key verses to open life’s closed doors

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one a day each month
To my wife Eunice,
who has made ministry within our home a joy
and a privilege.

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ABOUT THIS BOOK

Recently, I read the instruction of our loving heavenly father, to give thanks in all circumstances. The phrase “in all circumstances” struck me at the time, as being an instruction that I was to give thanks, not only in the bad times, or the good times, but all the time. Then a few weeks later, I was in a setting where my wife, daughter, daughter -in-law, and my only granddaughter decided they wanted to go shopping ... what a surprise! Since I was the one who had access to the rental car, I had the “privilege” of taking them. As I drove them to the mall, I half teased my granddaughter about my hope that she would not catch this terminal disease called shopping. Meanwhile I anticipated sitting in the car for a couple hours while they enjoyed “shopping therapy”. After I let them off, God brought this verse to my mind, and I was reminded that this was “a circumstance” and he was telling me to give thanks. So I began to give thanks. I thanked the Lord that my wife, our daughter, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter like each other and enjoy sharing an evening together with each other ... what a blessing. Then I thanked the Lord that they each had good health, and finally, I gave thanks that they could afford the purchases that they would make. After a few minutes, my heart had changed and I was free. I’ve told this story several times and each time I rejoice at the wisdom of our God. His instructions are for our good!

That is the nature of the verses that are highlighted in this book. As you hide them in your heart, you will give the Holy Spirit the “still small voice” to speak to you, giving you the key to freedom. God loves you that much.

These verses contain the keys that open up areas of our lives to the freedom that God wants. Here are the 31 keys to victorious living. Enjoy!
OPENING THE CLOSED DOORS OF LIFE

Some people think that the best way to lead is by correcting faults; others lead by rewarding good behavior. One has a pointing finger, the other has an encouraging word or deed.

God tells us to put away the pointing finger, and he sets the example because he leads by rewarding good behavior. In fact we receive even more than we might expect, simply because he is gracious and merciful. He chooses to bring good things our way. He wants to encourage us to get through the closed doors of life to abundant living.

The “GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS” section in each chapter is a selection of the doors that open as we follow the instructions in the key verse. These instructions come from our loving savior. They are instructions that bring us life; that express the love of our heavenly father, instructions that are keys to opening the closed doors of life. What a wonderful God. Not only does he lovingly tell us the things we should do to have an abundant life, but he follows us closely to see that we are encouraged along the way. In addition to this, we have the confidence that all the plans of God work together for our good. All because he loves us so much.

Some feel that we should honor God’s principles simply because we love him; without the thought of getting any reward in return. However, our all wise God has already told us some of the closed doors that we will walk through as we consistently use these keys.

B.F. Skinner, a Harvard Physiologist summed up some research he did in these words: “If you reward someone for something that is good, he will move more and more in the direction of the ideal, but if you punish him for something that is bad he will remain stagnant at the original level.” (taken from God Said It, Don’t Sweat it by Neil Clark Warren pg 187)
Skinner learned that there is great wisdom in the way our loving father leads us.

When God spoke at Joshua’s inauguration as the head of the nation of Israel, he told Joshua to meditate upon these statutes, for then he would be careful to obey them, and then he will be prosperous and successful. God wanted Joshua to know the pathway to a victorious life, and he provides us with this same direction as well.

So, let the blessings encourage you to trust our savior, who loves you, even more than you can imagine. Let them encourage you to meditate upon these statutes and watch as the Holy Spirit encourages you to obey them carefully.

Use his loving instructions, they are keys that open doors that have been closed to you. And as they swing open, you will experience the abundant life Jesus came to give us.
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THE KEY OF OUR ATTITUDE TO GOD

Matthew 22:36-37 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" \{37\} Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- God will send rain on your land in its season - Deuteronomy 11:14
- you will increase and God will bless you - Deuteronomy 30:16
- you will have the desires of your heart - Psalms 37:4
- God will redeem you - Psalms 130:7
- you will live - Luke 10:27, 28
- God’s blessings go beyond what you can even conceive - 1 Corinthians 2:9
- God will not forget your actions to help his people - Hebrews 6:10
- you will be blessed as you persevere in trials - James 1:12
- you will be rich in faith - James 2:5
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

God is love, so it is no surprise that Jesus would tell us that love is where it all starts. Loving God opens many of the closed doors that you may be facing.

The doors to real living, to increase, and to being restored when you fall down, will swing widely open as you turn this vital key. The door to having a rich faith opens as you insert the key of loving God, a key that gains strength as you love God with all your heart, soul and mind.

Jesus said that obedience to his commands is the test of your love for God. You can’t love without wanting to obey, and that kind of obedience will cause your love to grow. Don’t let legalistic obedience deprive you of the loving heart that our gracious savior wants for you.

Your love will become steadfast as you accept that God’s way is both the right and the best way. Watch the key slip into the locks on many of your closed doors as your love for God grows.

Remember that "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him". Loving God unlocks many doors, so that unimaginable blessings flow into your life.
THE KEY OF HOW WE TREAT THE BIBLE

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- the words of God will bring you life Deuteronomy 4:1
- you will take possession of what God has promised Deuteronomy 4:1
- you will learn to revere God Deuteronomy 17:19
- you will be prosperous and successful Joshua 1:8
- you will do everything written in the Bible Joshua 1:8
- you will receive direction for living Psalms 119:105
- you will receive nourishment Matthew 4:4
- you will gain wisdom Matthew 7:24
- you will understand the secrets of the kingdom Mark 4:11
- you will know that your are set free from sin Romans 6:17-18
- you will have the confidence of being well taught Colossians 3:16
- you will gain the approval of God 2 Timothy 2:15
- you will understand your true motives Hebrews 4:12
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

The word of God helps us to see what we really think about and what our real desires are. It happens quickly, powerfully, and lovingly as we meditate on the words of Christ.

Your deep hopes and wishes are a vital part of being able to teach, correct, and worship freely. For, it is when our motives are right, that our teaching rings true; our worship is sincere; and our correction comes with a commitment for the best of the other person. These doors all open with wonderful freedom as the word of God dwells richly in our minds and hearts.

