

Attaboy! Attagirl!

The safest place to be in the whole wide world is to be in the center of God's will. And the best life you can possibly live is a life sold out to Jesus Christ. Both of these statements are bedrock truths that you can bank on.

Although Satan and his demons certainly target vibrant Christians for destruction, there is a corresponding truth that far outweighs this risk. The further you grow in your Christian walk the greater the reward and the stronger the protection.

The church at Philadelphia was a church on fire for God, and the Lord seemed to cheer them on, "Attaboy! Attagirl! Hang in there! Stay faithful!"

Four Key Promises for the Faithful, Consistent Christian:

1. An _____(Open Door)!

- a. *"These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut." Revelation 3:7-8*
- b. The letter of the church at Philadelphia represents an exciting era in church history from about 1750 to 1900. This was an era of great revivals, and an era when the modern missionary movement began. It also was an era of amazing growth in the church, with evangelical Christians composing fully 30-40% of the population of the U.S.
- c. Jesus has promised to give his followers an open door. He will give us favor wherever the gospel is proclaimed.

2. Victory Over _____(Opposition)!

- a. *"I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars – I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you." Revelation 3:8-9*
- b. How does Satan let the air out of your balloon? How does he discourage you? Whatever it is you are struggling with today, don't ever forget God has giving you the victory over that. Trust him day by day. We will always give you the next step to take.

3. Protection From the _____(Great Tribulation)!

- a. *"Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth." Revelation 3:10*
- b. The Greek preposition "ek" meaning "out of" is used in vs. 10 (translated "from" in the NIV). The preposition "dia" meaning "through" could have been used to communicate that we would be kept "through" the hour of trial. God's people will be raptured before the seven-year period of tribulation begins.

- c. *“Wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead – Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.” I Thessalonians 1:10 “For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.” I Thessalonians 5:9*

4. Eternal _____(Reward) – Present and Future!

- a. *“I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God.” Revelation 3:11-12*
- b. Eternal life and eternal reward start the moment you receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord. And it never ends!
- c. The name of God, the name of God’s city, the new Jerusalem, and the name of Jesus will all be written on us. The new Jerusalem will be our eternal home in a way that this earth never was.

C.S. Lewis lived as an atheist for over half his life. When a doctor friend of his who had dabbled in the occult died a terrifying death, Lewis was shook up. Influenced by J.R.R. Tolkien (*Lord of the Rings*), Lewis surrendered to God. God showered him with peace and security, and his brilliant mind was set free to become the greatest defender of Christianity in history!

Don’t be afraid to go all-out for God! It’s the most meaningful, victorious, secure, and blessed life you can possibly live!