13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,

Matthew 6:21

Someone said, **"Sometimes God closes doors because it's time to move forward. He knows you won't move unless your circumstances force you."**

Whether it's moving on from a past relationship or past disappointments, remember God has a plan for you. His plan for you is not in the past, it's in the future. Christians are a new creation through Christ. Your old life is gone and now it's time to move forward. Imagine if Peter, Paul, and David, never moved on from their past. They would not have gone on to do great things for the Lord. Set aside that extra baggage; it will only slow you down on your walk of faith.

The baggage of yesterday will always present the limitations that held you back then. When you reflect upon yesterday and the things you did not accomplish, the things you believed could not be done by you, that is what you will bring into your present, but God has created something new in you. God has placed the power of God in each of us through our faith in Jesus Christ. Are you going to believe what the world says you are or are you going to believe your creator?

A gentleman was walking through an elephant camp, and he spotted that the elephants weren't being kept in cages or held by the use of chains. All that was "holding them back" from escaping the camp, was a small piece of rope tied to one of their legs. As the man gazed upon the elephants, he was completely confused as to why the elephants didn't just use their strength to break the rope and escape the camp. They could easily have done so, but instead, they didn't try at all.

Curious and wanting to know the answer, he asked a trainer nearby why the elephants were just standing there and never tried to escape. The trainer replied, "when they are very young and much smaller, we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it's enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free."

The only reason that the elephants weren't breaking free and escaping from the camp was that over time they adopted the belief that it just wasn't possible.

Church, no matter how much the world tries to hold you back, always continue with the belief that what you want to achieve is possible. Believing you can get through your trials is the most important step in actually achieving it. We cannot continue to live in the past, to live with those teachings that made us believe we cannot instead of what God says, which is "With God nothing is impossible." Do you believe that? Can you embrace that as something from God that can and will propel you into a new understanding of what your life can become? The scripture in Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." Do not trust in any word more than you trust in the Word of God. It is God's word that will lead you forward into His will.

God Bless Each of You,
Pastor Gool