

Lent, Day 8  
Thursday, March 14, 2019

### Revelation 3:7–13

Have you ever taken on a new challenge? Do you remember the way you were afraid you weren't enough? Not strong enough, or fast enough, or smart enough, or talented enough, etc? I sure have. There have been things that I have taken on that I have stopped to think, "What are you doing?" Most recently, the past two days to be precise, I agreed to be an MC for a local High School's two night Jazz concert.

I'm not afraid of public speaking. I've been involved in drama's and speech arts through out school. I can learn scripts and get into character. I've never really experienced stage fright—at least not enough to stop me. But to host an event was entirely new. There was no script written for me to follow. There was no text to base my remarks on (like preparing a sermon). So as I worked to prepare I kept wondering why I had volunteered myself for this. I can be funny, but planning to be funny or writing jokes for a crowd you're not familiar with is a challenge.

The little church in Philadelphia was going through a similar experience. N. T. Wright describes the contrast between the synagogue and the church in this area; the synagogue would have a community of thousands whereas the church would have a few dozen.<sup>1</sup> This is significant because the Jewish community of the synagogue would be actively working against the message of the church, the gospel.

So Jesus brings them a word of comfort, "I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut." We too can feel that we have little strength in our day and age. It isn't the Jewish community in particular, we have many today ranged against the gospel of Jesus and its implications. We often feel we don't have what we need to accomplish the task of sharing the gospel. Jesus's words of comfort are just as much for us as for Philadelphia. Jesus has opened the door for us and he has given us the strength we need—at least he will if we will trust him and walk through the door.

### Prayer

Temple builder, make of us your holy habitation so we may dwell in your house forever. Grant us the strength of your name and establish us as your pillar. Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> N. T. Wright, *Revelation for Everyone* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2011), 34.