

Holy spirit gives keys to dealing with closed doors

Have you met Murphy recently? I have — it involved my van — but life happens and you go on.

We all have experienced a little of Murphy's Law in our life. You know, if anything can go wrong it will go wrong. There are some corollaries to that law. Things like leak proof seals will. Interchangeable parts won't. Friends come and go, but enemies accumulate. The other lane always moves faster. Anything you try to fix will take longer and cost more than you thought. If it jams, force it, if it breaks, it needed replaced anyway.

What do you do when you experience a little or a lot of Murphy's Law?

You are trying to accomplish something, and doors keep closing. You ask God to do something, and



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- moments from calvary

it doesn't happen. You are serving God and things seem to go wrong. Plans don't come to pass.

Unfortunately, most of us think "failure" when we run into closed doors. We think something must be wrong. In Acts 16, the Apostle Paul experiences some closed doors. In a very broad stroke of this chapter, you see three keys that the Holy Spirit gives in dealing with closed doors.

Sometimes God closes doors in

our life because He wants to get our attention. He wants to lead us, to guide us. To get us to the place that He has prepared for us. Listen, it is

not necessarily because we are doing something bad; it is because God has something better. Remember, the good is the enemy of the best.

For all of us there are times when we hit the closed door; notice how Paul handled a door shutting in Acts 16 (It would be good to read the chapter). He handled it with persistence. Was he discouraged? Probably. Did he wonder what in the world was going on? Sure. But, he didn't quit. Just because a door closed doesn't mean you should quit. It doesn't mean you leave. It doesn't mean that you are defeated. God wants you to keep walking. Between verses 7 and 8 scholars tell us is about a time frame of nine

months. Can you wait that long? Paul walks across modern day Turkey. That is not an overnight journey. The point — he doesn't quit. He walks across Turkey and he meets a lady who puts her trust in Christ (verse 15). In this life, you have to have persistence.

Secondly, you have to use the key of praise. I don't want to be the bearer of bad news, but you have an enemy and he is going to attack you. His name is Satan, and he is about killing, stealing and destroying.

Paul is doing something noble and all of a sudden he is attacked (verses 16-24) and placed in prison. What is his response? Does he have a pity party and invite Murphy? I mean he is in prison — it is dark, dirty and damp. It is not anything like our prisons today.

His legs are in stocks, so they would begin to cramp. His back and buttocks have been laid open. What does he do? It says in verse 25, "About midnight." Problems always seem worse at midnight don't

they? "About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God..."

James 5:13 gives us a theological reason for what we see in Acts 16:25: "Is anyone of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise!"

Praise may feel like the last thing you want to do, but praise should define who you are. The Hebrew definition (language of the Old Testament) defines praise this way — to rant, to rave and to be glamorously foolish. So much for being dignified in church!

Listen, the praise came first and then the door was opened. Don't say, "I will praise God if He opens the door first."

The final key is pardon. Look at it in verses 27 through 40. The jailer awakes and is thinking all the prisoners have escaped, so he thinks his only option is to take his life.

This guy might have been there and helped beat Paul, but Paul yells out, "Don't harm yourself."

His back is bloodied, he is sore, and he is looking out for someone else. He is looking out for that someone that did him wrong! Why did he do that?

Because, he had already forgiven him. The point, there are some doors that are closed, not because of God, or the devil, but because of bitterness and unforgiveness on your part.

Bitterness will kill you. If Paul wouldn't have offered that pardon, he never would have been praising because he would have been focusing on the injustice done to him.

Why don't you take some time right now and make sure those three keys (persistence, praise and pardon) are on your key ring. Take some time and brag on God because if you are a child of His, you can rest assured He brags on you.

Steve Rains is the pastor at the Calvary Gospel Church, Fourth and College. Go to the church's web site at calvarygospel.net or e-mail Rains at calvarycolumn@st-tel.net.

State's web site revised, improved

Kansans have never been afraid to explore new frontiers. This has been true for every generation of pioneers and continues today as technology creates new frontiers and new possibilities.

