



**“WHEN GOD SHUTS
THE DOOR”
REVELATION 3: 7**

Introduction

Revelation 3: 7-12 *“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, “He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”:* 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. ⁹ Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. ¹⁰ Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.....”*

- ❖ He tends to open rather than shuts
- ❖ Will shut as needed
- ❖ Sometimes open doors mean we are not yet up to the level of facing closed doors

Introduction

- ❖ Life is not always as pleasant / comfortable as we would like it be
- ❖ There are still catastrophes and miseries in the world that we do not know reasons for
- ❖ In most cases there is nothing we can do about these events or situations but rather strive to accept
 - ❖ When St. Anthony asked this question, answer was take care of your salvation
- ❖ First we have to admit that there is nothing meaningless for God and that everything is good at its time (Ecc 3) for our benefit



Comfort vs. Benefit (Why ?)

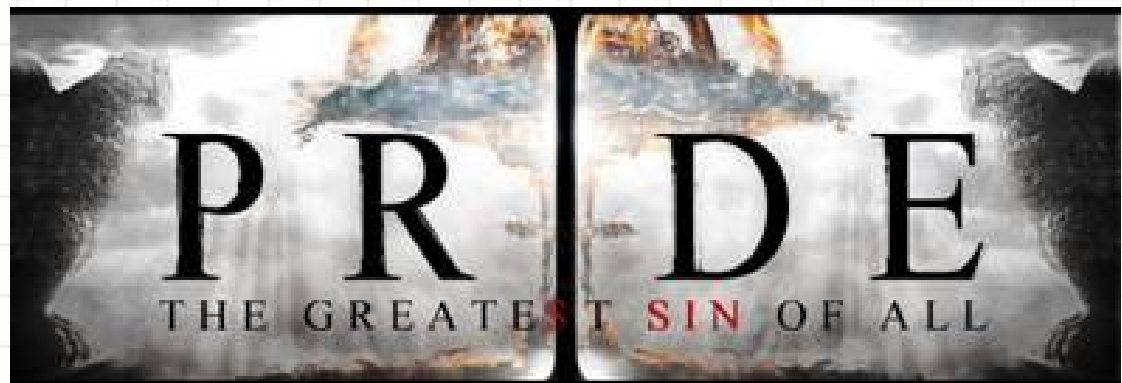
- ❖ God is always seeking our benefit first rather than our comfort
- ❖ There is a huge difference between the two, in most cases
- ❖ In most cases we think quite the opposite
- ❖ For example: when God allows a beloved to depart, what is in it for me? Is He moving my treasure somewhere else?



Pot. Answer #1: Pride

2 Cor 12: 7-9 *“And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. ⁸ Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. ⁹ And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”*

- ❖ In the last day the best I can say is that I was tested and endured
- ❖ We are all earthen vessels
- ❖ It is important to know that you do not know / cannot do a lot of things



Pot. Answer #2: Focus

Ecc 3: 1-12 *“To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, And a time to die;...A time to weep, And a time to laugh; ...⁶ A time to gain, And a time to lose;...¹¹He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.”*

- ❖ Jacob when he was introduced to Pharaoh
- ❖ Solomon the Wise
- ❖ St. Paul



Pot. Answer #3: Maturity

James 1: 2 *“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.”*

- ❖ At the time of strength, remember that you are weak, you are just an earthen vessel
- ❖ At the time of weakness, remember that you are not alone
- ❖ Solomon the Wise
- ❖ **2 Cor: 8-10:** *“For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. ⁹ Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, ¹⁰ who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us”*

Pot. Answer #4: Discipline

Heb 12: 4-12 *“⁴ You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. ⁵ And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: “My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; ⁶ For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.” ⁷ If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?¹¹ Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”*

- ❖ St. Peter denying
- ❖ A student
- ❖ A monk
- ❖ An athlete
- ❖ A peasant



Pot. Answer #5: Purification

1 Pet 1: 6-9 *“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen[a] you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.”*

- ❖ Purification is a process than needs time
- ❖ Church takes it step by step with us
- ❖ St. Peter is not hesitant to remind us
- ❖ Reminding: whispering or shouting



There is a Way Out

1 Cor 10: 12-13 *“but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”*

- ❖ Time
- ❖ Advice / explanation from God / Godly people
- ❖ An alternative (that can be better)
- ❖ Professional help
- ❖ Focus on heaven
- ❖ Forgiveness until we know why?

**IT'S NOT
THE EASY
WAY OUT
BUT HAS THE EASY
WAY WORKED?**