
A Message from Father David...

The Open Door

An important lesson the Bible teaches is this: "Don't try to open the door to your own future; let God open it for you."

As fallen human beings, we are preoccupied with "making our own way." We want to find our own path and set our own agenda. Moreover, by the time we've reached twelve years of age (or before that even) our family, friends, neighbors, and the culture have placed on us certain expectations. Trying to meet those expectations, as well as find our own path, we set out to walk through the door that will bring us wealth, esteem, and happiness. If the door to our happiness doesn't open we're taught to kick it open.

Instead of kicking open a door the Bible teaches us to wait on God, to be patient, and to be alert so that we'll go through the door that he opens for us.

When Amos delivered a disagreeable message to Israel, Amaziah, a priest of Israel, told Amos to go try his prophetic trade in Judah. Amos stood up to the priest and said, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'" In other words, Amos was saying, "Look, I didn't choose this path for myself. I have a career herding animals and tending sycamore trees. The Lord has opened the prophetic door and I've walked through it in obedience to him."

Amos understood that he didn't belong to himself, but to the Lord. He was told by God to go to Israel and deliver a message, and that's what he did.

To do what Amos did is, I believe, hard for us. As Americans, we are the great pioneers. We determine our own path and we choose our own destiny. This way of thinking and living may work in some facets of life, but when it comes to the spiritual life it's dangerous. If we are going to walk through the door of God's choosing, we must lay aside our desire to be in control and obediently follow where he leads. May we ask for and receive the grace needed to follow wherever the Lord leads.

Blessings,

Father David+
