

# OCC Connections Bible Study (Group or Personal)

## Faithful in Weakness, Crowned in Glory: Revelation 3:7-13

**Read for context:** *Isaiah 22:22; Isaiah 62:2; 1 Kings 7:21; Luke 11:5-13; Isaiah 60:14; Isaiah 43:4; Luke 22:53; James 1:12; Galatians 2:9; Isaiah 65:17-19.*

**Big Idea:** Jesus, the Holy and True One who holds the key of David, calls the church at Philadelphia (and us today) to:

- **Seek Christ**, the only One who can open and close doors.
- **Trust** in His power when we have little strength, knowing He provides a way.
- **Endure** faithfully, holding fast until He comes and makes us pillars in His temple with His name written upon us.

The church at Philadelphia had little power, but **kept** Christ's word and did not deny His name. Though **weak** by worldly standards, they were **faithful**. Jesus promises them an open door no one can shut, vindication before their enemies, protection from the hour of trial, and a place as pillars in the temple of God. May we **remain faithful** in our weakness and **trust** in Christ's **strength**.

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### 1. Read the Text

**Read Revelation 3:7-13** aloud.

(Consider also *Isaiah 22:22; Luke 11:5-13; Isaiah 60:14; Luke 22:53; James 1:12; Isaiah 65:17-19.*)

**Ask** the Lord to give you wisdom to understand what it means that He holds the **key** of David, the **doors** He opens and shuts, and what it means to be a **pillar** in His temple.

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## 2. Observe the Text (choose 2-3 prompts)

- How does Christ **describe** Himself in v.7? What does the *key of David* represent?
  - What does Christ know about Philadelphia in v.8? What have they done despite having little power?
  - Who are those of the “*synagogue of Satan*” in v.9? What will happen to them?
  - What **protection** does Christ promise in v.10? What must they do in v.11?
  - What *three promises* does Christ make to overcomers in v.12?
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## 3. See the Connections

**Context:** The church at Philadelphia had little worldly power but remained faithful to Christ. Unlike churches that compromised or lost their first love, Philadelphia kept Christ’s word and did not

deny His name. Jesus holds *the key of David*; he controls all access. He commends the church for their faithfulness despite being weak and promises them an open door, vindication, protection, and eternal security as pillars in God's temple.

### **Word Work:**

- **Key of David** (*kleis David* - G2807): This language speaks over access to God's house. There is only one more time in the entire Bible where this shows up in *Isaiah 22:22* where Eliakim receives authority over the royal household. Christ has ultimate authority to grant or deny access to the kingdom, just as no one goes to the Father except through him.
- **Keep My word** (*tēreō ton logon* - G5083): To guard, treasure, and obey. Philadelphia didn't just hear Christ's word, they held fast to it and lived by it.
- **Hold fast** (*krateō* - G2902): To seize firmly or to cling to; to remain in Him. Essentially this means to remain steadfast in faith until Christ returns. This is commonly found throughout Revelation; to remain in Christ.
- **Pillar** (*stulos* - G4769): A permanent, supporting column. Unlike earthly pillars that crumble, overcomers will be eternal pillars in God's temple, never to be removed. Look at Galatians 2:9 to see another usage of pillar as support.

### **Cross References:**

- **Isaiah 22:22:** The key of David is given to Eliakim, a foreshadowing of Christ's ultimate authority over access to

God's house.

- **Luke 11:5-13:** The Friend at Midnight shows shameless persistence in seeking what we need; Philadelphia's persistent faithfulness mirrors this. This is a beautiful parabolic connection.
- **Isaiah 60:14:** Those who afflicted Israel will bow down, similarly, those who claimed to be God's people but opposed Philadelphia will acknowledge Christ's love for the faithful.
- **Luke 22:53; James 1:12:** The hour of trial refers to times of testing, Christ promises to keep Philadelphia from the coming hour that will test the whole world.
- **Isaiah 65:17-19:** The new heavens and new earth where God dwells with His people forever, pillars in God's temple will be part of this eternal reality.

