

## SERMON STUDY NOTES

24<sup>th</sup> October 2021  
Speaker: Martin Armstrong

### Saying “Yes” to God

1. When I was a boy my dad had a skeleton key a key that could open almost any door: Has anyone in the group owned one or used one?
2. God has a skeleton key too: it's a key that will open Heaven every time we pray. **1 John 5:14** *This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, we know that we have what we asked of him.* God's 'skeleton key prayer' is simply hearing Him and saying, 'yes' to Him.  
*Discuss*
3. Matthew 10:16 *Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.* The word 'wise' here means *careful, discerning, thoughtful, intelligent, & sensible*. Snakes lie low, stay quiet, blend into the environment and evaluate a new situation. When the opportunity comes available they seize the moment. Give some examples of how we can learn from their behaviour?
4. Many leaders pray for divine opportunities. Finally, a great door of opportunity stands before them. It's time to act. But rather than seize the moment, they pause to pray just a little longer... and miss out. Share an example of a time when that happened.
5. In 1992 Rick Renner & his family moved from the US to Russia to establish a new ministry. They prayed & sought the Lord to open a new Christian TV network. Several months later they were invited to meet & talk with a national broadcasting network. An agreement was signed allowing them to beam into 50 million homes/week. Share examples of opportunities you have heard of or encountered where God has miraculously opened a door.

6. Plans were drawn up to expand our church auditorium in 2013. What has caused the delay? Are we as a church community in a position to hear and obey the Lord's leading?
7. What do you believe the Lord is saying to us today?
8. We're to focus our eyes on the prize, the destination: but also to enjoy the journey. *Life begins today*: don't think of success as a point somewhere in the future. What is the point of a vision if leaders' receive God's guidance, but keep things on hold for 9 years? Discuss.
9. God's 'presence' is a place of revelation, understanding, protection, power and guidance. It's an exciting place to be. Share with the group some exciting plans that you would like to see happen and pray for each other.