be an exit from something present—spiritually speaking, too. The Holy Spirit led me to several passages of Scripture that show me examples of this in the Christian life, but the one which grabbed my attention was Colossians 4:2-5. *"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity."*

You know, this truly blows me away! If I were "in chains," I would be praying for a way to get me out of there as fast and as painlessly as possible. But what does Paul pray for? "An open door for the message of Christ" right where he was, that's what! When I personalize Paul's plight, the realization really hits! He had a heart for evangelization. He wanted to preach. It had become his passion, yet there he was "chained down" for over two years! No wonder he could tell others, "Devote yourselves to prayer..." He could have easily prayed, "Lord, You have called me to preach, so please let me outta here so I can preach!" Maybe he did at first. But as he stayed in the center of God's will, watching and thanking Him, he learned to make the most of his present situation, even if it meant being under house arrest longer.

I hope and pray that I will have that kind of faith someday. There's nothing wrong with praying for what I want, but after I do so, I need to stop and listen for His answer—HIS answer. Sometimes, the open door he wants me to pray for is the one He places right in front of me for His purposes, the one that will give others entrance to His kingdom. Paul realized that the Lord could minister through him whether he was stuck in the house or whether he was preaching under open skies. And the Lord did so. He took several letters that Paul penned during this time WAY outside those walls, didn't He? Even outside his era! People all over the world now get the benefit of Paul's obedience.

Are you behind what seems to be a closed door right now? Do you feel like you're under house arrest in your current circumstances, screaming "SOMEBODY, please open the door"?!?! Do you find yourself struggling between doing what you need to do versus doing what you'd love to be doing instead? Do you wonder why He has not swung open the shutters for you already? Look through the windows of His Word and ask



the Son to shine brightly right where you are...as His face beams on you, He will fulfill His purposes through you. Keep praying for the Holy Spirit to lead you through whatever openings the Lord will provide, and be watchful and thankful when they come, making the most of every opportunity. And for those of you walking in and out of the revolving doors of freedom right now, take the time to look around for ways to share and be Jesus to others. Enjoy the breeze and be thankful for this time as long as you have it! ☺ Praise be to God in the house, and praise be to God in the streets. He is worthy of it indeed!!!!

Lord Jesus, Thank you for choosing to go through the door of salvation for us on the cross. You could've taken another door, but then all of us would have perished in our sin. We can't thank you enough! We pray for Your wisdom in our decisions, Lord, as well as our everyday lives. We pray that You will make us willing vessels that You can use for Your glory, inside or outside the walls of our comfort zones. As the struggles in this daily life sometimes chain us down, Father, we pray for Your help and Your supernatural strength to deliver us in Your way and in Your time. And may we give You all the glory ALL the time! In Jesus' Risen NAME we pray, Amen.

