

# Obedient Loyal Steadfast

## Revelation 3:7-13

Job 12:9-25

John 14:15-25



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## Are We Becoming . . .

- Literally speaking a person who has been “born-again” is constantly **becoming**.
- Disciples of Christ are **always** growing to become more like Christ.

## Growing As Real Disciple

- Five **D**'s of Discipleship.
- **D**esire - a genuine desire to “become” more than I am right now.
- **D**etermination - a set plan/purpose/goals
- **D**iscipline - persevering to the end. Not quitting.
- **D**iligence - giving it my all.
- Disciples **DO** the Word of God. They **DO** what their Master says.
  - James 1:22; 4:17; **Matthew 7:21-23**, 24-27; 12:50; 28:20; **Luke 8:21**; 11:28; 1 Peter 4:2; 1 John 2:3-6; Deuteronomy 10:12-13.
- Disciples **DO** the will of God **with** other brothers and sister because they know that their growth is dependent on others and others' growth is dependent on them.
- Disciples **grow** together! They **cannot** grow apart from a Body. (Eph 4:16)
- A disciple of Christ **cannot** say I do not **need** other Christians in order to be what God wants me to be. (1 Corinthians 12:14-21)

*To the Church at Philadelphia:*

## Philadelphia: The City

- **PHILADELPHIA** means “brotherly love.”
- Strategically located on a major route from Rome, called “the gateway to the East.” It was a link between the east and west.
- Also called “little Athens” because of the many temples in the city. (See Acts 17:16-34)
- Destroyed by an earthquake in A.D. 17. Because of nearby volcanos, the city

- suffered from many earthquakes (small, medium, and large). People refused to go back into the city and built houses on the outskirts.
- They renamed the city “Neocaesarea” and then “Flavia” after emperors of Rome.
- Philadelphia gave the emperor the title “The Son of the Holy One.”

## The Master's Title (Revelation 3:7)

- \* He who is **HOLY**.
  - ★ **GOD** is **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**. (Isaiah 9:6; 40:25)
  - Because **GOD** is holy He expects His people to be holy in all their conduct. (Lev 11:45; 19:2; 20:7, 11; 1 Thess 4:7; 1 Peter 1:14-16; Hebrews 12:14)
    - “set apart” from **SIN**; for a **PURPOSE**; by **GOD**; for **GOD**.
  - Believers are called **SAINTS** (“**HOLY ONES**”) – 14 times in the Book of Revelation.
  - The saints of Philadelphia had shown themselves as “like” their **LORD**.
- \* He who is **TRUE**.
  - **TRUE** means that Christ is NOT a copy, not a manufactured god, BUT genuine, real, and authentic.
  - Christ calls Himself “**the TRUTH**”. (John 14:6)
  - ★ **HOLY** and **TRUE** are used together only 2x in the NT!
    - Here, speaking of Christ, and in 6:10 when they describe **GOD**.
  - ★ Christians are called upon to be **TRUE** (sincere) in their love for each other, their faith, and in all that they do. (2 Cor 6:6; Philip 1:10; 1 Tim 1:5; Eph 6:5, 24; Col 3:22; 1 Peter 1:22)
- \* He who holds the **KEY** of David. (See Isaiah 22:22)
  - This is a reference to the messianic office. (Revelation 5:5; 22:10)
  - The key is a symbol for **AUTHORITY**.
  - Christ has the **SOVEREIGN** authority to determine who enters into the kingdom of God (His Kingdom). (Matthew 11:25; John 10:7, 9; 14:6; Acts 4:12; Colossians 1:13)
  - **ALL POWER** and **AUTHORITY** has been given to Christ. (Matthew 28:18; John 17:2)
  - Christ also holds the keys to **DEATH** and **HADES**. (Revelation 1:18)
  - Christ is the holder of **BLESSINGS** and **CURSES**. (Job 2:10; **Lamentations 3:38-41**; John 18:11; James 5:10)
- \* He who **OPENS** and **CLOSES**.
  - This describes The Master's **OMNIPOTENCE** (all power).
  - He is sovereign to decide what is open and what is closed.
    - ★ Acts 16:6-7; 1 Corinthians 16:5-9; 2 Corinthians 2:12.
    - Also see Acts 14:27; Colossians 4:3;
  - **NO ONE** can **UNDO** what He does. (See Isaiah 14:27; 46:9-11; 43:13; Ecclesiastes 7:13; Jeremiah 18:6; Daniel 4:35)

- Literally, this means “I have given you an open door.” It has to do with **ENTRUSTING** something to someone. Entrusting means stewardship.

