

Have you ever been positively described as a door? Has anyone ever called you a door in a positive light? Is no one else a touch confused when Jesus calls himself a door instead of the guard or the lock or even the stay with the shepherd theme? I am the Gate. I AM the Door. Well since that isn't making a lot of sense let's try taking this a part.

First lets with "I Am". So, this is already a loaded phrase. I Am is the Name of God. Yahweh. I am who I am. Jesus is making a huge statement when he repeats that phrase in that way. We are talking about the very nature of God. We don't get a lot of definites in the bible about so when we get these declarations they are a big deal.

Now the second part of our conundrum, "the Door"

When we think about a door there are positives and negatives. There is safety in a door. It keeps the out, out. It keeps the in, In.

But the door is more complex than that. It is the mingling of both. Now you're probably thinking, well pastor Jordan you went off the deep end with that one. But here me out. You know those deep cold nights in the dead of winter and you go to touch your doorknob and its freezing or it even has frost on it? And when there is a fire, don't they tell you to touch the door?

The door is neither in nor out. The Door is both. The door exists in both worlds. And here is when we start to make some really cool connections. Jesus is the bridge between God and humanity. Jesus is both. Jesus keeps us safe, but always acts as the invitation in. If you are standing before an insurmountable wall, you look for the gate. The Gate becomes your hope. The gate is your Focus. The same is true of all our houses.

To door acts as this point of transformation. The threshold where you are changed. Take off your coats and shoes and stay awhile. You

become a member of the household at the door. Doors change our identity from stranger to friend.

Story about a door in my life – through a series of events that I will only describe as God moments I ended up on this green and blue school bus as a part of a group on a mission trip down to New Orleans on the 1-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina

- Got to our Lodging and got pumped up
- Got into the city and looked like the water had gone down a week ago in most places. It was a year later.
- Got to our site for the week – water line 8 feet up on every house and tree – Michelle and Brian – house – big X in paint on the side of their house, knocked in front door, and got to work
- Week of hell and holy moments –
  - Hell, because its August in Louisiana, 100 degrees with 100 percent humidity.

- Hell, because we had to stand there in front of this woman and shovel and scrape her life off of the ground and tear down the walls which had sheltered and raised her family. And then just dump it all on her front curb.
- All the while using that busted in front door as a ramp to unload wheelbarrow after wheelbarrow of Michelle's house and life on to the curb.
- Holy moments in finding those small things which had survived in the much, attic

Towards the end of the week she decides to buy us all dinner and tells us the story of her front door – brand new, proud strong beautiful door she had just picked out and spent a lot of money on. Strong – when the flood came left it open but they bashed it is anyway, and when she came back that door was a sign of lost forsaken hope. But with us that door was transformed, with us that door became the way for her to move forward be made new. We were the vehicle which God had worked in her life.

I think we all have these stories in our lives. These door stories. These stories of transformation. These stories of being invited in. these stories of hope simply because the door exists. These stores where we are met with this choice to come up to the door, knock and enter and then be changed forever.

That is our God. Jesus Stands in front of us as the barrier between what has been and what can be, what will be, if we but go through the door.

We know we have hope because of the awesome incredible transforming and saving power of our God. That is why our God is the door. We are safe and at peace because the Door becomes what we need it to be.

It's now time for us to look for those doors in our own lives and invite other people through them. Let them know about the hope we know, the hope we live out. It's time to open wide the door and let everyone see what our God can do. Amen.