

“The Church of the Open Door”

Revelation 3:7-13

October 20, 2019

Lee Strobel was a reporter for the *Chicago Tribune* who began attending Willow Creek in the early ‘80’s in an effort to appease his newly converted wife, Leslie. In his insightful book, *Inside the Mind of Unchurched Harry and Mary*, Lee recalls: “When I walked into church as a skeptical unbeliever, my ‘hypocrisy antenna’ was scanning the place for signs that people were just playing church. In fact, I was aggressively on the lookout for phoniness, opportunism, or deception, because I felt that if I could find an excuse for rejecting the church on grounds of hypocrisy, I could feel free to reject Christianity as well.”

(*Contagious Christian*)

***What does it mean to be a part of a church
with an open door?***

I. An Opportunity to Enter into the Presence of God:

Revelation 3:7-8

- A. Jesus is the Davidic Messiah. He has the authority and power to deny or grant access into the presence of God.

Revelation.1:18

- B. “If I could just peek through the keyhole once every thousand years to see God it would sustain me!”

Samuel Rutherford

- C. “The Presence and the manifestation of the Presence are not the same. There can be the one without the other.”

A.W. Tozer

II. An Opportunity to Bring the Lost to God:

Revelation 3:9-10

- A. This is an opportunity to serve with Christ.
- B. This is the opportunity to express Christ’s love for all people.
- C. This is an opportunity to witness Christ’s climax of history.

III. An Opportunity to Achieve the Favor of God:

Revelation 3:11-13

- A. Abiding in God’s presence, doing God’s work will guarantee your favor with God.
- B. Your favor with God will guarantee your rewards in Heaven.