Remember that the correction of the word of God always comes with wonderful grace and hope. God never comes with his word to declare that you are caught and must suffer. Instead we are reminded that He sent his word and it brought healing. The Holy Spirit uses the word of God, that you have hidden in your heart, to bring healing, which opens doors for you.

Remind yourself of the statutes of God. Remind yourself of them, often. Let them dwell in you richly, and watch the doors of life open to you.
THE KEY OF OUR ATTITUDE TO PASTORS

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. {13} Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- God commands his blessing where there is unity  
  Psalms 133
- they become an answer to prayers for salvation of others  
  Matthew 9:38
- peace will rest in your home  
  Matthew 10:13
- you will earn the reward of a pastor  
  Matthew 10:41
- your children will be gathered like a hen gathers her chicks  
  Matthew 23:37
- you will see a faith that is worth imitating  
  Hebrews 13:7
- it is to your advantage when their work is a joy  
  Hebrews 13:17
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

It is a wonderful sight to see a mother hen protect her chicks. She calls them whenever there is a threat, regardless of how severe, and they come running. It is a joy to watch as these little chicks find shelter under her wings.

That is the picture God gives as we treat our pastor with respect. It is a picture in which our children are like the chicks and God is like the mother hen. And the chicks come. What a wonderful assurance to those who see children struggle with their faith. A promise to those who wonder how to get through the closed door of a child’s heart.

God gives this very important key to opening the heart of children. Hold your pastor in highest regard, respect them, and live at peace. What a simple but powerful key, designed by our Almighty creator, to open the hardest lock on the hearts of our dearest people.

Let this word of God dwell in you richly as you teach, correct and encourage your children. The key will fit into their hearts in ways that you could never imagine.
THE KEY OF OUR ATTITUDE TO PARENTS

Deuteronomy 5:16 "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- life will go well
- God will give you the land of promise
- you will be honoring God
- you will enjoy a long life
- you earn the pleasure of God

Deuteronomy 5:16
Deuteronomy 5:16
Matthew 15:3-9
Ephesians 6:2
Colossians 3:20
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

For some, this key is one of the easiest and for others, it is the hardest to insert. Some children have wonderful parents and honoring them is easy, or at least, one of the easier tasks. For others, this is the most difficult key to use.

Perhaps that is why the promises, that come with this key, are some of the greatest, and most elaborate of all of God’s promises. It might be nice if the key unlocked the closed heart of cruel parents, but instead, this key opens the door to a wonderful future for you. It has the power to unlock the chains bound within you by even the cruelest parent and opens the door to a wonderful future; a future where you will enjoy life for a long time, and where you will bring great praise to God.

God loves you more than you can imagine, and he gives you this key to a bold future of freedom. God loves you and has destined you for greatness. One way or another, he wants you to have the key that unlocks that greatness. He wants you to have enough confidence in his unfailing love that you will use this powerful key to unlock the future he has planned just for you.
THE KEY OF DEALING WITH ANGER

Colossians 3:8  But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- an atmosphere of love is encouraged        Proverbs 17:9
- wrath is turned away                      Proverbs 15:1
- your reputation gets better               Ecclesiastes 7
- your witnessing is more effective        Ephesians 4
- your lives are more holy                  Colossians 3:8
- you gain a healthy perspective on trials James 1:19-20
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Yes, the Bible says, be angry and sin not. On the one hand, you are told to get rid of anger, and on the other hand, you are told to be angry (just don’t sin in doing it). What is the difference? The Holy Spirit is the only one who is competent to divide between appropriate anger and sinful anger. Don’t even try. Don’t try to define the difference, simply rely upon the Holy Spirit to do his job. But prayerfully meditating on this verse, will give our loving Holy Spirit the opportunity to give you the right answer and the confidence of his approval.

In a world that sees only grey, we have the assurance that the Holy Spirit will use this verse to show you the real thoughts and intents of your heart, and lead you through wonderful doors.

Then you can watch as an atmosphere of love is encouraged, as wrath is turned away and your reputation continues to improve. Very important doors; doors that you want to ensure are open, and they swing wide as you use this powerful key.

Meditate on this verse, commit it to memory and watch how your setting improves, how doors that were closed begin to swing open.
THE KEY OF BROTHERLY LOVE

John 13:34-35  "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. {35} By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- God commands his blessing where there is unity  Psalms 133
- your life will be prolonged  Proverbs 3:2
- you will win God’s favor  Proverbs 3:4
- you will win the favor of man  Proverbs 3:4
- others will recognize you as one of God’s disciples  John 13:35
- evil is overcome  Romans 12:15-21
- you will have hope  Romans 15:1-4
- your transgressions will be covered  1 Peter 4:8
- your understanding of our Lord Jesus Christ will be wise  2 Peter 1:6-8
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Love is like a master key. It is probably the most powerful key because it has the capability of overcoming evil, all evil!

God is love. That is the simplest and most complete description of our wonderful heavenly father, so he actively inserts this key into our lives and the lives of those around us.

You insert this key as you
- give others time to respond because love is patient
- plan acts of kindness because love is kind
- enjoy the success of others because love does not envy
- avoid focusing on your successes because love does not boast
- do not draw a lot of attention to your skills because love is not proud
- respond with gentle words because love is not rude
- ensure that others are encouraged because love is not self-seeking
- make every effort to live at peace because love is not easily angered
- do not hurt by raising past wrongs because love keeps no record of wrongs
- support others when bad things happen because love does not delight in evil
- rejoice in the good said about others because love rejoices in the truth
- are supportive in their areas of weakness because love always believes in them
- expect that their future will be good because love always hopes
- practice these regularly because love always perseveres.

Insert the key often and enjoy the reputation of being a disciple of our loving savior. This key opens the door to hope and several other wonderful gifts that God has for you.
THE KEY OF CELEBRATION

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- your children learn of your Godly heritage
- others will learn to revere God
- the joy of the Lord will be your strength
- you will be comforted by the Lord
- the Gentiles will glorify God
- rejoicing is a safeguard for you

Deuteronomy 4:9
Deuteronomy 4:10
Nehemiah 8:10
Isaiah 49:13
Romans 15:33
Philippians 3:1
Celebrating is a time to pass on the stories of the good things God has done. Rejoicing is a happy key that builds a legacy both in our mind and in the minds of those around us.