## *“I Know Your Works . . .”*

### The Master’s Criticism (!!)

- Christ has **NONE!**

### The Master’s Commendation (Revelation 3:8-10)

- “I have set before you an **OPEN DOOR.**”
  - An OPEN DOOR is a symbol of **SERVICE.**
    - Acts 14:27; 1 Corinthians 16:9; 2 Cor 2:12; Col 4:3
  - NO ONE can CLOSE this DOOR of service! Because Christ OPENED it!
  - Christ also **CLOSES** doors. (Acts 16:6-10)
  - Christ is the LORD of the harvest! (Matthew 9:38) and the HEAD of the Church! (Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18)
- “You have **LITTLE** strength.”
  - ★ The church was small in number.
  - ★ The WORLD would look at this church and say that it is not SIGNIFICANT! Remember Thyatira.
  - The saints at Philadelphia knew that God’s **GRACE** was sufficient. (2 Corinthians 12:9, 10)
  - The saints at Philadelphia knew that their **SUFFICIENCY** was in GOD. (2 Corinthians 3:5; John 15:5)
  - The saints at Philadelphia **REJOICED** in their weaknesses. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10; 4:7; Romans 5:3; James 1:2; 1 Peter 4:13-14)
  - The saints at Philadelphia knew that they could do **ALL THINGS** through Christ. (Philippians 4:13)
- “You have **KEPT MY WORD!**”
  - ★ They were **OBEDIENT.**
  - They **DEMONSTRATED** their love for their HEAD/LORD. (John 14:23-24; 15:13-14; Luke 6:46)
- “You have NOT DENIED MY NAME.”
  - They had remained **FAITHFUL** (LOYAL) to their HEAD/LORD.
- “You have kept the word of My **command** to **PERSEVERE.**”
  - ★ ὑπομένω hypomeno {hoop-om-en’-o} - “steadfastness, constancy, endurance”; “the characteristic of a man/woman whois not swerved from his/her **deliberate purpose** and his **loyalty** to faith **and** piety by even the greatest trials and suffering.” (Matthew 10:22; 24:13; Mark 13:13; Romans 12:12; Col1:11; 2 Tim 2:12; Heb 12:1-2; James 1:12)
  - They remained FAITHFUL in the midst of hardships.
  - See **Revelation 14:12.**
- “I HAVE LOVED YOU!!!!” (v. 9)

### The Master’s Instruction (v. 11)

- ① **“HOLD FAST” – DO NOT GIVE UP!** – We must persevere **to the end.**
  - ★ Matthew 10:22; 24:13; Hebrews 3:6, 14.
  - “I come quickly” – means “suddenly, unexpectedly, without announcement” and not so much “soon.”
  - (1 Thessalonians 5:4) Christ will come “as” a thief: (Matt. 24:43; Luke 12:39; 1 Thess 5:2, 4; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 3:3; 16:15)
- ② **“Let no MAN take your CROWN!”**
  - ☞ Crowns in Scripture: See Handout
  - ★ Do not let any one DECEIVE you! (Matt 24:4-5, 11, 24; 2 Peter 2:1-3; 1 John 4:1; Colossians 2:8)

### The Master’s Warning (No warning because there was NO CRITICISM.)

### The Master’s Promise (vv. 9-10, 12-13)

- ① **HE** will take care of their **ENEMIES.** (v. 9)
  - Consider The Master’s words in John 8:41-47.
  - JEWS but NOT JEWS – see Romans 9:6-8.
  - Their enemies would **BOW** their knees. (See Isaiah 60:14; 45:23-25; Philippians 2:10-11)
- ② **HE** would keep them from: **THE TRIBULATION.** (v. 10)
  - ① This test is yet in the FUTURE.
  - ② The test is for a DEFINITE limited time.
  - ③ The test will expose people for who they REALLY are.
  - ④ The test will be WORLDWIDE.
  - ⑤ The test is for “those who dwell on the earth”.
    - (These are UNBELIEVERS: Revelation 6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 13:8, 12, 14; 14:6; 17:2, 8)
  - In the Old Testament this testing is called: **JACOB’S TROUBLE.** (Jeremiah 30:7)
  - This is the **70<sup>th</sup>** week in Daniel’s prophecy in chapter 9. (Daniel 9:27)
  - Christ promises to keep His saints from (or literally, “keep out”) this period.
- ③ **HE** will **HONOR** them.
  - He will make them a **PILLAR** in the Temple of God.
  - He will write upon them a **NEW** name.
  - He will make them **CITIZENS** of His City - the New Jerusalem. (Philippians 3:20; Hebrews 11:13-16)
  - They will no more go OUT! (Hebrews 13:13-14)

**HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT IS SAYING TO US.**