

The Iron Gate

In Acts 12, the men of God had been placed into prison. James was be-headed for the cause of our Lord. Peter was bound with chains. We rejoice to read where the angel of the Lord came to this man of God and told him what to do to escape the hand of Herod. At the very last we read that he came to an iron gate (Acts 12:10). The iron gate did not stop the angel from seeing that the man of God was set free. Let us not pass over the thought of the iron gate. It was there to keep one from going out. There are "iron gates" put in our lives by the devil to hinder us from doing the will of God.

First, the iron gate of prejudice. Some are so filled with prejudice in their hearts toward the truth and the church that they possibly will never obey God. This is indeed a shame. They are prejudiced toward the plan of salvation. They somehow believe that if they are baptized and are added to the body of Christ, they are sending others to hell. Obeying God never sent anyone to hell!

The iron gate of indifference. The attitude of "I just don't care" seems to exist at every turn. This was the attitude of the church in Laodicea. Revelation 3:15 says, *"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot."* This will keep a church from growing. It will hinder souls from being taught the truth. We must not let this iron gate stand in our way of doing the work of the Lord.

The iron gate of suffering. It is true that we often suffer. God has never promised us otherwise. Sickness and death often strike in the families of the faithful. Sometimes people blame God and turn away from the Lord. This is just another iron gate in the way to keep people from serving the Lord. In times of suffering, one should see the need of being a Christian. Peter wrote, *"Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ"* (1 Peter 1:6-7).

Do not let any "iron gate" keep you from heaven. Obey the will of God while you have chance. If the "gate" of life closes on you while you are outside of Christ, the Bible says that you will not be saved. Why let that happen? Within the love of God there is bliss, and we want you to experience it! It is just a few steps away!

Adapted From Robert Jackson