



*"Find Your Purpose and Reach Your Destiny"*

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**PHILADELPHIA**  
The *Faithful* Church

**Introduction:**

Philadelphia was located on a hillside about 30 miles southeast of Sardis. It was founded by the king of Pergamum around 190 B.C. The town received its name from his nickname, Philadelphus or brother lover. This king had a special devotion to his brother, Eumenes II. The city stood in a wine-producing area and was the so-called gateway to central Asia Minor. The modern name of this town is Alasehir. Because it experienced earthquakes from time to time, more of the population than normal chose to live outside the city walls.

If I could choose one church to be a part of out of these seven churches, it would be the church at Philadelphia. My prayer is that we would be a "Philadelphia" church in today's times.

**Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth**

Read Revelation 3:7-13

As you read these Scriptures concerning Philadelphia, what is your overall impression? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Rev. 3:7** *And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; these things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth and no man shutteth; and shutteth and no man openeth.*

From the previous five letters, the description of Jesus came from the vision recorded in 1:12-18. However, in this letter, (to the Philadelphian Church), the description is not drawn from that earlier vision. It has distinct Old Testament features. How is Jesus described in verse 7?

- a) Which of the attributes of Christ in verse seven stand out to you and why?
- b) Jesus is described as holy and true. How would you define these attributes and why are they often paired together?
- c) How did Isaiah respond to God's holiness? (See 6:1-8)

**Reflection:**

The deepest thought a person can ever have is his/her conception of God's character." How do you view God's character? What difference does it make in your life?

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**Rev. 3:8** *I know thy works; behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name*

Why would having "a little power (strength)" be a positive and not a negative? What might He be implying here? (See also 2 Corinthians 12:9-10).

- Under what circumstances within did the Philadelphian Saints have to persevere?
- What similarities does Philadelphia have with the church at Smyrna in Rev. 2:8-11?
- What did God do for the Saints at Philadelphia for her faithfulness?

**Notes:**

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What four things does Jesus commend this church for?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Rev. 3:9** *Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.*

Jesus promised that some of the very Jews who were persecuting the Christians would come and bow down at their feet and know that God had loved them. The following Old Testament passages describe the future day when unbelieving Gentiles will bow down to the believing remnant of Israel. What imagery do these passages give concerning bowing at someone’s feet and the implications of it?

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Isaiah 45:14 - Isaiah 49:23 - Isaiah 60:14-15

**Rev. 3:10-11** *Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I will also keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. v 11. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.*

The Philadelphian church was commended for its obedience. As Christians, can we obey Christ without loving Him? (See also John 14:23-24) Explain your answer.

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**Looking Ahead**

Are we as a church making the most of the open opportunities God has given to us for ministry? If not, what do we need to do?

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**A Deeper Meaning** - Read Hebrews 12:1-4

What are some principles from this passage that encourage you to persevere in difficult or trying circumstances?

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**Rev. 3:12 -13** *Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the City of my God, which is in Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. v 13. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*

**Summary**

Overcomers are those who have withstood the adversarial attacks of the enemy without quitting or drawing back from God. These are those whose testimony will precede them in heaven. Overcomes, had the same struggle as those who quit; but the difference is they DIDN'T QUIT! Instead they persevered although faced with great obstacles and trials.

Read these three Scriptures for the rest of the week. Then take a few minutes to pray concerning them.

*But he that shall endure until the end, the same shall be saved.*

**Matthew 24:13 (KJV)**

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

**Romans 15:13**

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. James 1:2-3*

**Note:**

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