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#### 4. Interpret (What It Means)

- **Only Jesus can open and close the door:**  
Christ alone controls access to the kingdom. No human authority, no worldly power, no opposing force can shut what He opens or opens what He shuts. This shows Christ's sovereign authority over our lives and opportunities for ministry.
- **When we are weak, He provides a way:**  
Philadelphia had "little power". They were weak by worldly standards, yet Christ set an open door before them. *Our weakness* doesn't limit God's work through us. **When**

we face opposition, trials, or feel inadequate, Christ provides a way when there seems to be no way.

- **Endurance brings forth rewards in the city of God:**  
Those who hold fast receive three promises: to be **pillars** in God's temple (permanent, honored position), to **bear God's name** (belonging and identity), and to **bear the name of the New Jerusalem** (citizenship in the eternal city). These promises are for those who endure faithfully to the end.
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## 5. Apply (How We Live)

- **Seek Christ, the Holy and True One:**  
First, know Christ as the way, the truth, and the life. Ask, seek, and knock, trust in the Father who gives the Holy Spirit. If you don't know Christ, the greatest reward you can receive is salvation through believing in Him and being saved.
- **Remain in Him. Be a pillar and crowned with life:**  
Grow in Christ by learning His word and becoming more Christ-like. Don't let culture, the world, or opposition derail you. Remain in His word, His love, and His promises. Respond to opposition with love and truth.
- **Show others the door Christ provides for all:**  
Use Christ's open door as an opportunity to serve, speak truth, invite people to church, and encourage them. Look

for one person to show the love and hope of Christ to this week.

**Ask yourself:** Am I trusting Christ with the doors in my life? Where do I feel weak, and how is Christ making a way? Where is Christ calling me to endure faithfully? Who can I show the open door of Christ's love to this week?

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### **Commitment Log (7 Days)**

- **Pray:** *"Lord Jesus, You are the Holy and True One who holds the key of David. Help me trust You with every door in my life. Fill me with Your Spirit to endure faithfully. Make me a pillar in Your temple."*
  - **Plan:** Choose one area where you feel weak or powerless. How will you trust Christ's strength this week? What door is He opening for you to walk through?
  - **Practice:** Daily ask: What doors is Christ opening today? Am I holding fast to His word? Who can I show Christ's open door to?
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## 6. Pray the Text (Revelation 3:7-13)

**Praise:** *“Jesus, You are the Holy and True One who holds the key of David. You open and no one can shut. You shut and no one can open. We praise You for Your sovereign authority!”*

**Confession:** *“Forgive me for trusting in my own strength instead of Yours. Forgive me for denying You through my actions or words. Help me keep Your word.”*

**Dependence:** *“Lord, I have little power, but You have set an open door before me. Help me walk through it. Keep me from the hour of trial. Help me hold fast until You come.”*

**Mission:** *“Use my weakness for Your glory. Help me show others the open door You provide. Make me a pillar in Your temple with Your name written on me.”*

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## 7. Life Stage Helps

- **Parents/Kids:** Talk about doors that only Jesus can open. Draw a door and write ways Jesus helps us. Discuss: How does Jesus give us strength when we feel weak?
- **Couples/Roommates:** Where do you feel weak as a household? What doors is Christ opening for you together? Pray for each other to hold fast in areas of struggle.
- **Students/Young Adults:** Name one door you want Christ to open (opportunity, relationship, ministry). How can you

keep His word while waiting? What does holding fast look like in your season?

- **New to Faith:** Ask a mature believer: What does it mean to keep Christ's word? How do you hold fast when life gets hard?
  - **Singles/Widows/Seniors:** Read *Revelation 3:12 and Isaiah 65:17-19*. Write a prayer expressing your hope in Christ's promises: being a pillar in God's temple, bearing His name, dwelling in the New Jerusalem.
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**Notes / Questions**