

# THE OPEN DOOR

By Paralee Eadie

A family recently suffered the loss of two of their valuable farm animals, all because of an open door. Death was not the thought or intention of the one who failed to close the barn door. Perhaps it was forgetfulness, neglect, or distraction. It may have simply been the lack of realizing the importance of the instruction to always close the barn door. After all, it had been left open before and nothing bad had happened. But on this day the animals, unnoticed, got into feed not intended for them, and the next day they died. A very costly, difficult, heart-breaking lesson was learned that day.

God's grace and love help us through such difficult lessons, and, for our future protection, allow us to learn from our mistakes. Even more graciously, He allows others to learn from our mistakes. He even blesses us with the ability to teach others the lessons we've learned from our mistakes. It's called our testimony. A wise man will take note of the lessons others share and take heed himself.

What great Scriptural lesson can be learned from this "open door" mistake? **YOU ARE THE CONTROLLER OF THE DOOR!** John 10:10 NIV "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. But I (Jesus) am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Satan is the thief. He comes to steal our peace, to kill our testimony, to destroy our destiny, and so much more. But he has no power to do that unless we give him an "open door". "I would never open a door to Satan!", you say. Yet every time we disobey God's Word, every time we neglect to seek His advice in a matter, every time we allow self to take over, or pride to creep in, we open the door to the enemy.

Ephesians 4:31-32 NIV "Get rid of all bitterness, rage, and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you."

I don't know about you, but I've had a few pity parties in my life. (It's hard to leave a party when it's in your honor.) **OPEN DOOR!** I've been angry and not wanted to let go of that anger. (I have a right to be angry about that!) **OPEN DOOR!** I've harbored bitterness toward a person or a situation. (Forgive them? That would be like saying what they

did was okay.) WIDE OPEN DOOR! Have you ever watched a TV program, read a book, looked at pictures, or went somewhere and "feasted on grain" not fit for you to eat? OPEN DOORS! I can't afford to tithe. OPEN DOOR! It was just a little lie. OPEN DOOR! It wasn't gossip, just a prayer request. OPEN DOOR! I only told a few friends on Facebook. WORLD-WIDE OPEN DOOR!

Remember, Satan only needs that door open a crack, a way to come in to steal, and kill, and destroy all that God has planned for you. We've all been there. We've all done that. GOOD NEWS! God is our Redeemer! God is our Restorer! God has endued us with the power to SHUT THE DOOR! It's called repentance. REPENTANCE shuts the door. Obedience, doing things God's way, keeps the door shut. Read Colossians 3:5-17 NIV and note that God has given you the power to: "put to death", "rid yourselves", "clothe yourselves", and "forgive...sing...have gratitude...and give thanks to God". Pretty awesome!

While we can't control everything that comes our way, while everything that happens is not always our fault, while the source of every thought is not always us, God has given us the power to control our response to it. Joseph is a perfect example. Sold into slavery by his brothers, thrown into prison by a false accusation, and kept extra years in prison by a forgotten promise. Yet when he had the power for revenge against his brothers, what was his response? Genesis 50:19-20 NIV "But Joseph said to them, 'Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.' "

God is mighty at bringing good out of evil and life out of death. May the testimony of this "open door" lesson be the very thing that opens your eyes to the schemes of the devil who seeks to steal, kill, and destroy. And may it be the very thing that opens your eyes to the truth of Philippians 1:6 NIV. "Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ." Like Joseph, may you know that God is saving many lives when you SHUT THE DOOR on the enemy.