

MARK JENKINS MINISTRIES

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Jesus Became Our Door

Dear Friend,

Lately, the Holy Ghost has impressed upon me the importance of appreciating how completely we have been changed when we are born again. I can't tell you how long it has taken me to even begin to see myself as the new creation I truly am. (II Corinthians 5:17)

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

The new creature that we became once we were born again did not exist one second before we made Jesus Lord of our lives. The instant we confessed His Lordship our spiritually dead human spirit died the death of the cross in Him and a new creation came into existence. Old things passed away and all things became new, glory to God! Even though we don't look any different on the outside we are totally new on the inside. So, after all the times of hearing about this change; are we living in the reality of what happened?

The way the Holy Ghost has been bringing this to my attention has been by having me revisit a vision He gave me back in September of 2012. In a split second, the Holy Ghost flashed a picture in my spirit that I am still digesting, trying to grasp all of its significance. He showed me a scene in which Adam was standing in the Garden of Eden right at the point of taking a bite of the fruit God had told him not to eat. Just as he partook of the fruit, I saw what looked to be a door suddenly appear in the garden, which Adam proceeded to step through and immediately it slammed shut and disappeared.

I'm not saying a physical door actually appeared in the garden. This was just an illustration God used to help explain to me what happened. **This picture of Adam passing through a door illustrated his passing out of spiritual life and into spiritual death. The door disappearing represented the fact that there was no way for Adam to return to his original standing in the garden.**

Adam was not only spiritually dead inside, but all that surrounded Adam in this natural world had also become subject to death.

There was no door in existence at that time that Adam could use to step back through and regain his original standing. What the Holy Ghost has been trying to get over to me is that the message of salvation is all about God providing mankind with a new door back into the position the original Adam lost. What Adam lost was his standing as a righteous, sinless, son of God possessing God's life and nature. There was no way for mankind to return to his original standing without the legal intervention of God.

Throughout the Word of God there have been many examples of doors used to foreshadow the door that was to come. Let's look at a few examples of these doors and discover how clearly they illustrate what took place when we were born again. I believe these examples paint a beautiful picture for us that goes beyond words.

The first mention of a door in the Bible is the one stepped through by a man named Noah. Historically speaking, Noah was born into this earth early in man's existence. Adam's life had already come to an end and the knowledge of God was quickly vanishing from the earth. The wickedness of mankind was spiraling out of control to the point that God repented for making man. (Genesis 6:5-6)

“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (6) And it repented the Lord that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.”

We should all thank God for Noah, because had it not been for Noah, humanity would have been lost. (Genesis 6:8)

“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.”

God used Noah to preach righteousness to a sin sick world for 100 years while he built the ark, which represented mankind's salvation from the soon coming destruction. Eventually, the rain came and the floodwaters rose. Unfortunately, the only ones saved were the eight people of Noah's family who had passed through the door into the ark because no one else believed. (II Peter 2:5)

“And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly.”

(Genesis 7:13)

“In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth the sons of Noah, and Noah’s wife, and the three wives of his sons with them into the ark;”

The point we want to see is this; mankind had to pass through a door to step out of death and into life. Once the waters receded and the door of the Ark opened, Noah and his family stepped out of the ark into a world that was once again filled with the knowledge of God. The Ark clearly represents Jesus, in whom we have our salvation. Everyone who entered through the door was saved, which is the foreshadowing of what was to come. Jesus called Himself the door meaning all who “passed through” Him would be saved. (John 10:9)

(Jesus) “I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”

We are to enter into a totally new existence as we step through the door that Jesus became for us, out of spiritual death and into spiritual life. We have now become citizens of a new world and members of God’s family. As far as God is concerned, our lives should look exactly as the life of Jesus while He walked the earth. The door that Jesus became for us produced much more for us than the door Noah passed through as he and his family entered the ark.

The difference between Noah and us once we are born again is this; Noah was the same man who stepped into the ark before the flood, as he was when he stepped out of the ark into the world cleansed by the flood. We, on the other hand, become totally different people when we step through the door Jesus has become for us as our Lord and Savior, while the world around us remains unchanged. So long as we remain, “In Him”, In Jesus, who is our Ark, we will be preserved from a world that is crumbling around us, and can actually operate here like we are already in our new world.

But, if we only see ourselves hunkering down in the Ark that Jesus has become for us, waiting for heaven to come, we will miss out on all we could be accomplishing while still here. We are members of God’s family now! Even though we have not yet stepped into a world cleansed of the depravity of sin, that day is coming. For now, we should look, act and live like the sons of God that we are and live as though we have already stepped into our new world. I’m talking about beginning our eternity now, before we leave this earth.

This world around us is looking more and more like the world Noah left behind when he stepped into the ark. If we, born again people, can ever stop identifying ourselves in the same group as those around us who are spiritually dead, and realize we are no longer of this world, then we can walk as the children of God we truly are. We must stop identifying with the spiritually dead people we work with, live beside and shop next to at the grocery store. See them for who they really are, they are the ones who are outside the door of the Ark (Jesus), drowning in sin, needing to be saved. We must reach them. That is what we are here to do.

