

SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS—JANUARY 2016

The Door



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Tammy's mission is to promote spiritual awareness in patients, families and staff, thereby facilitating healing in the presence of illness and the absence of cure from birth to end of life.

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Have you ever taken the time to consider the many uses of a door? Beyond their general purpose to let things in and keep things out there is also great symbolism in a door. The image of a door is significant in times of change. You might consider a time of change as being a new door waiting to be opened so you can enter into your future or an old door waiting to be closed to your past.

Doors have intrigued me since I was a child. There have been grand doors that made me feel small as I approached them. Rustic, weathered doors worn by use have welcomed me into a place of peaceful rest. There was nothing more peaceful than entering the old barn door in the middle of the afternoon, the barn quiet, the cattle chewing their cud. I remember a cellar door being a bit scary! Narrow doors or those that opened only slightly because of their rusty hinges often made me wonder if I was going to fit through. Double doors opening wide encouraged my imagination and I thought about sweeping through them

gracefully in an old fashion hoop skirt. It didn't matter if they were painted, stained, metal, or glass. I loved the way they spoke to me. I still love doors!

From your childhood you likely remember the doors that were easy to open and those that required a little more strength. Think beyond the physical door to the symbolism of the door as it relates to life changes. Some changes occur more easily than others. Many times over the years I have heard people say, "You need to close one door before the other will open". Oh, how true. In fact, sometimes you need to be willing to walk into the holding area between doors and wait for the next door to open. These are times of transition and can require a great deal of strength

My oldest son has also taken a liking to doors and has found many ways to repurpose them. He has taken old doors and made a wood box, a table, a shelf, a rocking chair, several wall displays and a garden art piece. He has used barn doors, front doors, inside doors, wide and narrow doors. As I enjoy the

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history of each door he has worked with I marvel at the future of each new creation. What hope there is in discarding an old door for the very purpose of giving it new life!

What does all this talk about doors have to do with anything? Not only do we approach doors in our life that need to be opened, closed or changed for a new purpose, but there is another door deserving our attention. Each of us has a door to our heart. We decide who to let in and who to keep out. The Lord knows about the door to your heart. In the book of Revelation 3:20 we read, "Look! Here I stand at the door and knock. If you hear me calling and open the door, I will come in and

we will share a meal as friends."

He doesn't force the door open. He waits to be invited in.

The New Year is like a door waiting to be opened, closed, or recreated. An opportunity, a door to your future waits to be opened. A door to your past waits to be closed. A worn door waits to be recreated. Know that as you face this change in your life the Lord stands at the door of your heart knocking wanting to be a guide for you and your future. Go ahead, let him in. Open the door!

May God's Peace Be With You,
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Questions to ponder:

What door is waiting to be opened in my life?

How have I responded to God's knock on my heart?

Which parts of my life can be recreated for a new purpose?



The Door:

I have purpose of invitation and farewell. Many have passed through my presence, some with excitement, some with sorrow, some slowly and some with great speed.

Time passes and my hinges hurt. They are used less and less. Perhaps I am no longer of value. I have no purpose.

Wait someone is looking at me. They are studying my texture, my strength. What do they see? Are they judging me? I hear them talking about possibilities. I feel the transformation.

Once again I have movement, a gentle rocking motion. Many again are in my presence. I have renewed purpose, renewed life in me.