



The Open Door *Pastor Mike Chapman*

Life doesn't come to us like a math problem to be impersonally deciphered. It unfolds like a story – like a drama. Story is the language of the heart. They grip us ... stir us ... mesmerize us. Stories are how we figure things out. Answers to some of life's deepest questions only seem to come to us when we know the rest of the story.

ONCE UPON A TIME ...

Genesis 1:1, in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. NIV

John 1:1-2, In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God and He was with God in the beginning. NIV

Genesis 1:2, *And the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*
GW

To understand the story, we must go to the **beginning**.

The story begins with something relational not a mathematical equation.

God makes men and women his friends in this story.

In the beginning, the love story of God begins.

He wrote **human beings** into it.

Genesis 1:26, *Let us make humans in our image.* GW

PARADISE IS LOST

Evil was lurking in the Garden.

The Evil One lied to us and tricked us into thinking we could re-write the story—a better story than our Eternal Lover had written for us.

Genesis 3:4-5, *Die? No, you'll not die. God is playing games with you. The truth is that God knows the day you eat the fruit from that tree you will awaken something powerful in you and become like Him.* TV

John 10:10, *The thief's purpose is to steal, kill and to destroy.*

The door to Eden was **slammed** shut.

Genesis 3:23-24, *The Eternal God banished Adam and Eve from the Eden and exiled humanity from paradise...He stationed winged guardians at the east end of Eden and set up a sword of flames which turned back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.* TV

THE OPEN DOOR

We humans bought the lie and something in our heart shifted.

Whatever else we know, we know this...Something is wrong with the world, with life and with us.

1 John 5:19, *The whole world is under the control of the Evil One.*

Romans 7:18-24, *I realize that I don't have what it takes...I decide to do good, but I don't really do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time...The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up...I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me?* Msg

God announces his **rescue mission** to save his people.

Genesis 3:15, *I'm declaring war between you and the woman, between your offspring and hers. He'll crush your head. You will strike his heel.* Msg

Galatians 4:4, *When the fullness of time came, God sent forth his son.* NIV

The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus answers once and for all the question "What is God's heart toward me?"

Jesus not only opened the door back to God, he **is** the door.

John 10:9, *I am the door, and the person who enters through me will be saved.* NCV

John 10:10, *The thief comes to steal and kill and destroy, but I came to give life—life in all its fullness.* NCV

1 John 3:8, *The Son of Man came to destroy the works of the devil.*

At the point of our deepest betrayal, when we had run our farthest from him and gotten so lost we could never find our way home God came to us and opened to door so we could come home to him!