Others will learn to revere God as this key is used. Showing the wonders that God has done to the next generation will help them grasp the love of God, so use this happy key frequently. It is vital for your children, and for their children.

It is easy to forget the blessings of the past. So, take a moment and think of some specific blessings that occurred ten years ago, how about five years ago. Some keep a book of these blessings. Using this key helps keep those miracles fresh. And using it consistently will give you wonderful memories of God’s grace that you can enjoy in the future.

Celebrations don’t just happen. This key is one that takes some time to insert, time to plan, and time to make the celebration appropriate to the love of our great God. Remind yourself of the ways God ordained to help the Jews remember the Passover and then make your celebrations worthy of his blessings. Prepare to enjoy the wonderful doors that swing open as you celebrate what God has done.
THE KEY OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Hebrews 3:13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- you cheer those suffering from anxiety
  Proverbs 12:25
- you gain hope
  Romans 15:4
- helps you get rid of selfish ambition
  Philippians 2:3
- others will have fuller understanding of Christ
  Colossians 2:2
- others will not be unsettled by the trials they encounter
  1 Thessalonians 3:2-3
- you will be able to refute those who oppose the gospel
  Titus 1:9
- you will help the church stay together
  Hebrews 10:25
- you will not be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin
  Hebrews 3:13
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

The key of encouragement is incredibly powerful. It opens a lot of closed doors.

It takes a person locked behind a door of anxiety and brings cheer. It opens the door that lets hope come in and displace the selfishness that was there. It will open your mind when you are going through difficult times as you begin to see that someone cares. This key softens the stronghold that temptation can have on someone you know, and give you the confidence that freedom is on its way.

A person doesn’t have to be perfect for you to encourage them. Start with where they are. Then remember something they have done in the past, and remind them of it. The fact that you notice and are willing to express it, is a wonderful encouragement. And it will be even more powerful if you write the encouragement.

People rarely throw a note of encouragement away. They are expressions that are easily and fondly remembered.

The key of encouragement opens so many doors that the Bible commands you to use it every day!
THE KEY OF FAITH

Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- the Lord your God goes with you
  - Joshua 1:5
- God will never leave you nor forsake you
  - Joshua 1:5
- God will make your righteousness shine
  - Psalms 37:6
- God will sustain you
  - Psalms 55:22
- God will make your pathway straight
  - Proverbs 3:5-6
- your plans will succeed
  - Proverbs 16:3
- God will come to save you
  - Isaiah 35:3-4
- God will restore your children
  - Isaiah 43:5
- God will remove the mountains in your life
  - Matthew 17:20
- God answers your prayers of faith
  - James 5:15
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

The Bible reminds us that “without faith it is impossible to please God” so this is a very important key.

You insert this key when you use a soft answer, believing that it will turn away wrath; when you forgive and leave vengeance to God; when you choose to transform the way you think by filling your mind with things that are good and lovely and pure; and in many other ways. You use the key of faith as you obey the statutes of God, and rely on God’s promise, anticipating that wonderful doors will open.

As you use this key, you will discover the truth of the passage that says God will never leave us nor forsake us! Opening the door to God’s presence is just one barrier that will open as this key is used. You will never really know that God is always with you, until you use the key of faith.

Isaiah also reminds us that using this key will help restore faith to our children. The closed door of their hearts will be softened as you use the key of faith, in one or more of the many locks into which it fits.

What a wonderful key.
THE KEY OF FAITHFULNESS

1 Corinthians 4:2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- God will hear and save when calamity comes 2 Chronicles 20:9
- the Lord preserves the faithful Psalms 31:23
- you will win favor and a good name Proverbs 3:4
- you will be blessed lavishly Proverbs 28:20
- God will put you in charge of many things Matthew 25:23
- you will be put in charge of all God’s possessions Matthew 24:47
- God will say “well done” Matthew 25:23
- God will trust you with more Luke 16:10
- you will gain a crown of life Revelation 2:10
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Mother Teresa said “I do not pray for success, I ask for faithfulness.” King Solomon said “Kindness and faithfulness keep a king safe”. God wants to say, “well done good and faithful servant” to each of us.

This key is inserted, when we fulfill a commitment even when it seems like we lose in the process. It turns the lock when we persevere even when the challenge gets really difficult. It is also used when the task seems insignificant and hardly worth doing, yet we keep our word and do it.

Our loving heavenly father is watching and when he sees the key of faithfulness being used, he makes sure that the doors to greater opportunities are opened for you. He prepares to place a crown of life on you, and he ensures that your reputation with God and man is good. The key of faithfulness opens wonderful doors.

Remind yourself of the commitments you have made to your family, your job, your friends, and your church. Then pick up the key of faithfulness and watch as God lavishes his blessings on you.
THE KEY OF FORGIVENESS

Colossians 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- you will gain an understanding of God’s purposes  
  Genesis 45
- you will feel good about forgiving someone  
  Proverbs 19:11
- the Lord will reward you  
  Proverbs 25:22
- you will be shown mercy  
  Matthew 5:7
- you will be known as a child of our heavenly Father  
  Matthew 5:45
- you will be forgiven  
  Matthew 6:12
- God will execute vengeance  
  Romans 12:19
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

We are told to use the key of forgiveness the same way our Lord Jesus did. But the secret is not in how he holds the key, but rather in how freely he uses it. In fact when a sinner repents, God combines forgiveness with a heavenly party. Imagine celebrating the right to forgive.

Sometimes it is easy to use this key, and other times it is really difficult. But our loving God wants you to use it and use it freely, so ask for his help in those difficult times. Ask consistently, ask persistently and you will discover that at some point, the key will slide in almost without you knowing, and the locked door will open for you.

Most addictions occur because of the pain caused by unforgiveness; the refusal or inability to use this key. What a tragic price to pay for not making a habit of using this liberating key. Learn it in the easy times, and trust the loving shepherd of our lives in the difficult experiences of life.

This key is one that you will bring you a lot of happiness. The Bible says it is your glory to forgive; to overlook an offense. The decision to use this key will bring you lasting joy later in life. The closed door, that holds real joy away, is opened by the key of forgiveness.
THE KEY OF GENEROSITY

Ecclesiastes 11:1-2 Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it again. {2} Give portions to seven, yes to eight, for you do not know what disaster may come upon the land.