Our state's official web site www.kansas.gov was the nation's first eGovernment Web portal, originally launched in 1992. Having gone under several revisions and improvements over the past decade and a half, it now hosts an average of over 3.3 million visitors each year. Continuing in this fashion, our state's web site has recently been revamped to better serve you and the people of Kansas.

This latest redesign reveals a sharp, clean style with easier navigation and superior tools to help you find the information and services you want. The "My Kansas" feature gives you the ability to customize and save your own front-page by adding, deleting or moving info "tiles" based on your preferences. But the importance and accessi-



kathleen sebelius

- governor

bility of this site isn't just about the latest in web technology or aesthetic layouts. It's about having access to those who serve you and remembering that state government works for you.

Your elected officials have never been closer. With the click of a button, e-mail can express your concerns in a way that used to take days. A simple electronic search can provide you with the information that once took hours or even a trip to a state office. Perhaps most importantly, the easier things become, the more money we save.

As I continue to work with agencies to cut waste, reduce paperwork and save taxpayer dollars, I urge you to take advantage of what we have to offer on-line. It's efficiencies like this that allow us to better serve you and better serve Kansans.

Business owner should be literate about books

As the owner of the company, you don't need to get an accounting degree, but you do need to become literate about your books.

Understanding your financial statements not only helps you keep on top of your operation, but it also helps you detect and prevent fraud.

Your balance sheet shows what you have (assets), what you owe (liabilities) and net worth (equity). It is a snapshot of your business as of a certain date.

Your profit and loss or income statement shows your income (sales) minus your expenses to reach your net income or loss. It shows your business activity over a certain amount of time.

If you would like to learn more, contact us and set up a confidential meeting with our trained accountant. Our services have already been paid for by your community and are offered free of charge to you.

This tip was brought to you by Western Kansas Business Consulting. We offer free and confidential business consulting in Kearny, Scott, Sherman and Wichita Counties.

For more information or to set up an appointment, contact Jamie Morphew at (620) 874-0771 or e-



jamie morphew

- business tips

mail wkbc@wbsnet.org.

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UPCOMING EVENTS in Kansas

Brought to you in part by Kansas Travel & Tourism Division

Emporia Street Festival
July 4. Emporia's 150th Anniversary. Food, entertainment and fireworks in downtown Emporia, KS. (800)279-3730 or (620) 342-1803 www.emporiaskchamber.org

Summer Splash Kids Day
July 4. Cool off with fun water games! Kids free into zoo with paid adult. Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure, Salina, KS. (785) 827-9488, www.rollinghillswildlife.com

Meteorite Festival
July 6-7. Displays, entertainment, tours, food. All benefits will be donated to Greensburg, KS. Main Street in Haviland, KS havmeteorfest@yahoo.com www.havilandkansas.com

Little Apple Jazz Festival
July 14. Annual premiere Jazz Festival. Larry Norvell Band Shell, City Park, Manhattan, KS. (785) 532-7326, www.ksu.edu/upc

Fiesta Mexicana
July 17-21. Festival features Mexican foods, crafts, entertainment and carnival. Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Topeka, KS (785) 232-5088

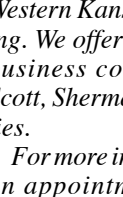
Dodge City Days
July 27-August 5 Western heritage comes to life! Dodge City, KS (620) 227-3119, www.dodgecitydays.com

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Non-surgical treatment of hemorrhoids.
John D. Ferris, MD
will be at:
291 15th Street
Burlington, CO

Saturday, July 14

For information or appointment, call 1-800-593-0009



HemCure

Worship warms the heart

Calvary Gospel Church
Pastor: Steve Rains, Ben Coats, youth pastor
Fourth & College • 890-3605
Sunday: Kid's Church: 10:30 am
Morning Service: 10:30 am
Evening Service: 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Royal Rangers Missionettes 6:30 p.m.
Adult mid-week service: 7:00 p.m.
Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m.
Small Group Ministries meets through out the week.
www.calvarygospel.net

