

1 Corinthians 16:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.

Analysis

For a great door and effectual is opened unto me—Thyra megale kai energēs (θύρα μεγάλη καὶ ἐνεργής, "great and effective door") employs Paul's common metaphor of an open door for gospel opportunity (1 Corinthians 16:9, 2 Corinthians 2:12, Colossians 4:3). Energēs (ἐνεργής, "effective, working, powerful") suggests not merely opportunity but fruitful results—souls saved, churches planted, disciples made.

And there are many adversaries—Antikeimai (ἀντίκειμαι, "adversaries, opponents") describes active opposition, not mere indifference. Paul's missionary theology embraced the paradox that effective ministry attracts fierce resistance. Satan contests every advance of God's kingdom. The presence of adversaries actually confirmed, rather than contradicted, the strategic importance of Paul's Ephesian ministry. Spiritual warfare intensifies at points of gospel breakthrough.

Historical Context

Ephesus opposition came from multiple sources: the Artemis cult (Acts 19:23-41), Jewish exorcists (Acts 19:13-16), and practitioners of magic arts (Acts 19:18-19). Acts 19:11-12 records extraordinary miracles through Paul. The combination of remarkable power and severe opposition characterizes apostolic ministry, setting a pattern for missions in hostile territories.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. Why does effective ministry often attract fierce opposition rather than smooth progress?
2. How do you discern whether opposition indicates you're in the right place (like Paul) or the wrong place?
3. What does Paul's willingness to stay amid adversaries teach about Christian courage versus presumption?

Interlinear Text

θύρα	γάρ	μοι	ἀνέῳγεν	μεγάλη	καὶ	ἐνεργής	καὶ
door	For	unto me	is opened	a great	and	effectual	and
G2374	G1063	G3427	G455	G3173	G2532	G1756	G2532
ἀντικείμενοι	πολλοί						
adversaries	there are many						
G480	G4183						

Additional Cross-References

Acts 14:27 (Parallel theme): And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.

2 Corinthians 2:12 (Parallel theme): Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord,

Colossians 4:3 (Parallel theme): Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

1 Corinthians 15:32 (Parallel theme): If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.

Philippians 3:18 (Parallel theme): (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

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