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- generosity with the poor is lending to God Proverbs 19:17
- you gain an appreciation of being a steward Ecclesiastes 11:1-2
- you get protection of your resources Malachi 3:11
- God gives back using the same measure but more Luke 6:35-38
- you will reap generously 2 Corinthians 9:6
- it is more blessed to give than receive Acts 20:35
- opens the door to great worship Romans 15:1-7
- you fulfill the law of Christ Galatians 6:2
- prepares the way for you to receive a blessing 1 Peter 3:9
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Generous means giving beyond what would simply be expected or normal and God instructs us to take that approach with everything that he has given us. Imagine someone giving you charge of their bank account, and then telling you to be generous with it. That is our God. He says that attitude is the key that will open many doors that are closed shut.

For example generosity opens the door to great worship. There is a freedom with worship as we understand that we can’t out give God.

When Zacchaeus encountered Jesus, he became generous and gave back whatever people thought he had taken and multiplied it fourfold. He wasn’t known for his generosity, but it became part of him when he understood the generous nature of our loving heavenly father’s heart.

Elijah asked a widow for a piece of bread, and she gave it to him even though she had very little. Her generosity opened the door to an overflowing abundance that enabled her to live through a great famine.

Cast your bread on the waters; be generous today; it is a key to wonderful blessings.
THE KEY OF HOSPITALITY

1 Peter 4:9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- you will spread wisdom
  Proverbs 9:1-6
- glory of the Lord will guard you
  Isaiah 58:6-8
- you will receive the kingdom prepared for you
  Matthew 25:34-36
- you will be blessed and repaid
  Luke 14:12-14
- you will be shown mercy
  2 Timothy 1:16
- you may entertain angels
  Hebrews 13:2
- you participate with others in God’s work
  3 John 1:8
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Imagine entertaining an angel. You might sense that something special was happening in your house, but not be able to put the feeling into words. Being hospitable opens the door to that possibility.

Some of the most wonderful encounters are with people that you invite into your home. Some may be very significant people and you will enjoy the stories of God’s favor on their life. You will be refreshed as your faith grows because of what God did for that person. Some guests will be disadvantaged people, and you will discover the grace that God bestows on those who are kind to the poor. Either way, you are the winner, as you use the key of hospitality.

When you are hospitable to those who work for God, you open the door to full participation in the blessing of that ministry. He or she doesn’t get less, but you are blessed as well, all because you were hospitable. What a simple key for such a great benefit.

This key also gives you access to the promise of God’s unspecified blessings ... unspecified but you know that God is generous, so anticipate being lavishly blessed. It will be yours as you insert the key of hospitality.
THE KEY OF HUMILITY

Ephesians 4:2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- pathway to getting great prayers answered
  2 Chronicles 7:14
- God will set you on high
  Job 5:11
- you will see and be glad
  Psalms 69:32
- you will be crowned with salvation
  Psalms 149:4
- with the fear of the Lord, it brings wealth, honor and life
  Proverbs 22:4
- the kingdom of heaven is yours
  Matthew 5:3
- you will be great in the kingdom of heaven
  Matthew 18:4
- you will receive grace
  James 4:6
- you will be exalted
  1 Peter 5:5-6
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Humility will certainly open doors, but the biggest door that it opens, allows the answers to your prayers to come your way. The Bible says that God sent Daniel the answer to his prayer on the very first day that he began to humble himself. What door is more important to have opened. This key opens it.

Humility is lifting others up. It is treating them as if they were as important to you as they are to God. It is being your brother’s keeper, it is doing unto others as you would have them do to you, it is putting value on other people. They are all God’s children and he wants them to be treated well, just as he wants you to be treated well. We insert this powerful key as we treat others with humility, and the door to the kingdom of God opens for you.

This key is so vital, that God lavishly rewards you for using it. For example, prayers that are very important to you will be answered, you will be exalted, your heart will be joyful, and you will be great in the kingdom of heaven. All these doors open as we build a reputation for humility.

The Bible invites you to humble yourself and declares that the door to greatness opens as you do.
THE KEY OF HOW YOU LOOK AT OTHERS

Luke 6:37-38 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. {38} Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- your pleasant words promote instruction Proverbs 16:21
- your pleasant words are healing to your bones Proverbs 16:24
- you will not be judged Matthew 7:1
- you will begin to see your own shortcomings Matthew 7:1-5
- you will not be condemned Luke 6:37
Our loving heavenly father never gives a critical spirit. He never tells people to look down on others. Ours is always the job of encouragement, building up, and protecting.

And he established this special key; the key of refusing to be critical; the key of avoiding putting anyone down. This key opens the door to protection from criticism of yourself.

Avoiding criticism and speaking pleasant words is the key that opens the door to healing for your bones; it opens the door of creativity and the promotion of instruction. Imagine a country with greatly reduced health care costs, imagine a society where ingenious solutions are regularly created for challenging problems, imagine a community where instruction is warmly received. These are the doors that the key of avoiding criticism opens.

You pick up a bundle of these keys as you refuse to be judgmental; as you avoid criticism. Now, sit back and imagine the difference in your family, in your workplace, and in your church when this key is used often.

What a wonderful God to give such keys.
THE KEY OF JUSTICE

Isaiah 1:17 learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- you will live and possess the land Deuteronomy 16:20
- you will enjoy good will Psalms 112:5
- life will go well with you Proverbs 24:23
- you learn to do what is right Isaiah 1:17
- your actions brings pleasure to God Isaiah 59:15
- you will not condemn the innocent Matthew 12:7
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

God has given gifts to each one, but given them very unevenly. Some are born into wonderful settings, and others live on the edge of death all the time. And into this world, God gives you and me the key of justice and instructs us to use it generously, and see the wonderful doors that it opens.

Watch as light comes into the eyes of a senior as you visit and encourage them. Watch as a child is given a shoe box of love. Watch as a young girl in the sex trade is rescued and given hope and a future. Justice is the key that accomplishes all these.

This is also the key that God told Isaiah would turn Israel around. The nation was headed for captivity, and the lesson they had to learn was to seek justice. Justice for everyone. The answer was in the use of this key. Encourage the oppressed, defend the fatherless, and plead for the widow. This is the key that opens the door to real living and to possessing the land God has for you. It opens the door to a good reputation. It opens the door so that life will go well with you. And you will bring pleasure to God.

