



table talk

6/14/26

“Keep the Door Shut!”

MMy dad was like clockwork. Every night of my childhood, the very last thing he would do after family prayer was to check and make sure the doors were locked. As a small child, I remember asking him why he did that every night. He said, “Well, son, there are things I don’t want in our house. So, I do this to keep us all safe. Nothing comes in without my permission and unless I know who it is and what they want.”

For years I accompanied him on those nightly stops, proud that Daddy was so brave and strong! It was a habit that is still with me to this day. I want to be in control of what gains access into my house and my family.

I don’t believe God’s children ought to live in fear, but we need to be aware. As a friend once told me, “I keep my head on a swivel. I don’t want anything to catch me by surprise.”

That’s good advice, not only for the world we can see but for the one we don’t see. (At least we don’t see it with our natural eyes.) Speaking of the enemy of our souls, Paul says “We are not ignorant of the way he works.” (2 Corinthians 2:11)

There are access points, we’ll call them doors, that Satan uses to make our lives toxic and dysfunctional. I don’t mean to imply that every time we slip the enemy gains control. However, I do want us to know there are things we need to keep out of our lives, or we run the risk of giving the enemy something to hold onto and use.

Jack Deere called them “Doorways for Demons.” We know from Scripture that when we embrace certain behavior, we are playing into the hands of the devil. Prayerfully review this list, and make sure to look up each Scripture reference. Allow the Holy Spirit to search even the hidden places of your life!

1. Anger & unforgiveness

- Ephesians 4:26-27
- 2 Corinthians 2:9-11

2. Sexual sin, perversion & uncontrolled lust

- 1 Corinthians 5:1-5
- Revelation 9:20-21
- Colossians 3:5-6

3. Hatred & violence

- Luke 9:54-56
- John 8:44

4. Envy, jealousy & selfishness

- James 3:13-18
- 1 Samuel 18:8-12

5. Occult practices

- Leviticus 19:31
- Deuteronomy 18:9-13
- Acts 16:16-18
- *There is a case to be made that the word translated "sorceries/witchcraft" (pharmakia) may indicate that use/abuse of certain drugs may also come with demonic entanglements. See Revelation 9:21 NIV and 18:23 NIV*

6. Idolatry or greed

- 1 Corinthians 10:18-20
- Revelation 9:20-21
- 1 Timothy 6:6-10
- Colossians 3:5-6

7. Blasphemy

- 1 Timothy 1:18-20

On the eve of His death, Jesus said, "Satan comes, but he finds nothing in me." (John 14:30) Jesus kept every "door" locked against the destroyer.

Loved Ones, be sure to keep the door to your heart and the hearts of those you love securely locked to demonic influence. Remember the devil is never merciful, and he never has a "good day" toward mankind.

I love you,
Pastor Stephen