

Whether you read or not, there is a highly recommended book out there that all of us should consider reading. All who have read it have stated, once you start reading it, YOU CANNOT PUT IT DOWN! The book is **102 Minutes: The Untold Story of The Fight to Survive Inside the Twin Towers**. It is the moment-by-moment account of the heroic struggle for life inside the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11th - *every single minute was precious*.

Over 14,000 people were inside the Twin Towers. About 12,000 were able to escape, but 2,749 were not. Here is one of the most fascinating and also gripping parts of this story. **It is the account of how some people lived and some people died, depending upon one decision they made – THE DOOR THEY CHOSE**. To give you an example of one situation - one group of people in an office was trying to flee after the plane hit the tower and they had to make a decision. **Most of the people in that group decided to take the door that lead into an elevator. The rest of the group decided to take the door to the stairwell. The group that took the elevator died. The group that took the stairwell lived. It is a physical picture ABOUT LIFE...WHICH DOOR WILL YOU CHOOSE? Will you enter the right door?**

I am going to talk to you today about the single most important door that anyone in this lifetime will ever decide to walk through. It is a door that has no hinges, no knobs, no locks, and doesn't swing out or in. **This door is a person named Jesus Christ**. Jesus says, ***“I am the DOOR/GATE. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture.”***

The vast majority of people go through life achieving neither SECURITY nor SIGNIFICANCE.

Years ago, UCLA Psychologist, James C. Coleman, wrote that as the modern-day person struggles, **“the baffling questions of his own existence sometimes cause moments of darkness. And because of this, science falls short of providing full answers...it can tell how, but not why.”** He then made this observation, ***“As children we prayed, now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep, if I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take.”*** This pray kept us out of the scary darkness at night became a part of our days. And with that darkness within our days we experienced many unknown questions that had few answers to the “WHYS” that challenged our life. **“As a result he says, “...many people are still groping about, bewildered and bitter, unable to find any SIGNIFICANCE in their lives.”**

Nobody understands you better than God. Nobody understands the need to FULFILL YOUR SIGNIFICANCE and to believe that your life matters than God. **Jesus uttered four words that give us one of the key secrets to finding significance in life and they are, “I AM THE DOOR.”**

In fact, He actually made this statement twice in just a few seconds to emphasize the fact of His being the door. In full, this is what He said, ***“So Jesus said to them again, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.’”*** John 10:7-9

His listeners would have immediately known what He was talking about, but let me help explain it to you. Jesus had just finished telling the people that He was “the GOOD SHEPHERD”, but they did not really understand exactly what He was saying, because verse 6 says, ***“This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them.”*** (John 10:6)

Jesus tries another comparison, another metaphor. **He compares Himself to the door of the sheep. In Israel, there were two kinds of sheepfolds.** There was **one that would be near a village or town** and it was a fold for the sheep of all the shepherds. The owners of the sheep would pool their resources and hire someone to guard the sheep. He would only let in those shepherds whom he knew personally that owned the flock that he was guarding.

The other kind of **sheepfold** was **out in the hills and away from any village.** It was a walled enclosure where on three sides there would be rocks piled about a foot high, with no roof and then there would be a small opening (about 5 or 6 feet wide) where the sheep would enter at night. The shepherd would lie down in front of that opening and literally become the door of the sheep. Nothing could go in unless the shepherd allowed it and no sheep could leave unless the shepherd allowed it.

If you ever get a chance to go to Israel you can still see the sheepfolds out in the desert, particularly on the road that leads from Jerusalem down to the Dead Sea. **One of the most amazing sites you will ever see is a flock of sheep following these shepherds.** They simply go wherever the shepherd leads and they put their complete trust in the shepherd. It is amazing to watch these sheep, late in the day, be herded into the sheepfold, where the shepherd will then lie down and literally become

the door of the sheep.

As the door of the sheep, the shepherd gives sheep the two things that everybody on this earth is looking for:

SECURITY - the sheep know they are safe as long as the shepherd is guarding the door. Also, the sheep feel **SIGNIFICANT** by the very fact that the shepherd is willing to lay down his very body for their protection. These actions tell us how important the sheep really are. **The shepherd is their protector and the shepherd is their provider.**
It is through OUR Shepherd that you and I find significance in our lives.

One of Jesus' favorite ways to teach was to refer to some ordinary, everyday object that people were very familiar with to reveal extraordinary truths. He would take an earthly object and give it a heavenly meaning. ***He does that with something that everyone in this room encounters multiple times every day – A DOOR.***

Now we have to ask the question, **"Why did Jesus refer to Himself as a DOOR?"** If you think about it, there is only one of two things you can do with a door - open it from the outside to walk into a room or you can open it from the inside to walk out of a room. **A door is basically either an exit or an entrance and that is exactly what Jesus is going to tell us in this passage of scripture.** Anytime you walk through a door, you automatically enter into one place and exit another one. **The secret to finding significance in this life is to make sure you walk through the door named Jesus Christ.**

BECAUSE It Is Through Jesus... You Can Exit A Meaningless Life

Let's go back to those people in the Twin Towers right after those planes had hit. Smoke is everywhere. Debris is floating in the air. Folk are choking on the dust and the toxic fumes. They are rushing out into the hallway and wondering quickly, ***"Do I take the elevator or do I take the stairs?"*** Unfortunately, only one door leads to life, all other doors leads to death. **If you take the right door, you live. If you take the wrong door, you die.**