Use it generously and see the future God has for you.
THE KEY OF HOW WE LIVE

Philippians 1:27 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel.

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- God will honor you 1 Samuel 2:30
- you will be able to stand in evil times Ephesians 6:11
- you will participate in the divine nature 2 Peter 1:4
- you will be effective and productive 2 Peter 1:8
- your faith will never fail 2 Peter 1:10
Think of the good news of Christ. That Jesus came to reconcile you to our heavenly father. That God Almighty loves you so much and he wants you to call him Abba, father, and call him that from your heart. What is that worth? He loves you so much that he has a special plan for your life and it is an abundant life.

On the one hand this key is the key of acceptance of these gifts, and living in the freedom they give. Every father wants his children to live with all the privileges he can provide, and our heavenly father provides a lot.

On the other hand, this key is the acceptance of the responsibilities that these privileges bring. The responsibility to love him in return, the responsibility to love others, the responsibility to encourage and talk well of others. The responsibility to live worthy of the gospel.

This key opens the door for God to honor you, for you to be able to live uprightly in very evil situations, and to have a faith that will never fail.

What a powerful key. You take hold of its as you see the worth and challenge of our loving heavenly father.
THE KEY OF LOVING GOD

Deuteronomy 6:5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- will be shown love to a thousand generations    Exodus 20:6
- receive rain in season so you can have a good harvest    Deuteronomy 11:14
- you will be given many years    Deuteronomy 30:20
- the LORD will preserve you    Psalms 31:23
- the LORD preserves the faithful    Psalms 31:23
- you will be given the desires of your heart    Psalms 37:4
- the LORD will rescue, protect and answer your prayers    Psalms 91:14-15
- you will be loved by God and God will dwell in you    John 14:23
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

What a wonderful setting where love is given and returned. Where love is freely reciprocated. This key is that kind of love. We are confident of God’s love, and we insert the key as we love him in return.

He asks that we align our motives with his and live in harmony. He asks for a love that touches our soul, our emotions. He asks that we enjoy him. He is not just the subject of a dusty book, but one that is a pleasure to be with. He asks that we put effort into building that love, for love can always grow.

Loving him also means seeing that he is honoured in every setting. Wonderful doors open when he is exalted in love.

Each effort to build that love becomes a key to open doors that will give you the desires of your heart, give you fruit for your efforts, and prepare you to feel the love of God, to name a few of the blessings that come with this key.

Imagine his special interest and love being shown to you and to your children to a thousand generations. That is the door that Abraham opened, and the Jewish nation is receiving the benefit even today. What a wonderful key!
THE KEY OF HOW WE HANDLE MONEY

Hebrews 13:5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- God will open the floodgates of heaven
  - Malachi 3:10
- you will understand the backing that God provides
  - Mark 6:8-11
- you will earn the commendation of God.
  - Luke 19:15-17
- you will understand the value of God being on your side
  - Acts 3:6
- it is more blessed to give than it is to receive
  - Acts 20:35
- you will understand that God never leaves nor forsakes
  - Hebrews 13:5
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

What do you rely upon? Is it money, or is it the presence of God? This key is picked up when we rely on the presence of God.

God gave Moses this choice. He could accept all the rewards that the promised land could offer, but with the condition that while the presence of God would go with him, it would not go with the people. The angels of God would lead the people, but God himself would distance himself from the people. Moses refused to accept what looked like a sweet deal for himself. The choice Moses made is one that God makes into a key for you and me.

Avoiding a love for money and relying on our loving savior is the key that opens the floodgates of heaven. The lavish blessings that flow will challenge us to even contain.

It is a key that opens the door for the devourer to leave and never return. Then your efforts will not be in vain.

It is a key to open the door of appreciation for the backing of our loving and Almighty God. Contentment is such a wonderful characteristic. When striving ceases. Effort still continues, but the grasping ends, and we rest in the assurance of his presence.
THE KEY OF OBEDIENCE TO GOD

John 14:23-24 Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. {24} He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- you will take possession of your inheritance
  Genesis 22:17-18
- you will be God’s treasured possession,
  Exodus 19:5-6
- your children will serve God
  Exodus 19:5-6
- you will be made holy,
  Exodus 19:5-6
- you will enjoy long life
  Deuteronomy 6:1-2
- you will prosper and be kept alive
  Deuteronomy 6:24
- you will receive mercy and compassion from God.
  Deuteronomy 13:17-18
- you will be above others in praise, fame and honor
  Deuteronomy 26:18-19
- God will honor you
  1 Samuel 2:30
- your children will be mighty
  Psalms 112:1-3
- you will gain knowledge and wisdom
  Psalms 119:96-100
- you will have great peace
  Psalms 119:165
- God will give you the Holy Spirit to be with you
  John 14:15-16
- God will make his home with you
  John 14:23
Obedience is always in your best interest since the one who calls you to a life of obedience is the one who loves you fully. Understanding God’s love, will encourage you to pick up this key of obedience.

You turn this key when you obey his statutes in the face of temptation. For example, you are tempted to steal, but you remember that stealing is forbidden, so you don’t steal. You turn this key when you are tempted to enjoy some thoughts of revenge, but you forgive instead because vengeance is always left to God, and you turn your thoughts to something that is good and pure. You turn this key when you obey each of the key verses in this book.

And the closed doors that swing open include the door which your children walk through as they serve God, the door that you walk through to become holy, the door that opens to great wisdom and knowledge, and the door that gives you great peace, to name just a few.

Love and obedience are like Siamese twins. You can’t love God without obeying, and as you obey, your love for God will grow and grow. Like intertwined Siamese twins, love and obedience can’t be separated.
THE KEY OF PARENTING

Proverbs 22:6 Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- you gain hope Proverbs 19:18
- your children will return to the ways they were taught Proverbs 22:6
- there will be peace in your soul Proverbs 29:17
- there will be delight in your life Proverbs 29:17
- your children will learn to respect God Ephesians 6:4
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Children are one of the most precious gifts God gives. They are yours, but they are also his. He is fully committed to them and remains actively involved in their lives, but he asks you to train them so that as they mature, they will easily step into the proper relationship to him, and to life. Proper training is a key that opens wonderful doors for them and you.

