

## Sermon Discussion

### 23 May 2021

Read Revelation 3:7-13

#### Dig Deeper

The town received its name from King Attalus II's nickname, "Philadelphus" or "**brother lover.**" This king had a special devotion to his brother, Eumenes II. In appreciation for imperial reconstruction aid after an earthquake (A.D. 17), Philadelphia was briefly renamed Neocaesarea ("Caesar's New City"), but Jesus promises his suffering church an infinitely greater name, "the city of my God, the new Jerusalem" (v. 12).

The "**key of David**" seems to refer to Isaiah 22:20-23 where Hezekiah's servant, Eliakim, received authority over David's house, including access to all the king's treasures. Jesus claimed to have God's full administrative authority over salvation and judgment and to distribute or not distribute all God's resources according to His will.

1. When was a time when you felt as though you had "little power"? What happened?
2. In v. 7, Jesus establishes His authority before acknowledging the church's deeds. Two of the attributes He listed are "holy" and "true." Why do you think He chose these characteristics specific to this church?
3. What does Jesus mean when He says He opens what no one can shut, and shuts what no one can open?
4. Read v. 8b. How can you have little strength and yet keep God's word? Describe a time when this has been the case for you. Explore the distinction between our strength and God's power found in 2 Cor. 12:9-10.
5. In v. 9 Jesus says He will make their persecutors fall at their feet and acknowledge God loves them. Describe a time when your stand for truth encountered opposition. How does it encourage you to know that God will acknowledge your faithfulness?

#### Application & Prayer

- If there is someone in your group whose faith has been tested, gather around them, lay hands on them, and pray for them. Or ask each member to pray for a person they know who has been diligent to the faith as you take turns.
- Do you know someone who is going through opposition for standing firm in their faith in Jesus Christ? What are some actions you can do to demonstrate encouragement for them? This week take time to contact them and begin to implement these actions.
- Meditate on this: *"I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown."* Revelation 3:11