Lessons from God, Two Doors and a Cowbell
A Testimony by Dr. Fred Soto

Introduction: What Happened to Me?

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” 2 Corinthians 5:17

- I became a new creation - the old sinful spiritual state passed away
- My sins were forgiven.

What is still happening to me?

- Relationship is the goal! A living, personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an invitation to be a friend and partner.

Note: The new creation is a lifelong journey: It is not something you finish all at once. It is the ongoing, work of the Holy Spirit helping me to grow in grace, put away sin, and become more like Jesus Christ -- day by day.

Lessons from God

God wants to be known. Moses -Exodus 3:14-15

Through Moses's encounter with the burning bush, God called Moses to return to Egypt and tell Pharaoh, "Let my people go!" Moses asked God, "If the people ask who sent me, what shall I say?" God replied, "Tell the Israelites 'I Am' has sent you."

The answer to the question is no longer about Moses' adequacy. but about the absolute adequacy of the Great I AM**.**

I AM would become whatever His people needed Him to be in their moment of crisis—Deliverer, Comforter, Provider, or Guide.

“We cannot truly know who we are until we know who “I AM" is**.**

Two Doors That Changed My Life.

Door 1. I Am the Door of the Sheep" Jesus John 10:7-10,

7 Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Here Jesus compares Himself to the gate or door of a sheep pen.

He is the only way. HE states that anyone who tries to enter the flock another way is a "thief and a robber." Jesus is the only true entry point to God's family.

He provides protection and freedom: HE explains that a shepherd protects his sheep and leads them to good places to graze. Jesus provides this ultimate care and spiritual nourishment. Ps 23 affirms:

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

What I learned from the Sheep

Recognize – Follow –Listen 🔔 Move

Door Two: The Knocking Door -Jesus -Revelation 3:20

"Behold! I stand at the door and knock. *If any man hears my voice* and *opens the door*, I will come in and dine with him, and he with me."

God's heart for His people is to enjoy *relationship*. He never forces His way into our lives or enters in order to condemn us.

Impact:

God sent His beloved Son Jesus

John 1:10-12 NLT "He came into the very world He created, but the world didn't recognize Him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected Him. But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God." John 1:10-12 NLT

Opening the door requires a willing response rather than mere awareness. Those who respond to Christ are called from spiritual indifference into obedient fellowship.

Insights from God, Two Doors and a Cowbell:

- **Know God:** Learn more about the name, the character of God and the Holy Spirit of God.
- **Pray** for God's will to be done in your life. for mercy, for the strength to love and forgive.
- **Put God First** in every aspect of your life
- **Open the door of your heart:** God wants a confessed and repented heart.
- **Focus on the Essentials:** Acts 2:42 says that those who had received the Word of God and believed, "were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."
- **Get Discipled** - Find your teacher(s) They can help too.

Conclusion:

The new creation is a journey. It is the ongoing, work of the Holy Spirit helping us to grow in grace, put away sin, and become more like Jesus Christ -- day by day