LIFE IS JUST LIKE THAT BECAUSE LIFE IS FILLED WITH DOORS, DOORS WE WALK THROUGH. Every single day, 6 PLUS Billion people on this planet choose to walk through DOORS!! If you are married, you are married to the particular person you live with, because you chose to walk through that person's door rather than someone else's. If you have a partner in some way... If you have children ... If you work for someone or have a business partner... If you have a close friend you see almost every day you trust... **ALL OF THESE RELATIONSHIPS EXIST BECAUSE YOU FOUND "MEANING WITH ANOTHER PERSON"** *and that meaningfulness and significance came about because you chose to walk through the right doors.*

On the other hand, there are young teenagers who will spend the rest of their life behind bars, because they walked through the **WRONG DOOR.** There are people today in miserable marriages, because they walked through the wrong door. There is nothing more frustrating than to walk through what you think is the right door, a door that should be filled with contentment and peace, **ONLY TO FIND IT IS THE "WRONG DOOR."**

I spend my life CARING FOR PEOPLE and dealing with people who are trapped in a life of emptiness because they thought a certain door would hold the right answer, but it didn't.

After saying that He was THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP, Jesus made this statement in verse 8, ***"All who came before Me are thieves and robbers..."*** God wants every one of us to live lives of significance and satisfaction, ***but wrong doors are robbers and thieves. Wrong doors will steal peace, joy, happiness, contentment, and satisfaction.***

There are several doors that people walk through every day thinking this is the right door for me, this is the door that will give me significance and meaning and joy and happiness in life, only to find it is the **WRONG DOOR.** ****THE DOOR OF QUALITY DAIRY EVERY NIGHT. ALCOHOL/LOTTERY TICKETS**

Many of us have walked through wrong doors in our lives, but it is never too late to exit the WRONG DOOR and walk through the right door. Through Jesus, you can exit a meaningless life. That is why He said in verse 9, ***"I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."*** (John 10:9)

Look at what Jesus said happens to anyone who comes to Him and enters through Him. First of all, you will be SAVED (Yes, you will have a relationship with God that never ends.) You will be SAFE, because when sheep can go in and out without any fear, it is because they feel safe. Then you will be SATISFIED, because all that sheep need to be satisfied is green grass, which is found in any pasture.

Now, you can understand why Jesus made the following statement, *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."* (John 10:10) I often wondered why Jesus would call Himself **"THE DOOR"** and then shift gears and start talking about having an abundant, meaningful, significant life. *When you come to the door marked, "Jesus" you not only exit a meaningless life, but...*

Through Jesus You Find A Meaningful Life

Remember, I told you that when you walk through a door two things always happen - **you exit one room and you enter another one**. Jesus is telling us that when you come to Him, either for the first time as a non-follower of Christ or on a daily basis as one who is already a follower of Christ, *you exit a life of frustration and enter a life of fulfillment. You exit a life of meaningless and enter a life of meaningfulness.*

Do you notice how Jesus made a difference between life and the abundant life? He said in verse 10, *"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."* (John 10:10b)

William Wallace, the great hero of the movie, **Braveheart** once said, *"Every man dies...but not every man lives..."*

The sad fact is that most people go through this life and they EXIST, but they don't LIVE. Did you hear me? The sad fact is that most people go through this life and they EXIST, but they don't LIVE.

Jesus didn't put you on this earth just to take up space, live a few years and die without any impact whatsoever. *He wants every one of us to live a life of significance, a life of importance and a life of influence that never ends.*

Isn't that what you want for your life? Don't you want a life that counts? Don't you want to enjoy life to its fullest? *The key is making sure your life counts is: CHOOSING THE RIGHT DOOR AND... "HIS NAME IS JESUS CHRIST!!"*

During Superbowl XXXVII, FedEx ran a commercial that spoofed the movie **Castaway**, in which Tom Hanks played a FedEx worker whose company plane went down, stranding him on a desert island for years. Looking like the untidy Hanks in the movie, the FedEx employee in the commercial goes up to the door of a suburban home, package in hand. When the lady comes to the door, he explains that he survived five years on a deserted island, and during that whole time he kept this package in order to deliver it to her. **She gives a simple, "Thank you."** But he is curious about what is in the package that he has been protecting for years. He says, *"If I may ask, what was in that package after all?"* She opens it and shows him the contents, saying, *"Oh, nothing really. Just a satellite telephone, a global positioning device, a compass, a water purifier, and some seeds."*

Like the contents in this package, the resources for growth and strength are available to each of us, each day... **all we have to do is WALK THROUGH "THE DOOR" that Christ holds open for us.**

Because, when you surrender your life to Him and allow Him to be the shepherd of your life you come to the Word of God and you feed on the bread of life. In turn you end up following His will for your life and walk through **HIS DOOR** which brings SECURITY AND SIGNIFICANCE TO YOUR LIFE.

There is one other door that I want to share with you that Jesus felt was His most important door and that is "THE DOOR OF YOUR HEART." In Revelation 3:20, Jesus talking about your heart and my heart, *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me."*

Jesus said if we open the door of our earthly life to Him, He will open the door of eternal life to us.

I have walked through some important doors in my life. I have walked through the door of the White House--WHAT A PRIVILEGE...Through the front doors of most of your houses--THANK YOU!! The doors of Hospital Rooms when many were sick or dying--WHAT AN HONOR. The doors of the Vatican...VERY HUMBLING...HOWEVER, **the most important door I have ever walked through and the most important door you will ever walk through is the door named Jesus Christ.**

KNOCK, KNOCK, "WHOSE THERE?" JESUS...JESUS WHO? Jesus your Savior. And if you Let him into your LIFE, YOUR HEART, you will know life and you will know it Abundantly with Him. Amen.