You turn this key as you teach the children to honor you. It prepares them to deal well with authority in the future. You turn this key as you teach them to work, for a good work ethic is a wonderful heritage. You turn this key as you teach them about the ways in which God has blessed you. There are many ways to turn this key.

At the same time, God does not hold you responsible for their free decisions. You can turn the key and the doors will open for you, but children still have their own free will.

The doors that this key opens include the door to hope, the door to peace, the door to delight, and the door of promise that your children will return to love and respect Almighty God; the one who loves them passionately.
THE KEY OF HOW WE RELATE TO THE POOR

Matthew 7:12 So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- you will be honoring God
  Proverbs 14:31
- God says he owes you
  Proverbs 19:17
- you will lack nothing
  Proverbs 28:27
- there is a security in your life
  Proverbs 29:14
- the Lord will protect and restore you from illness
  Psalms 41:1-3
- your life will have a purity about it
  Luke 11:41
- you will be blessed by God
  Luke 14:13-14
- you will have a good reputation
  Acts 9:36–39
- your prayers are like a memorial offering
  Acts 10:4, 31
- you will be known as being righteous
  2 Corinthians 9:9
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Our loving father tells us to be our brothers keeper. He tells us to defend the cause of the oppressed. He tells us to be kind to the poor.

Treating the less fortunate well is a key that opens the door to honoring God. When you are kind to them, the key opens onto a debt that God says he owes you. It is the only debt that God owes, and you can be assured that he repays lavishly. This is a good door to open.

This is also a good door to open because it gives you unstated blessings from God and he does not give cheap gifts! A good reputation, and a purity to your life are on the other side of the door that this key opens.

You turn the key by simple acts of kindness, by giving the gift of acceptance and time. The key is rarely turned by accident, but rather it takes planning, determination and effort. Sometimes it takes the kind of effort that the good Samaritan gave.

Each opportunity to do a good work is a disguised key that was created by our loving father, especially for you. He loves to see you recognize and use this key that can be easily overlooked.
THE KEY OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP

1 Chronicles 16:34 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- God dwells in your praises Psalms 22:3
- you will see the salvation of God Psalms 50:23
- your soul will be satisfied Psalms 63:4-5
- you are at your best when we praise God Psalms 147:1
- you will understand God’s will for our life Romans 12:1, 2
- you will be pleased with God’s will for our life Romans 12:1, 2
- you will be able to comfort those in trouble 2 Corinthians 1:3, 4
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Giving praise to God is good for you. Giving praise does not create a stronger God, nor a more satisfied God. But it does create a heart of appreciation for what God has done, and is a key that opens very challenging doors.

Praise is as simple as giving thanks. As acknowledging that every good and perfect gift comes from above. Oh, to be quick to give thanks, to be like the two men with leprosy that Jesus healed, the ones who returned and picked up this key.

Praise is something that is done between you and God. It may be done in the company of others, or it may be done while you are alone with just your thoughts. And while praise may come through your mouth, true praise always originates in the heart. That is where God looks. Don’t be fooled into thinking that you get the key by uttering some heartless words for we are cautioned that worship must be in spirit and in truth.

But this key opens the door for God to come and dwell with you. It opens the door to understanding God’s will for your life. It opens the door to being able to comfort those who are experiencing difficult times. Is it any wonder that God would want you to have and use this key?
THE KEY OF PRAYER

Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. {7} And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- God will heal your land 2 Chronicles 7:14
- God will listen to you Jeremiah 29:12
- you will be seen as a child of God Matthew 5:44-45
- God will reward you Matthew 6:6
- God will answer you Matthew 21:22
- you will have peace Philippians 4:7
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Prayer works. That assurance is basic to the Christian life. God hears prayers and he answers them and closed doors swing open.

The door to peace is opened as we pray with thanksgiving. The door to healing is opened as we touch the throne of our loving heavenly father. The door to the one who loves to listen, swings open as we pray.

What a wonderful key that is freely placed in our hands. And then we are encouraged to pray without ceasing, to grab hold of this key and use it regularly, use it often, and use it on the most challenging closed doors.

When we pray, we follow in the footsteps of the greatest earth changers. Jesus talked about his prays, Paul told how he prayed, the disciples prayed when Peter and John were in prison and the list could go on and on. Leaders pray, lay people pray, men pray, women pray, children pray. This key is available to everyone.

You are free to use this key for “small” things like your desire for a special meal, or for huge things like a broken relationship. Prayer is the key that opens all these doors.
THE KEY OF RELATIONSHIPS

Colossians 3:12-13 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. {13} Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- God commands his blessing where there is unity Psalms 133
- you will win the favor of God and man Proverbs 3:4
- you will obtain mercy Matthew 5:7
- you will obtain a great reward Luke 6:35
- others will recognize you as one of God’s disciples John 13:35
- helps make you effective and productive in your faith 2 Peter 1:8
- God helps keep you from falling 2 Peter 1:10
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

The Bible gives us the unique wardrobe that is required to have successful relationships. Some relationships are like closed doors that have been locked for some time. Others have not been very cordial, like a door that has sticky hinges. But our loving heavenly father wants you to have the keys to open the most obstinate doors, the hardest relationships.

Our loving heavenly father tells us that the key to relationships looks like a special wardrobe with garments such as compassion, kindness, and humility. Wearing these is like picking up a key that opens the door to God’s blessings, to winning the favor of God and man, and to obtaining mercy and great rewards. Don’t be fooled by the simplicity or the appearance of powerlessness. God comes alongside and turns these approaches into powerful keys capable of unlocking hardened hearts, for the Bible says good overcomes evil.

Thinking of it as a key may make it sound quick, but the Bible reminds us that one of the garments is patience. God is respectful of the free will of others, but he gives you this powerful key that has opened many tightly closed doors. Our loving savior wants you to use this key.
THE KEY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Ephesians 5:1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- you will be fruitful and prospers
- you will dwell in the house of the Lord
- your children will be mighty in the land
- you will enjoy good will, and be remembered forever
- you will not be afraid of bad news
- God will make your pathway straight
- you will be rescued from trouble
- you will enjoy the favor of the people
- your actions become an offering to God

Psalms 1:3
Psalms 15:1-2
Psalms 112:2
Psalms 112:6
Psalms 112:7
Proverbs 11:5
Proverbs 11:8
Acts 2:47
Acts 10:4
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Some keys are very specific. Give encouragement and pick up a key, be thankful and pick up a key, pray and receive a key. But others are very broad. Imitate God is certainly in the second category. But, oh, the doors that it opens.

