

Introduction:**Text:** Revelation 3:7-13

1. A little history about Philadelphia.
2. Let's look at Christ's awesomeness, His ability, and His awards to every overcomer to empower and encourage us.

A. Christ's AWESOMENESS (v. 7)

1. Christ is awesome because He is **holy**, as God is holy.
2. He is awesome because He is **true**, who personified truth by saying, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).
3. Being holy and true, Christ is totally **dependable** to change our life into His likeness, and to guide us in the right direction.

INSIGHT: What separates **real** Christians from **bogus** Christians is their character that is holy and true, like the Christ they follow.

B. Christ's ABILITY (v. 7)

1. What does Christ symbolize by saying He "holds the **key** of David"?
 - a. As the holder of the key of David, Jesus is the **Messiah** with a human and divine nature as the Son of David and the Son of God (Romans 1:1-4).
 - b. Christ's ability to permanently open and close the **door** to God's kingdom, or open and close **doors** of ministry opportunities.
 - c. Jesus refers to their little numerical and financial strength, not to their **spiritual** strength. Explain.
 - d. At the beginning, ministry success does not depend on our numerical or financial strength, but on our **faithfulness** to Christ's Word and Christ's Name.
- e. TESTIMONY: How Charisma got started
- f. As we grow in our spiritual **spiritual**, the boundaries of our ministries will expand. Examples:

- * Our coming Charisma Village

- * Our seven young people enrolled at Global University
- * Our vision to make Charisma School of Ministry into Charisma Bible College

2. Christ's ability to make the enemies of the gospel to acknowledge Christ's **love** for us.
3. Christ's ability to **keep** those who have kept His command to endure patiently in times of trial.
4. For our encouragement, Christ holds the key of David to God's **riches** to supply all our needs (Phil. 4:19).

C. Christ's AWARDS (vv. 11-12)

1. Every overcomer will be a pillar in God's temple, signifying:
 - a. Permanency of spiritual **place** in heaven,
 - b. Special **recognition** in heaven,
 - c. Special **name** branding in heaven,
2. Christ's future awards will **outshine** any award we could possible get in this life.
3. Let us set our eyes on our heavenly awards, not on any earthly awards to **keep** our life perspective right.

Conclusion:**TABLETALK STARTERS**

(For family devotions and Life Group discussions)

Read: Revelation 3:7-13

1. What assures you with Christ's awesome character as "holy and true," and how should Christ's character impact your life?
2. Using the sermon outline, review Christ's ability that directly affects you (vv. 7-11)?
3. Discuss and apply "**Branding**," the article under the Pastor's Corner.

PRAY