



I. THE POWER OF SMALL BEGINNINGS

1. God loves small beginnings

Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin...
Zechariah 4:10 (NLT)

2. God created starting small as a key to success

...“I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.”
Matthew 17:20b (NLT)

3. God rewards faithfulness in small things

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’
Matthew 25:21 (NIV)

4. God promises to finish what He starts

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.
Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

With God’s power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine.
Ephesians 3:20 (NCV)

II. THE MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA – 3:7-13

1. The Lord’s characteristic for this church

- **Holy and True**

God has made a great many promises. They are all “Yes” because of what Christ has done. So through Christ we say “Amen.” We want God to receive glory.
2 Corinthians 1:20 (NIRV)

- **Holds the key of David**

2. The Lord's compliment of this church

- **Even though you have little strength—you've remained faithful**

...“My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:9b-11 (NLT)

WHERE GOD GUIDES—HE PROVIDES

- **You have obeyed and persevered**

3. The Lord's complaint against this church—None

4. The Lord's counsel to this church

- **Hold on to what you have so that no one will take your crown**
- **You will be pillars in the Temple of my God**
- **You will receive new names**

What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever. But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

1 Corinthians 15:50-53 (NLT)

III. LASTING LESSONS FROM THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA

- 1. Christ opens the doors of opportunity for His people**
- 2. Christ honors faith—not strength**
- 3. Christ vindicates His people**
- 4. Christ provides me with eternal hope**