The door to fruitfulness and prosperity, the door to your children being mighty in the land, the door to enjoying good will, the door to be remembered forever, the door to freedom from bad news and being rescued in times of trouble, the door to enjoying favor with people and to know that your actions bring pleasure to God. Wow! The key may seem vague to grasp, but the rewards are certainly worth it.

Our loving savior does not come waiting for perfection before handing any key. He invites you to prayerfully read this key verse and give the Holy Spirit the opportunity to show you the way to act.

Remember that this command comes from the heart of one who dearly loves you. All his plans and directions for you are good.
THE KEY OF OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE

Philippians 2:12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- you will be fruitful and prosperous Psalms 1:3
- you will dwell in the house of the Lord Psalms 15:1
- you will enjoy good will and be remembered forever Psalms 112:6
- you will not be afraid of bad news Psalms 112:7
- God makes your pathway straight Proverbs 11:5
- you will be rescued from trouble Proverbs 11:8
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

This key reminds us that there is a physical and a spiritual dimension to our lives. Just as we nurture our body, we are instructed to nurture our spiritual nature.

Spiritual maturity doesn’t just happen. It involves obedience to the instructions of our loving heavenly father. For example, obedience to the instruction to forgive rather than to hold a grudge. This may involve emotions that are akin to fear and trembling, but the key gets stronger as we take the step of obedience and forgive. Or it may involve the instruction to be overwhelmingly thankful. Obedience means that you are thankful in your home, thankful in your workplace, thankful in the church. You discipline yourself to be a thankful person. This may involve many emotions including the one that says I will feel foolish by saying this, or the one that says, they understand that they did a good job. But we choose to obey, and express our thanks, and as we do, we mature spiritually.

Obedience and love are the two Siamese twins of the Bible. If we love, we will obey, and by obeying, we find greater reason to love.

Enjoy the anticipation of the doors that this key opens.
THE KEY OF TALKING

Ephesians 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- you will escape trouble
  Proverbs 12:13
- God will protect you
  Proverbs 14:3
- you will be like a tree that brings healing
  Proverbs 15:4
- your health will be better
  Proverbs 16:24
- you will appear wise if you hold our tongue
  Proverbs 17:28
- your words will acquit you
  Matthew 12:37
- you will grow up into Christ
  Ephesians 4:15
- you will love life, and see good days
  1 Peter 3:10
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

The Bible reminds us that the words we speak have the power of life and death. We receive this key when we speak words of life to others.

We choose our words by thinking of what is helpful to encourage the one to whom we are speaking. And as we do, our loving heavenly father hands us a key that opens the door of God’s protection, opens the door to enable you to be like a tree that brings healing, opens the door to good health and many others. What a wonderful key.

And when we go for this key, we have the added confidence that it benefits those who listen as well. The people that just happen to be close by and hear are blessed by your decision to go for this key.

Words of encouragement have such power that the disciples changed the name of Joseph the Levite to recognize that he was an encourager. Imagine, Joseph got the key to all these doors, and the blessing of such recognition from his friends. He became like a tree that brought healing. And the people arose and called him blessed.

You can pick up this powerful key with a little effort!
THE KEY OF BEING THANKFUL

1 Thessalonians 5:18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- God will deliver you, and honor you
  Psalms 50:15
- you will have a proper perspective on trials
  Psalms 107
- you will be more contented
  Philippians 4:6
- you will worry less
  Philippians 4:6-7
- your anticipation of the second coming will increase
  1 Thessalonians 5
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

It is God’s great desire to hand you the key to receive honor, to receive deliverance, to being contented and having less worry. God tells you that the key to all these doors is giving thanks. In fact, it is God’s will that you take time to give thanks in every setting.

Many times, people take the effort of others for granted and neglect the opportunity to say thank you. But life is so much more satisfying when thanks is given, when the short time that is necessary, is taken, and the effort is made. You pick up the key, to these doors, as you give thanks for the effort taken to prepare a meal, for the dedication to prepare a sermon, for the love of your spouse, for the sacrifice of a parent, for the phone call to a friend, and the list could go on and on.

God asks us to develop a culture in which we are overwhelmingly thankful. Thankful for all kinds of expressions, and in every circumstance. Thanks for things that are done specifically for you, and thanks for things that are done for many people including you. You are never too insignificant that your thanks is not meaningful.

Being overwhelmingly thankful is God’s will for you and this key will open incredible opportunities for you.
THE KEY OF OUR THOUGHTS

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- you will be careful to obey God’s precepts Joshua 1:8
- you will have more insight than all the teachers Psalms 119:99
- your thoughts will be on things that are right Proverbs 12:5
- your plans will lead to profit Proverbs 21:5
- you will know God’s plan Romans 12:2
- you will be pleased with God’s plan for your life Romans 12:2
- you will be alert to seeing the grace of God Heb 12:15
- you will be able to pray 1 Peter 4:7
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

This key is the most personal and private key that our loving heavenly father has for you. Your thoughts can give or deny you the use of one of the most powerful keys.

This private key can transform your whole life. The change is so significant that it enables you to open the door to knowing God’s plan and seeing that his plan is both good and perfect.

The primary way that you pick up this key is by filling your mind with good ideas for good overcomes evil. It is important to resist the devil, but filling your mind with things that are true, noble, right, ... will push out the harmful thoughts. David did it as he meditated on the statues of God; the keys to open life’s closed doors, and in the process, he became a man after God’s own heart.

Some have felt that this key is not important because nobody really knows what goes on inside; it is your personal private world. But the doors that this key opens make a great difference in your life. The door to obedience, to wisdom, and to plans that are profitable, all open when we meditate on things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy. What a great key.
1 Peter 3:8 Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- nothing will be impossible for you  
  Genesis 11:6
- your setting will be good and pleasant  
  Psalms 133:1
- God commands a blessing there  
  Psalms 133: 3
- the God of love and peace will be with you  
  2 Corinthians13:11
- you will brings joy to others  
  Philippians 2:1-2
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

God has given special instructions to ensure that special blessing accompany those who use the key of unity. He says that nothing will be impossible when you use this key. So, it is a very important key to be guarded carefully.

