

# **The Little Church that Tried**

*Ray Stedman*

## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Revelation 3:7-13.

B. Philadelphia means the city of brotherly love.

## II. The church of Philadelphia.

A. The Lord does not register complaint only against this church.

B. Jesus is the true one behind all that really exists, and He holds the key of David. (Isaiah 22)

1. He is the one whose will cannot be opposed.
2. No human power can contravene what He determines.
3. He will use this power to open doors of ministry to churches like Philadelphia that no one can shut.
4. An open door is given when a church fulfills the conditions that it needs for the door to be open.
  - a. This is the power of the Spirit.
  - b. We are God's masterpiece for good works. (Ephesians 2:10)
  - c. Vast potential lies in churches willing to exercise their gifts.
  - d. The presence of the Spirit is promised to every Christian, but the power of the Spirit is given to those churches that have learned to keep His word and have not denied His name.
  - e. The Lord uses His power to make the enemies of His church openly acknowledge that God's blessing is on the church.
5. The Lord will protect the church from the Great Tribulation.
  - a. It will be sent to test those on this earth who live for the earth.
  - b. The promise to the church is to be delivered from the very time of the trial.
  - c. This looks to various times of revival throughout history.
6. Jesus warns that He is coming soon, so believers must hold onto their crown. The reward is service and greater service that comes from it. (I Corinthians 3:12)

7. Promises given to the one who overcomes.

a. Jesus will make him a pillar--a symbol of strength and permanence that points to the life to come.

b. Jesus will write on the over-comer the name of God, the city of God, and His own name

1) Believers will be made godlike.

2) Believers will be given an intimate relationship with Jesus in the new city.

3) Believers will participate in a new work of Jesus.

**Application questions:**

1. How is the church at Philadelphia a model church?

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2. When have you seen more doors for ministry opened when servants have been faithful?

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3. What is the reward for faithful service? Should believers minister in order to get the reward of their ministry? Explain.

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