

## Front Page - January 2018

### A New Door Opens

**“For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries”  
(1 Cor. 16:9)**

What will the New Year bring, joy or sorrow, achievement or frustration, health or sickness, good or ill? We cannot foresee what the unfolding months will unveil. The last day of the old year is closed but the door of the new year, by the grace of God, now swings open.

How have we entered this new year? Have we come into it on eagles' wings or are we chained to earth by fleshly lusts and worldly pursuits?

There are open doors in every life, doors to high achievement, wide usefulness and spiritual discovery. Many of us often look upon our circumstances in life as barriers to accomplishment, but in our moments of honest observation we need to recognize that the imagined constraints are in reality open doors of opportunity. Our circumstances only look like barriers because the inward eye by which we recognize spiritual values is diseased.

We must realize that there are never open doors without opposition. “A great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries” (1 Cor. 16:9). There is an opportunity in every difficulty and a difficulty in every opportunity. That is why so many blessings are missed, so many heights left unattained, so many fine chapters of service left unwritten. Some of the finest overseas missionaries are those who never went! They heard the call and felt the urge, they saw the open door and were keen to go, but there were adversaries, obstacles, discouragements, hesitation; the vision faded and the calling was never fulfilled.

We cannot go back to relive the old year, let us not lament over useless regrets but turn our eyes to the great new door of opportunity which the new year sets before us. Many go blindly into the new year without a thought that it is a God-given door of opportunity. The “god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not” (2 Cor. 4:4). Let us not be like them. May we see the new year to be what it really is—a “great door” opened to us!

First and foremost it is a door to *richer fellowship with God*. Fellowship with God has no attraction for the unbeliever, but God has awakened a new nature in us who are Christ's, and that new nature has both the hunger and the capacity for spiritual joys. The purest joy this side of heaven is fellowship with God. There is one lesson that all Christians should learn, that is the absolute necessity of fellowship with God each day. The grace one has received of the forgiveness of sins and acceptance as God's child can only be preserved by the daily renewal in fellowship with Jesus Christ Himself. Many backslide because they are unable to stand against the temptations of this world and their old nature. They strive to do their best to fight against sin and to serve God but they have no strength. Time spent alone with God each day is the all-important necessity for growth and power. It is the lack of waiting prayerfully and submissively on the Lord that most chains us to this world. At the break of the New Year our heavenly Father calls each of us to a closer fellowship with Himself.

The new year is also an open door to *greater usefulness for Christ*. When we pass from this life and the Lord calls us home, will some of us regretfully look back wishing that we might have used our opportunities more faithfully to win others for Christ? The pleasures, pursuits and concerns on which we spend so much time now may seem strangely small then. We ought always to view things as we shall view them then. How loyal, willing and active are we willing to be despite all the discouragements in the matter of daily bearing our witness for the Saviour? It has been said that a pessimist is one who sees a difficulty in every opportunity; whereas an optimist sees an opportunity in every difficulty. Let this be a year of seeing opportunities rather than difficulties. If we have eyes to see, there are “open doors” everywhere.

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### The New Year

Another year is dawning, the old has passed away;  
We hail the cloudless morning of God's eternal day.  
And in our heart arises the bright and morning star;  
O day of sweet surprises, we hail thee from afar.

Another year invites us to fellowship with God;  
Another time to ponder within His precious Word;  
Once more to taste, like Mary, His blessed sympathy,  
Or know again like Peter forgiveness full and free.

Another year constrains us to serve our absent Lord;  
For soon the golden harvest will all have been secured;  
When victor's crowns will gladden the Blessed Saviour's heart,  
Then in that great rejoicing, we too would share a part.

Another year is dawning, the old has passed away  
We hail the glorious morning of God's unclouded day.  
So let us serve and follow till faith and hope withdraw,  
And love has full dominion henceforth forevermore.

... *Unknown*

... *Yvonne Vernon*