This key also brings joy to others. A spirit of unity makes people want to be there, and want to linger. The atmosphere of a group of people, where this key is actively employed, is very appealing to everyone.

You pick up this key as you are sympathetic to the feelings of others. Your grip on this incredible key is strengthened by a spirit of humility and compassion. It is more important to keep the key than it is to insist on your rights. Some issues that divide people seem so vital at the time, but after a while seem so insignificant. Your grip on the key will be firmer as you adopt the longer term view.

This key has proven to be a very illusive key, but the reward for holding on to it are enormous. The best approach is one that leads to unity rather than one that meets your immediate desires.

God loves seeing you using this key.
THE KEY OF DEALING WITH WORRY

Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. {7} And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- you will have the assurance that the Lord goes with you Deuteronomy 31:6
- God will never leave you nor forsake you Deuteronomy 31:6
- you will be sustained by God Psalms 55:22
- God will come to save you Isaiah 35:4
- you will enjoy the peace of God Philippians 4:6-7
- God will care for you 1 Peter 5:7
THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Every setting of your life is a classroom where you learn important lessons. And our loving God ensures that each lesson comes with the guarantee that it will work together with your other lessons for your good. Our loving savior wants you to look at life this way, and so he holds out this key to what seem like closed and locked doors.

There are two steps required to pick up this key. The first step is to regularly plead with God in prayer for your needs and the second is to thankfully remind yourself of God’s past goodness. Practicing these steps in good times will make them easier to climb in the tough times.

The door that seems to hold God away from you will be opened as you use this key. The door that seems to withhold the compassion of our God will be opened as you use this key. The door that seems to bar you from feeling the presence of God will be opened as you use this key.

Even though this key is very light and easy to hold, there are times when you will need someone else to carry it with you. Don’t be afraid to ask, because God, who loves you, has already told the others to bear your burdens with you. Give them that opportunity.
THE KEY OF HOW WE APPROACH WORK

Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,

GETTING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS

This key opens doors and now:

- the children will appreciate their heritage 1 Chronicles 28:8-9
- part of turning back to God 2 Chronicles19:9
- diligence leads to having authority Proverbs 12:24
- your desires will be fully satisfied Proverbs 13:4
- your plans will lead to prosperity Proverbs 21:5
- your life will be more holy Colossians 3:23
- the message of Christ will spread more effectively 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15
- your hope for heaven will become more real Hebrews 6:12
This key requires a very different perspective. We are used to thinking that we work for the one who signs our checks, the one who hired us, or the one who evaluates our work. This key turns that thinking all around. This key is picked up when you work for these people with all your heart, but with the constant thought that God is the one you are really committed to pleasing.

Our loving God is not difficult to please; simply do your best, with your whole heart and he will be pleased. He is not looking for you to be the top achiever, nor is he looking for you to be the first one at the job and the last one to leave. He simply wants to see that you work wholeheartedly. Someone has said “what you are is God’s gift to you, what you make of it, is your gift to him”.

Working wholeheartedly lets you pick up the key to open the door so your children will appreciate their heritage, so that you will have increased authority, and so that the gospel will be spread effectively. What a powerful key.

God singled Joshua and Caleb out for using this key, letting them enter the promised land, and noting that they had a different spirit; they did things wholeheartedly. God looks for that spirit.
THE MIRACLES OF LIVING WATERS  This booklet details the many miracles that occurred as Ken led in the construction of the new Living Waters Assembly in Fort Langley BC. The million dollar construction was undertaken by a vote of 14 to 1 and five years after the beginning of construction, the debt was less than $90,000.

LIVING IN OVERWHELMING VICTORY  This 145 page book picks up on the lavish promise of Psalm 1 that as we delight in the statutes of God we will become like a tree planted by rivers of water, whose leaf does not whither, bears fruit regularly, and prospers in whatever he does. The book gives the statutes or commands of God collected from throughout the Bible on 33 different topics. It also highlights the wonderful blessings God gives as we obey these commands, blessings to encourage us to trust more completely. This book is written to be used in small groups or for personal devotions.

MINISTRY BEGINS AT HOME  This book builds on the idea that everything God asks us to do is ministry. We don’t work for God, we minister for him, and this ministry begins at home. Our loving God tells us how to respond to a spouse, how to relate to a parent, and how the parents are to relate to the children. These instructions are the ministry job descriptions, and in every case, they minister minister to a very significant need in the other members of our family. God created us with needs, and then he created special people to minister to those needs. Noone else can meet those needs like the special family member God accepts and calls to minister on his behalf.

KEY VERSES TO OPEN LIFE’S CLOSED DOORS  This book identifies over 30 verses that hold the key to opening closed doors. Like the key of encouragement which opens the door that lets hope come in and displace the selfishness that was there. It also softens the stronghold that temptation can have on someone you know, and give you the confidence that freedom is on its way.
THE BURDENS OF GOD, GIVEN TO TEACH US TO PRAY  
This book identifies the five great burdens of God with the invitation to make them our burdens. We learn to pray as we accept these burdens. It is written in a home study format with a teachers edition as well as a student copy.

TOPICAL STUDY OF THE BOOK OF PROVERBS  
Proverbs is a very practical book that deals with the everyday issues of life (and dying). This book looks at fifteen topics and gives the passages in Proverbs that relate to each along with study questions suitable for a home group. A Biblical description of success is given as well since success is one of the topics.

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES OF JESUS  
Sixty prophecies of Jesus are identified. The book gives the Old Testament prophetic verses and the verses in the New Testament that shows their fulfillment. This is done without commentary.

THIS IS LOVE  
This 20 page booklet describes the action that should result from each of the fifteen characteristics of love given in 1 Corinthians 13. The booklet shows how God loves us, how we can love God and then how to love one another.

VERSES TO ENCOURAGE VOLUNTEERS  
This set of 24 verses is selected to demonstrate to any volunteer the incredible value that God puts on their service. You never work for the church or some individual, you minister for God as you volunteer and God is deeply appreciative.

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