Philadelphia – a call to continue to be faithful

**Revelation 3:7-13 (NKJV)**

**The Faithful Church**

7“And to the [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+3%3A7-13&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30754a)]angel of the church in Philadelphia write,

‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, “He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”: 8“I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+3%3A7-13&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30755b)]and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. 9Indeed I will make *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. 10Because you have kept [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+3%3A7-13&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30757c)]My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. 11 [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+3%3A7-13&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30758d)]Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. 12He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.

Christ commended the church in Philadelphia for four things.

1. They had an open door.
2. They had a little strength.
3. They had kept the Word of God.
4. They had not denied the Lord.

If we want to be commended by Christ like this church, we will go through open doors of ministry, depend on His strength, and be true to Him and to His Word. Jesus affirms the church’s positive actions: I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and not denied my name.” The church of Philadelphia was weak in some respects, yet they had remained faithful in the face of trial. Because of this, the Lord promises them an “open door” of blessing.

 Jesus encourages the Philadelphian believers regarding His future coming: “Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth. I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.” The church’s faithful endurance would serve as a blessing. Jesus would take them to be with Him before the coming tribulation. (I Thessalonians 4:13-18) He also exhorts them to remain faithful, because this would lead to rewards in the afterlife.

 (NOTE: The fact that the Philadelphians are promised to be preserved from the time of the tribulation corresponds with the pretribulational view of the rapture.)

**PRAYER:**

Thank you Lord for the encouraging words you gave to the Philadelphians. Thank you for the promise that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Your words of comfort are a blessing. We pray to imitate the Philadelphian believers who faithfully stood for YOU in their pagan culture. Your words to them serve as an encouragement to us today. Thank you that you are with us and for us to the very end. AMEN !