

THE DOOR to the Abundant Life



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who is the 'thief and robber' in this figure of speech (10:1)?
2. Does the shepherd go before or after his sheep (10:3)? What can you say about the shepherd who goes before the sheep?
3. How will his sheep react when "strangers" try to lead them (10:5)?
4. What does this mean for "Christians" who listen to and follow after false prophets?
5. What did Jesus mean when He calls Himself the door or gate (10:7-10)?
6. To whom can you be an **open 'door'** to?

John 10:1-10 ESV

10 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. **2** But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. **3** To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4** When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. **5** A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." **6** This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

John 10:1-10 ESV

7 So Jesus again said to them, **“Truly, truly, I say to you,** I am the door of the sheep. **8** All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. **9** I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. **10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

The Seven 'I AM' Sayings of Jesus

"I am the bread of life" (John 6:35, 48, 51)

Only Jesus can satisfy our spiritual hunger.

"I am the light of the world" (John 8:12; 9:5)

Only Jesus can lead us out of spiritual darkness.

"I am the door/gate" (John 10:7, 9)

Jesus is the Only way into the kingdom of God.

"I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11, 14)

Only Jesus can lead and protect us.

The Seven 'I AM' Sayings of Jesus

"I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25)

Only Jesus can lead us through death into new life.

"I am the true vine" (John 15:1)

Jesus Alone holds the kingdom of God together.

"I am the way and the truth and the life," (John 14:6)

Jesus Alone!

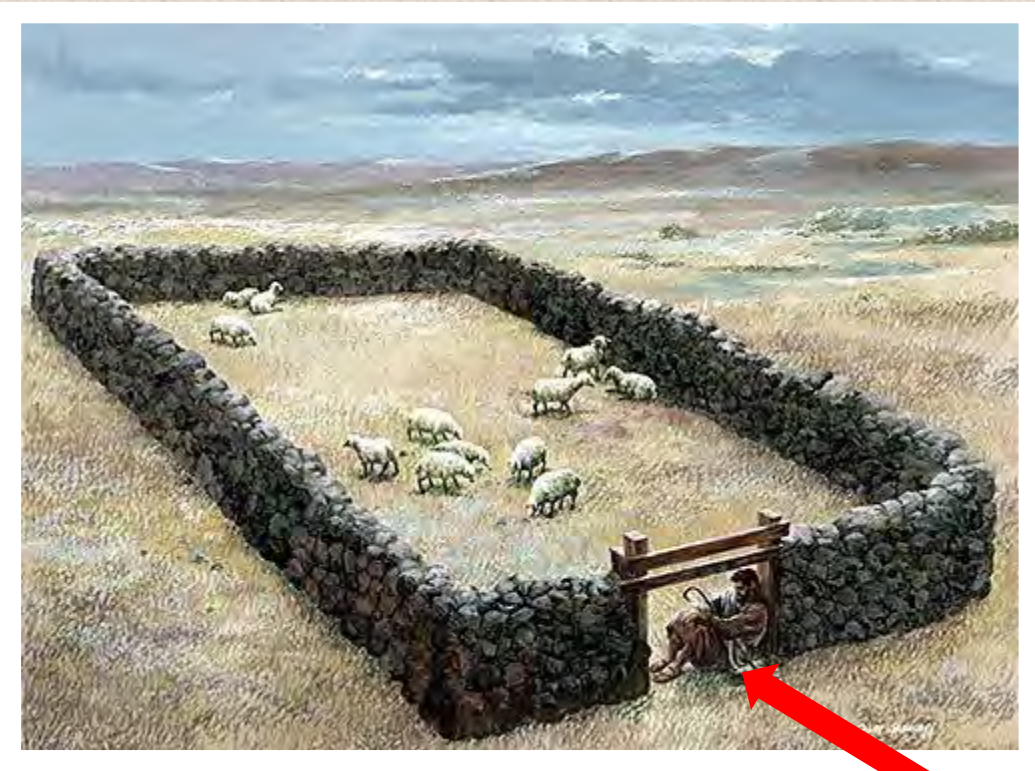


Charles R. Swindoll

*“Whether Catholic, Protestant, Jewish...
corruption of God’s plan sadly happens in all denominations,
in all religions, in all countries, in all times.*

- 1. It happens when religion replaces a relationship with God;*
- 2. It happens when pride replaces gratitude for God’s grace;*
- 3. It happens when hunger for power replaces a desire to serve.”*

The Sheepfold



The Door/Gate

THE Door to the Abundant Life

1. THE Door to Absolute Salvation (10:9a)
2. THE Door to Abounding Satisfaction (10:9b)
3. THE Door to Acceptable Service (10:9b)

1. THE Door to Absolute Salvation

A. JESUS IS THE ORDAINED DOOR

- “I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved...” (10:9a)
- Jesus is legit door ordained before the creation of the world
- “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers...” (10:7)
- The Thief: Steals the people from knowing God, Kills their hope, Destroys their wellbeing.
- How can you be used by God to be that open door for the lost?

1. THE Door to Absolute Salvation

B. JESUS IS THE ONLY DOOR

- “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through **me**” (John 14:6)
- “For there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12)
- He is the ONLY door to salvation
- He is an OPEN door. Anyone can come receive this gift for free!
- Can we preach it, teach it, spread it (the good news)?

Frances **Havegal's** Poem*



Nothing to pay! Yes, nothing to pay!
Jesus has cleared all the debt away.
Blotted it out with His bleeding hand!
Free and forgiven and loved you stand.

*quoted in Henriksen's *Exposition of the Gospel According to Luke*

2. THE Door to Abounding Satisfaction (10:9b)

A. JESUS Protects, Surely

- ‘find pasture’ (10:9b)
- “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I **trust**” (Psalm 91:2)
- “**In** the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the **world**” (John 16:33)
- “**Fear** not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right **hand**” (Isaiah 41:10)
- How do you feel knowing that God **WILL** protect you?

2. THE Door to Abounding Satisfaction (10:9b)

B. JESUS Provides, Surely

- “The Lord is my shepherd I shall not be in want; He makes me lie down in green pastures” (Psalm 23:1) Also 2 Corinthians 9:8
- “Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God for help, and wander about for lack of food?” (Job 38:41)
- Jesus promises a life of abundance. It includes the provision of all you would need for life.
- How have God provided you abundantly (materially, physically, emotionally, relationally, spiritually)?

3. THE Door to Acceptable Service (10:9b)

A. Motive for Acceptable Service: With Love

- Acceptable Service: Romans 12:1 NKJV, '*acceptable to God...reasonable service*'
- "*Do you love me?*" Jesus asked (John 21:15, 16, 17)
- "*I love you.*" Peter answered (John 21:15, 16, 17)
- "*Feed my lambs*", "*Tend my sheep*", "*Feed my sheep*" (John 21:15, 16, 17)
- How can you serve Jesus with love- in church, at work/school, at home, in the community?

3. THE Door to Acceptable Service (10:9b)

B. Motive for Acceptable Service: With All Our Heart

- “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men” (Colossians 3:23)
- To serve wholeheartedly is to serve with sincerity, integrity and commitment, with a real passion for Jesus
- That can only be accomplished by cooperating with the Holy Spirit
- How is your passion displayed as you serve the Lord?

CONCLUSION

- The abundant life refers to the abounding fullness of joy and strength for spirit, soul and body that believers have in Christ.
- With the abundant life, there is no lack, no emptiness, no dissatisfaction.
- It begins by accepting THE Door of Salvation, Jesus Christ, and following Him daily thereafter.
- Do you desire this abundant life?
- As a child of God, how can you keep the fire of the abundant life burning?