



The Secret of a Closed Door

By Becky Ramsey, Public School (and Christian School) Representative

In choosing my teaching path, I have always wanted to do God's will. Many times, I would tell the Lord that it would be so much better if He would come and sit next to me and talk to me about His plan for the next step in my life. I did not want to misinterpret His communication. Many times, the paths before me looked equal in possibilities. I struggled with deciding which door God would have me walk through. I did not want to squeeze through a door that God did not intend for me. And then, I learned the secret of the closed door.

Closed Doors

It is difficult to walk through a closed door; your nose hurts when you attempt to walk through it. I learned that when I had a decision to make, large or small, the best option was to pray and ask God clearly to close any door He did not want me to walk through. After I prayed that prayer, God was faithful to close the doors. In fact, sometimes they get slammed.

I remember one critical time when all that I saw and heard were doors slammed shut. My husband and I were moving to Iowa from Kansas City. Sensing my hesitancy about leaving, my administrator encouraged me by telling me that I would certainly have a job immediately due to the glowing recommendation he had written for me.

Before we left Kansas City, I had applied and completed all the paperwork for my Iowa Teacher's Certificate. When we arrived in Iowa, I made an appointment with the local public-school district administrator. Two minutes into the interview, the superintendent asked if he could tape the interview, because he wanted to present it to the board. At the end of the interview, he let me know that he wanted to hire me. I only needed to submit my Iowa certificate. I told him I had filed for it, and it would arrive shortly.

A couple of days after the interview, I contacted the licensing office. Someone from that office told me that I should have received the license already. The office agreed to send out another copy since I needed it to accept a position.

As I was praying about what my next step should be, God prompted me that I had prayed for Him to close doors He did not want me to walk through. Since it was April, and I would not be accepting teaching offers until fall, I was filling out applications for immediate part-time work as well as a fall teaching position. I soon decided that my nose was almost bloodied because I had hit so many closed doors. I began to pray that God would direct me where He wanted me to look because my nose was sore!

God Begins to Work

At Bible study on Wednesday night at our new church, I asked for prayer for direction. A lady sitting beside me told me a local Christian school was taking applications. She gave me the address and phone number, and I made a call the next day. I had an interview appointment that week. At the end of the interview, the principal gave me an application and encouraged me to apply.

I went home, completed the application, and discussed the situation with my husband. I told him I thought I would receive an offer for a position at the Christian school, but I knew the salary would not be close to the public school contract. We prayed and decided on a figure that was bare bones. As we closed our prayer time together, we told God we believed He was directing us clearly.

God Has a Plan

The next day I took the application into the Christian school. The principal had a contract ready for me. I read the contract, and the salary was the exact minimum we had determined we had to have. I signed the contract that day in the office. I left, went home, and opened the mailbox. Inside it were two Iowa teaching certificates.

Many people have asked if I cancelled the contract at the Christian school and took the much better offer from the public school. Absolutely not! God had clearly delayed that first teaching certificate until I had found my way to the place where He wanted me to serve. He had kept ALL doors closed, even part-time summer jobs. I wanted to be where God wanted me to teach, and He had clearly directed my path.

Neon Lights, Please!

Whenever my husband and I have changed locations, we followed the same process. God has always been faithful to let us know His will through closed doors. Yes, there have been times when I asked Him to put neon lights around the right open door when I thought there may have been more than one door available. I remember the Lord whispering to me in my struggle to decide, "The door is open, the neon lights are blaring out their message. Are you going to trust and obey Me and walk through the door I am holding open for you?" My resounding answer was a peaceful, "Yes, Lord. You have always been faithful to lead me. I see the flashing lights!"

Becky Ramsey is from Reynoldsburg, Ohio. She has taught in public and Christian schools. Before recent retirement, she served as a reading and math intervention specialist at a local charter school. She still is involved in the school as a volunteer. You may contact Becky at ramseyfamily27711@gmail.com.