Let's look at another door that you may be familiar with, the door the children of Israel passed through into the safety of their homes while the death angel killed the firstborn of every family. (Exodus 11:4-5)

“And Moses said, ‘Thus saith the Lord, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt: (5) And all the firstborn of Pharaoh that sits upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts.’ ”

God commanded Moses to instruct the children of Israel what they were to do in order to remain safe from the plague of death. They were told to take a lamb without blemish and kill it and take the blood and apply it to the doorposts of their houses. (Exodus 12:13)

“And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where you are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.”

In order for the children of Israel to be safe they had to apply the blood of a lamb to their doorposts and then enter into their home and not come out till morning. (Exodus 12:21-23)

“Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, ‘Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the Passover. (22) And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the basin; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until morning. (23) For the Lord will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the Lord will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.’ ”

These verses are full of symbolism that foretells the salvation that was to become available to all mankind through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. But, the symbol we are **most interested** in for this lesson is the door. It was mandatory that every family member pass through the door coated with blood in order to be saved. The blood was that of a lamb, which symbolized the blood of Jesus that was poured out on our behalf to redeem us from sin. Accepting the Lordship of Jesus and His substitutionary work on the cross in our place is our passing through the door covered in blood.

For the sake of this lesson we won't be able to do any more than scratch the surface of what took place inside. A closer examination will have to wait. For now, notice that the slain lamb was to be roasted with fire and eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. (Exodus 12:8) Clearly, just walking through the door was only the beginning. Their walking through the doorway covered with blood represented our cleansing from sin by the blood of Jesus. However, redemption was not the complete work.

Once inside, the children of Israel ate the lamb roasted with fire, unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Each of these elements were symbols that foretold the story of Jesus as the spotless Lamb of God. The unleavened bread that was eaten portrayed the fact that Jesus was sinless. The bitter herbs portrayed the fact that our sin was laid upon Him. The roasting of the lamb depicted Jesus' time in hell following His death.

By partaking of these elements, the children of Israel secured their deliverance from Egypt. As we accept what Jesus did in our place by making Him the Lord and Savior of our lives, we are stepping into Him who has become our door. In that same instant, we are symbolically partaking of the spotless Lamb who allowed our sin to be laid upon Him. Finally, in that moment, Jesus' suffering in hell in our place is accounted to us and we are free to pass from death to life and be reborn in like manner as He became the firstborn from the dead.

For anyone who did not enter through the blood-covered doorway they were at risk of death because all the firstborn of the land of Egypt were slain that night. This event foreshadowed the death of the entire family of mankind, all of which were born through the loins of the first Adam. When the real Passover Lamb died, who is Jesus, it marked the end of the family of the first Adam. By passing through the "door" Jesus became for us, our identification with the family of the first Adam was ended. We died in Christ and are raised up together with Him. Consequently, sin no longer has dominion over us because we are born again into the family of God.

God wanted to forever mark this event in the minds of the children of Israel. He told Moses and Aaron that they were to change their entire calendar making this month the first of a new year. This represented the new beginning we would have once we are born again. (Exodus 12:1-2)

“And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, (2) ‘This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.’”

This symbolized a complete change in their existence. Once they walked through the door covered in blood, they waited inside all night eating the lamb roasted in fire with bitter herbs and unleavened bread, then they walked out the next day free from their captors. It was as though they had been “reborn”, so to speak, no longer enslaved to a ruthless master. What a perfect picture this is of our freedom from satan and the bondage of sin once we are born again. Keep in mind; we have only scratched the surface here in explaining what Jesus accomplished on the cross. There’s much more to come.

For the remainder of this lesson we want to look at one more door, the door into the Tabernacle. (Exodus 26:36-37)

“You shall make a screen for the door of the tabernacle, woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver. And you shall make for the screen five pillars of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold; their hooks shall be of gold, and you shall cast five sockets of bronze for them.”

Only the priests could enter into the holy place and then only the high priest could enter into the Holiest of all once a year to minister to God on behalf of the people. Those not of the priesthood had to stop outside the tabernacle, unable to enter in. They could bring their sacrifices to the door of the tabernacle, where the animal was killed, but that was as far as they could go.

It wasn’t until the one true sacrifice, Jesus, was offered, that His blood could finally cleanse mankind of sin and death, enabling man to enter into God’s presence as born again children of God. We are not just forgiven sinners; we have been reborn into God’s family, into a royal priesthood. (I Peter 2:9)

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation...”

Because of who we have become by stepping through the door Jesus became for us, we no longer have to wait outside of God’s presence. (Hebrews 4:16)

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

If only we can see ourselves for who we really are. We are not the same people we were before we passed through the door Jesus became for us. That person died the death of the first Adam, in Jesus. That person died on the outside of the Ark. That person died on the outside of the house when all the firstborn of the land died. We are new creations in Christ Jesus, we who are born again. Look again at this verse and see if it means more now. (II Corinthians 5:17)

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

All things are new; get ahold of that, all things. If we can only see ourselves today as the new creations we truly are, born again sons of God, we are unstoppable. Nothing the devil has is any match to what God has made us. The enemy is defeated on our behalf. His dominion has been annihilated. Jesus made a show of the devil openly. The only reason we continue to be defeated by him is because we simply don't believe we are who we are. We are God's children. God is our Father. Jesus is our Lord and Savior and eldest Brother in the Family. Let's focus on renewing our minds to who we have become.

~ Grace be with you

Mark Jenkins