

**Open That Door**  
**Easter Sunday**  
**Walking Through That Door to Freedom**  
**Discover Church**  
**Mark Phillips**  
**4/17/22**

*"I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved." John 10:9*

Why do we miss God's Open Doors?

1. We don't recognize them
2. We aren't prepared for them
3. We lack courage to go through them even when we do recognize them

*"Suddenly, there was a great earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the prison doors flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off and they were set free!" Acts 16:26*

*"I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead." Ephesians 1:19-20*

Jesus has risen to **release** you from your **prison**

*"He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners...to set the oppressed free." Luke 4:18*

**FREE FROM WHAT?**

1. Free from the prison of **pretending**

*"The fear of human opinion disables; but trusting in God protects you from that." Proverbs 29:25*

There are two things that cause us to fall into this trap:

- People Pleasing
  
- Perfectionism

*"You are always making yourselves look good, but God sees what is in your heart. The things that most people think are important are worthless as far as God is concerned." Luke 16:15*

- Switch my focus to what God thinks

*“I will live in freedom, because I only pay attention to what you say.” Psalm 119:45*

2. Free from the prison of **unforgiveness**

- Ask for it
- Offer it
- Accept it
- Give it

Three Reasons to Forgive

- Because God has **forgiven** me

*“There is now no condemnation awaiting those who belong to Christ Jesus. For the power of God’s life-giving Spirit – and this power is mine through Christ Jesus – has freed me from the vicious circle of sin and death.” Romans 8:1-2*

- Because **resentment** makes me miserable

*“Some men stay happy till the day they die...others have no happiness at all; they live and die with bitter hearts.” Job 21:23-25*

- I’m going to **need more** forgiveness in the future

*“If you refuse to forgive others, your Father in heaven will not forgive your sins.” Matthew 6:15*

3. Free from the prison of **fear**

*“That evening, the disciples met behind locked doors out of fear of the religious leaders. Suddenly, Jesus stood among them! ‘Peace be with you,’ he said.” John 20:19*

How does God help you break out of fear?

- Remember how much God **loves** me

*“God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him... There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear.” 1 John 4:16, 18*

- Remember that God has a **good plan** for me

*“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, and have been called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28*

*“It makes no difference who you are or where you’re from – if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the DOOR IS OPEN!” Acts 10:35*

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Jesus has risen to \_\_\_\_\_ you from your \_\_\_\_\_

**FREE FROM WHAT?**

1. Free from the prison of \_\_\_\_\_
2. Free from the prison of \_\_\_\_\_

**THREE REASONS TO FORGIVE**

- Because God has \_\_\_\_\_ me
  - Because \_\_\_\_\_ makes me miserable
  - I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_ forgiveness in the future
3. Free from the prison of \_\_\_\_\_

How does God help you break out of fear?

- Remember how much God \_\_\_\_\_ me
- Remember that God has a \_\_\_\_\_ for me

*Scriptures: John 10:9; Acts 16:26; Ephesians 1:19-20; Luke 4:18; Proverbs 29:25; Luke 16:15; Psalm 119:45; Romans 8:1-2; Job 21:23-25; Matthew 6:15; John 20:19; 1 John 4:16, 18; Romans 8:28; Acts 10:35*