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Pastor: Father Norbert Dlabal
307 W. 13th • 890-7205
Sacrament of Reconciliation:
4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment
Mass Schedule:
Saturday: 6 pm, **Sunday:** 10:30 am
Spanish Mass:
Sunday: 12:30 pm

Sonrise Christian Church
Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398
Minister: Charles E. Kerr, Jr.
Sunday: Worship Service: 9:30 am
Sunday School: 10:45 am
Team Puppeteers: 6 pm
Wednesday:
Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm
Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm
Jets, 4th grade and under: 3:30 - 4:30

Word of Life
Joursquare Church
10th & Clark • 899-5250
Pastor: John Coumerilh
Sunday: Worship Celebration
and Kids' Church: 10:30 am
Wednesday: K.W.A.M.!
Age 3 through grade 6, 6:30 p.m.
(during school year)

Pleasant Home Church
Serving the rural community for over 100 years
Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70
Pastor: Charlie Busch
694-2242
Sunday: Worship Service: 9 am
Sunday School: 10 am
Evening Service: 6 pm

Bible Baptist Church
Pastor: Michael Estep
Fifth & Broadway
890-7368
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Morning Service: 10 am
Evening Service: 6:30 pm
Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO
(719) 346-7984
Sacrament Meeting: 10 am
Sunday School: 11:15 am
Priesthood/Relief Society: 12 am

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo
La Luz Del Mundo
Spanish Speaking Church
Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.
1601 Texas • 899-5275
Daily Prayer: Sunday thru
Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

United Methodist Church
Brewster:
Pastor: Dorine Chambers
Worship Service: 10:45 am CST
Sunday School: 9:45 am CST
Winona:
Minister: Sheryl Johnson
Worship Service: 9 am CST
Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Pastor: Rev. Ted Amos
Eighth & Arcade • 890-5233
Sunday: Worship Service: 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups,
Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups,
Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship
Special Notice: Handicap Accessible, Hearing
Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler
Nurseries Available

Kanorado
United Methodist Church
Pastor: Leonard Cox
399-2468
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Worship Service: 10:15 am

Church of the Nazarene
Pastor: Bob Willis
Third & Caldwell
899-2080 or 899-3797
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:50 am
Evening Service: 6 pm
Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First United Methodist Church
1116 Sherman 899-3631
Pastor: Rev. Janet Hernandez
Saturday: Worship: 5:30 pm
Sunday: Adult Classes: 9:15 am
Worship: 10:30 am
Wednesday: Wednesday Nite Live
5:45 - 6:45 Simple Supper "Free will Offering
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Classes for all ages

Goodland Bible Church
109 Willow Road • 899-6400
Pastor: Chad DeJong
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:30 am
Morning Worship: 10:45 am
Evening Worship: 6 pm
Wednesday: AWANA (Winter)
and prayer: 7 p.m.

First Baptist Church
Pastor: Travis Blake
Bateman's Funeral Home, 211 E. 11th
890-3450
Sunday: Sunday School for all ages:
9:30 am (Child care provided)
Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Thursday: Bible study 9:30 a.m.
Wheatridge Center

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
13th & Center
Church 890-2115 or Rectory 890-6969
Priest: Father Hal Lycett
Holy Eucharist: 10:00 a.m. Sunday
10:00 a.m. Thursday
Morning Prayer: 8:00 a.m. Wed. - Sun.
For emergencies 890-6969

Harvest Evangelical Free Church
104 E. Hwy. 24 • 890-7918
Pastor: Brian Fugleberg
Sunday: Worship: 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Youth group
meets at 7 p.m.
at Scherlings', 827 Caldwell.

Seventh Day Adventist Church
1160 Cattletrail
Pastor: Mike Larson
Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am
Worship Service: 11 am

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
13th & Sherman • 890-6161
Sunday: Christian eduction/fellowship:
10:15 a.m.
Worship Service: 9 am
Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

Church of Christ
401 Caldwell
890-6185
Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:45 am
Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

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Hwy. 24

Koons Funeral Chapel
North Main

Good Samaritan Center
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KLOE/KKEG/KWGB
3023 W. 31

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