



SOMEBODY
Knocking
AT YOUR DOOR

S E R M O N G U I D E

No Limits with Pastor Delman

Somebody's Knocking At Your Door

Revelation 3:20-22

INTRODUCTION

In the book of Revelation, John has a vision of Jesus returning to the churches of Asia Minor offering them commendation and critique, complements and correction, with the aim of perfecting the church, edifying the saints, glorifying His Father, annihilating the kingdom of darkness, and ushering His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. But for it all to happen, Christ must invite those who follow Him to turn the circumstances of their lives, their communities, and their churches around, and he does so with an image of Christ standing at the door knocking. It is an invitation of help, hope, and healing, one that is rooted in Christ's desire to enter their lives, if only they would let him in.

KEY POINTS

1. Jesus Offers Us Power

Despite having a name and reputation around town for being alive, the church of Sardis that John talks about in today's key passage was really spiritually dead. It was a place where people gathered, but they did so because it was customary, or they did so because it was the popular thing to do. You wanted to say at the water cooler on Monday morning that you were at Sardis Baptist Church the day before.

Sadly, those same people had no power. They couldn't get a prayer through. They were dominated by the flesh and the things of the world, and as a consequence, they were spiritually defeated and did not walk in the victory that Jesus gave them. To make matters worse, not only was this a problem with the church of Sardis, but it's a problem we're still facing today.

So many of us have experienced feeling spiritually dead, where we are going through the motions, but we're not growing and maturing in our faith, and we're not being fulfilled in our walk with Christ. The circumstances we're facing are testing our faith, deepening our doubts, and challenging our convictions, but we're not making any progress spiritually.

2. Jesus Offers Us Courage

In addition to the church of Sardis, there was also a problem with the church of Laodicea that John writes to in Revelation. They were lukewarm to speak out, but they also lacked the courage to look within. For it is not until one is willing to look within and to be one's authentic self that you can find freedom and joy in life.

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The church of Laodicea was in bondage trying to be like the other churches around them. They built the building they had because they saw the churches in other cities had great cathedrals. Everything they did was about investing time, effort, energy, and resources into being like others, and consequently, they lacked the power they needed because they struggled to be who and what God called them to be. We not only need courage that challenges systems and structures that oppress us on the outside, but we also need the courage to challenge strongholds we struggle with on the inside.

3. Jesus Offers Us Love

To the churches in Asia Minor who were wondering if Christ's words would work in their lives, Jesus concludes the third chapter of Revelation saying, "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends" (v. 20). In other words, Jesus is saying if they would just let Him into their lives, He could demonstrate that His words would work for them.

Then according to verses 7 and 19 in the same chapter, Jesus is making it clear that He wants to help them because He loves them. He says in verse 19, "I correct and discipline everyone I love." He's basically saying that He is correcting them and redirecting them because He loves them and wants what's best for them.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Do find yourself dominated and distracted by the things and people of this world right now? If so, how can you refocus your mind and your heart on Christ?
2. When was the last time you portrayed courage to overcome something you were struggling with?
3. Do you see the Lord's correction as His love for you, or do you become bitter and resentful when He redirects you?
