

Mega Doors / Mega Danger

1 Corinthians 16:9 (KJV) - For a **great door** and effectual is opened unto me, and there are **many adversaries**.

Paul was at Ephesus when he wrote this letter. His plan was to travel to Macedonia for a time of ministry (pass through in **1 Corinthians 16:5** means “travel in a systematic ministry”), winter at Corinth, and then go to Judea with the collection. From November to February, it was impossible to travel by ship; so it would have been convenient for Paul to stay at Corinth and be with his friends. There were some problems to solve in the church, and Paul had promised to come to help the leaders (1 Cor. 11:34).

However, various circumstances forced Paul to revise his plans at least twice. His plan B was to visit Corinth, then travel through Macedonia, passing through Corinth a second time on his way to Judea (2 Cor. 1:15–16). Instead of one long visit, he planned two shorter visits; but even this plan did not materialize. Plan C turned out to be a quick and painful visit to Corinth, after which he returned to Ephesus.

Paul had an open door of ministry in Ephesus, and this was important to him. **He wanted to win the lost in Ephesus, not go to Corinth to pamper the saved.** Paul was neither an optimist nor a pessimist; he was a realist. He saw both the opportunities and the obstacles. God had opened “a great door for effective work,” and Paul wanted to seize the opportunities while they were still there.

An ancient Roman proverb says, “While we stop to think, we often miss our opportunity.” Once we know what to do, we must do it and not delay. We can usually think of many reasons (or excuses) not to act. Even though Paul was in danger in Ephesus (1 Cor. 15:32), he planned to remain there while the door was open. Like a wise merchant, he had to “buy up the opportunity” before it vanished and would never return.

The stewardship of opportunity is important. We as individual believers, and the church family, must constantly ask, “What opportunities is God giving us today?” **Instead of complaining about the obstacles, we must take advantage of the opportunities the Lord has given us.**

The word used for Door here is “Megas” which is where we get the word “Mega” from. So I want to speak to you about **“Mega Doors, Mega Danger”**

The Context:

- Acts 19:1-17
- Every time the Lord moved an adversary opposed it
- The Jewish exorcist – Sons of Sceva (A priest)

- Every door has adversaries
- The greater the door the greater the adversaries

1. **The source of attack - Hebrews 10:19-39 (focus on vs. 33)** - Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used.

- a. **Context: 10:19-25 – Jesus made a way into the presence of God for all**
- b. **Never underestimate the power of association**
 - i. Why do people suffer attack?
 - 1) Their own opportunities bring attack
 - 2) Their association with those at the door of opportunity
- c. **Christianity is about Confluence: The flowing of our life streams together into one powerful river**
 - i. 1 John 5:7-8 (NIV): For there are three that testify: the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.
 - ii. **The kingdom of God is arranged by agreement**
- d. Proverbs 17:17 (KJV)- A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.
 - i. **Fire and adversity is the test of association.**

2. **The process of the attack – Luke 22:30-32**

- a. Peter – Satan desires to “sift”
- b. **Sift = To try one’s faith by inward agitation to the verge of overthrow**

There are 4 stages to this spiritual attack:

1. **Quench (1 Thess. 5:19) – Means to “suppress”**
2. **Grieve (Eph. 4:30) – Means to “throw into sorrow, make uneasy, cause to hesitate or doubt”**
3. **Resist (Acts 7:51) – Means to “strive against”**
4. **Blasphemy (Mark 3:29) – Means to slander malignantly**
 - **Willfully determined opposition to the Holy Spirit**
 - **Attributing the works of Satan to the finger of God**