

Jesus Christ is the superior ranking authority over the churches and His intervention at Laodicea is designed to influence them to “be zealous and repent,” not “to become emotionally energized and believe in Him.” This is not a salvation passage, but one directed toward reversion recovery.

Therefore, in Revelation 3:20, the Lord makes the case that first the majority of those in the church are out of fellowship, divorced from biblical reality, and in the cosmic morass of reversionism.

As a result, these people are not presently receptive to divine viewpoint. This means that the Lord’s presence is absent from the auditorium. Therefore, He is situated outside the room, yet He stands at the door and “keeps on knocking.”

Then comes the protasis of the third-class conditional statement: “If anyone hears My voice and opens the door,” maybe some person will hear and open or maybe someone will not, but in all likelihood, someone will open the door.”

Opening the door is a figure of speech for rebound recovery. Those who allow Him in may then “dine with Him,” the reestablishment of fellowship through the resumption of Bible study.

This passage has nothing to do with evangelism. No appeal from the gospel of salvation through faith in Christ is mentioned. The circumstance is reversionism and the Lord’s desire is that reversion recovery will occur at which point fellowship with Him may resume.

**Qualification for Evidence Testing:** The advance to the high ground of spiritual maturity is put to the test. The overwhelming power of the Word of God is expressed to the maximum by the believer who functions in problem-solving device #10: Occupation with Christ:

1. The capacity to love someone who is invisible requires a tremendous amount of information in the *kardía* of the soul. The capacity to love Jesus Christ comes only from maximum doctrine deployed on the FLOT Line of the soul.
2. The acronym FLOT refers to “Forward Line Of Troops.” This is a military term used to describe the Invisible War and the believer’s strategy and tactics in that conflict.
3. The mature believer knows when to use offensive action or defensive action during the scrum of the Angelic Conflict.
4. Offensive action is related to several categories of the believer’s spiritual life:

(1) Evangelism of the lost, (2) utilization of problem-solving devices, (3) discernment in the use of one's invisible assets, (4) execution of the protocol plan of God, and (5) the function of Christian service in producing divine good rather than dead works.

5. Defensive action is confined to one's dealings with cosmos diabolicus. Lucifer and his fallen angels and those he recruits from the human race coordinate to do his bidding.
6. Next year we will study a passage by James that gives the believer guidance about defensive action against the Dark Side:

**James 4:5** Do you think the scripture means nothing when it says, "The Spirit that God caused to live within us has an envious yearning"?

**v. 6** But He gives greater grace. Therefore, it [ **Proverbs 3:34** ] says, "God opposes the proud, but He gives grace to the humble."

**v. 7** So submit to God. But resist the devil [ **stand your ground** ] and he will flee from you. (NET)

7. Standing your ground is your defensive action. The FLOT Line is the deployment of the problem-solving devices that defend the *kardía* of the soul.
8. Example: The ever-advancing acceptance of cosmic thought throughout our society tempts the weak believer to acquiesce due to cowardice toward its demands.
9. Loss of divine thought means human viewpoint intervenes and controls the soul. Lucifer presents his cosmic rationales in language designed to propagandize believers who do not want to be considered "unchristian."
10. Acquiescence indicates the person is incapable of discerning the lie and out of ignorance winds up buying the lie.
11. Submission to the Word of God is a defensive action. You deploy divine thought to the situation and then stand your ground regardless of the ramifications.



**1 Peter 5:5** You younger believers, likewise, be subordinate to the authority of you pastor; clothe yourselves with humility toward each other because “God makes war against the arrogant believer, but He gives grace to the humble believer” [ **Proverbs 3:34** ].

**v. 6** Therefore, humble yourselves under the powerful hand of God, in order that He may promote you in the proper time,

**v. 7** casting all of your anxiety [ **cares, worries, fears** ] on Him because He cares for you.

**v. 8** Be sober and alert [ **from spiritual self-esteem** ]. Your enemy, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

**v. 9** Stand your ground against him, strong in doctrine, because you know that your fellow believers throughout the world are experiencing this same category of suffering. (EXT)

12. Principle: Direct offensive action against the devil means defeat for the believer; this is not mandated in Scripture.
13. The application of resident doctrine in the soul is the basis for defensive action. Defensive action in the soul may be illustrated by the U.S. Army’s system of defensive areas:
  - a. **Covering Force:** The principle of security from the defensive position supported by eternal security.
  - b. **Forward Defence:** The main defensive force supported by doctrine circulating in the seven compartments of the stream of consciousness through the filling ministry of the Holy Spirit.
  - c. **Reserve Area:** This force is able to launch offensive action from a defensive position.
14. The spiritually advanced believer is able to take offensive action from behind the FLOT Line illustrated by:

**Ephesians 6:17** Take the helmet of salvation and the sword<sup>3</sup> of the Holy Spirit, which is the Word of God. (NET)

15. The believer has no human power comparable to demonic power; he must utilize divine power, including the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.

### **The Angelic Conflict and Evidence Testing**

1. Evidence Testing is related to the Angelic Conflict and involves Church-Age believers as witnesses for the Prosecution.
2. This Invisible War is subsequent to events that took place in eternity past when God delegated Lucifer authority over the angelic population.
3. At some point during that vast expanse of time, Lucifer became arrogant and actively sought to replace God as commander-in-chief of the angelic population.
4. His rebellion is noted in two major passages of Scripture, Isaiah 14:12–14, Satan’s Five Assertions, and Ezekiel 28:12–17, that describes his rise and fall.
5. Found guilty of rebellion, God sentenced Lucifer and his demonic hoard to eternity in the lake of fire.
6. These events and what followed are chronicled in various passages. We are all familiar with the Bible’s opening verses that introduce events that occur in time.
7. By means of prophecy certain things are revealed that conclude with the destruction of the universe noted in 2 Peter 3:10–12 and Revelation 19:7–21:1.
8. It is after the universe is destroyed that Lucifer’s sentence to the lake of fire is carried out.
9. Therefore, the question arises, “Since Lucifer and the fallen angels were convicted prior to human history, why is their sentence delayed until after human history is completed?”

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<sup>3</sup> “The Greek term translated sword (μάχαιρα, μάχαιρα) refers to the Roman *gladius*, a short sword about 2 feet long, used for close hand-to-hand combat. This is the only clearly offensive weapon in the list of armor mentioned by the author” (*The NET Bible* [Dallas: Biblical Studies Press, 1996–2005], 2290sn21).

