



When the Spirit Speaks to the Church

When Our World is Shaken
Revelation 3:7-13

We need a fresh revelation of Jesus' power!

⁷“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

Text Message:

- The city of Philadelphia had a history of devastating earthquakes. Spiritually, the church there was being shaken: “I know that you have but a little power.” Verse 8
- In their powerlessness, Jesus offers no “pull yourself up by your bootstraps” advice but a revelation of His mighty power!
- There are no rebukes or calls to repentance, because: “A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory.” Matthew 12:20
- Instead, Jesus offers them an alternative narrative than the one they were living in and reveals His power to them as:
 - 1) Holy and True. These described Israel’s God alone.
 - 2) The Holy One, a named used in the OT of Israel’s God.
- The phrases “synagogue of Satan” and “say there are Jews but are not” refers to the large group of Jewish persecutors, who refused to believe in Christ (See John 8:44).

We can see through obstacles to new opportunities!

⁸“I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

Text Message:

- The church in Philadelphia was being shaken by persecution, yet Jesus’ message is not a “batten down the hatches” but moving them forward to new opportunities to reach people with the Good News!
- Look at what Jesus says to the little Philadelphia Church: “I know that you have but little power...”
- In other words, Jesus was going to meet them where they were to take them where He wanted them to be!
- The church in Philadelphia was small:
 - 1) It didn’t have reputation, like the Church in Sardis.
 - 2) It didn’t have momentum, like the Church in Thyatira.
 - 3) It didn’t have stamina, like the Church in Ephesus.
- But what it had; Jesus valued:
 - 1) “You have kept my word,” repeated in Verse 10.
 - 2) “You have not denied my name.”
- *Could it be that what Jesus is looking for in His Church and in our lives is simple obedience and holding onto Him?*

We of no power are made pillars (strong) in Christ!

Verse 12:

Text Message:

- To the church of no power, Jesus makes a pillar!
- To the person of no power, Jesus makes a pillar!
- To those culture wants to cancel, Jesus makes a pillar!
- To those problems want to bury, Jesus makes a pillar!
- To those walking in a kingdom narrative, Jesus makes a pillar!
- To those being silenced in mainstream, Jesus makes a pillar!
- No doubt the imagery here would have reminded the church of the pillars of the various buildings in Philadelphia, which were not able to stand the shaking of its earthquakes.
- Jesus’ kingdom (rule) cannot be shaken (Hebrews 12:28)!