

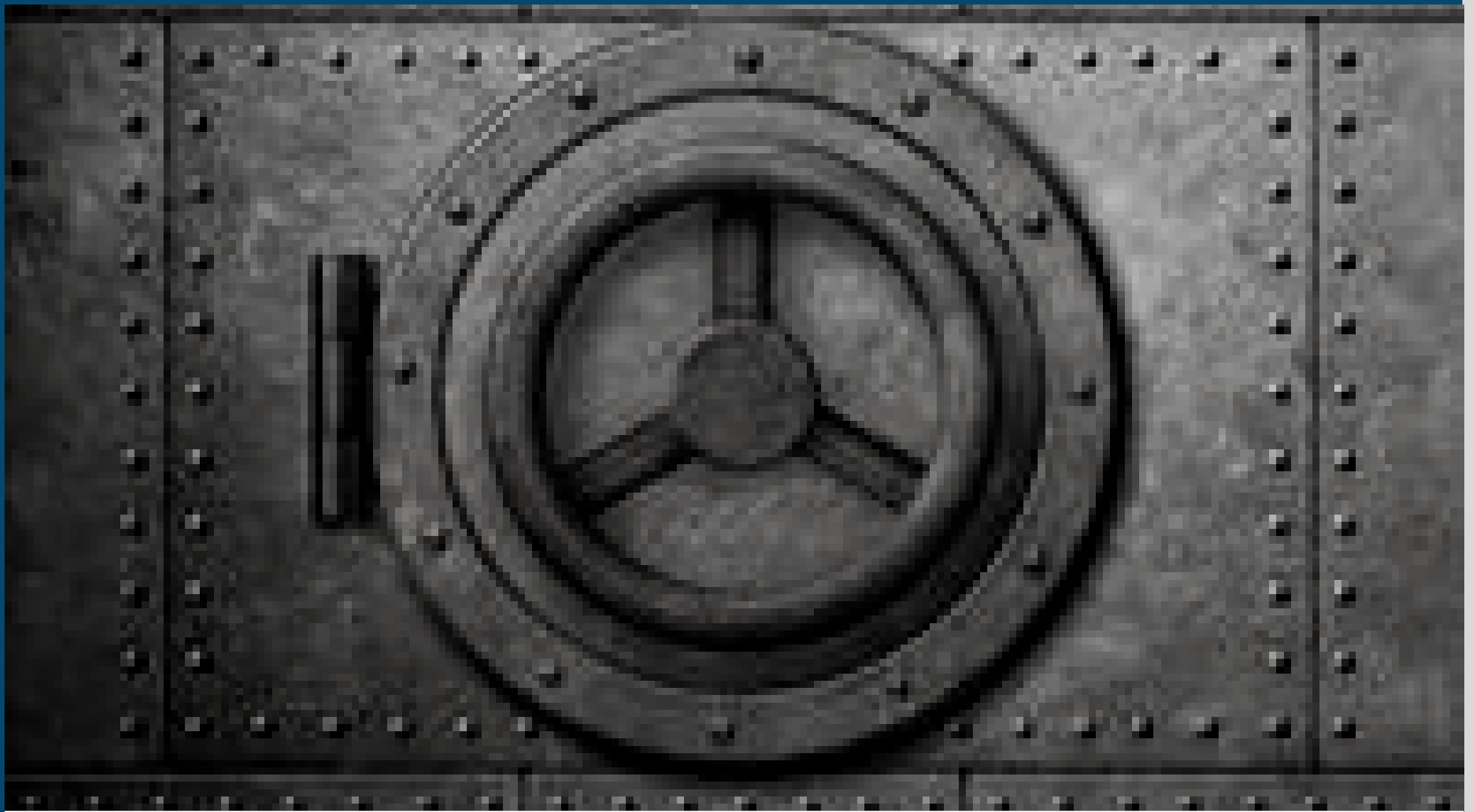
Chronicles of

HOPE

Vol.2

Open Doors

GEORGE MOORE JR.



OPEN DOORS

INTRODUCTION

QUARANTINED TO CONQUER

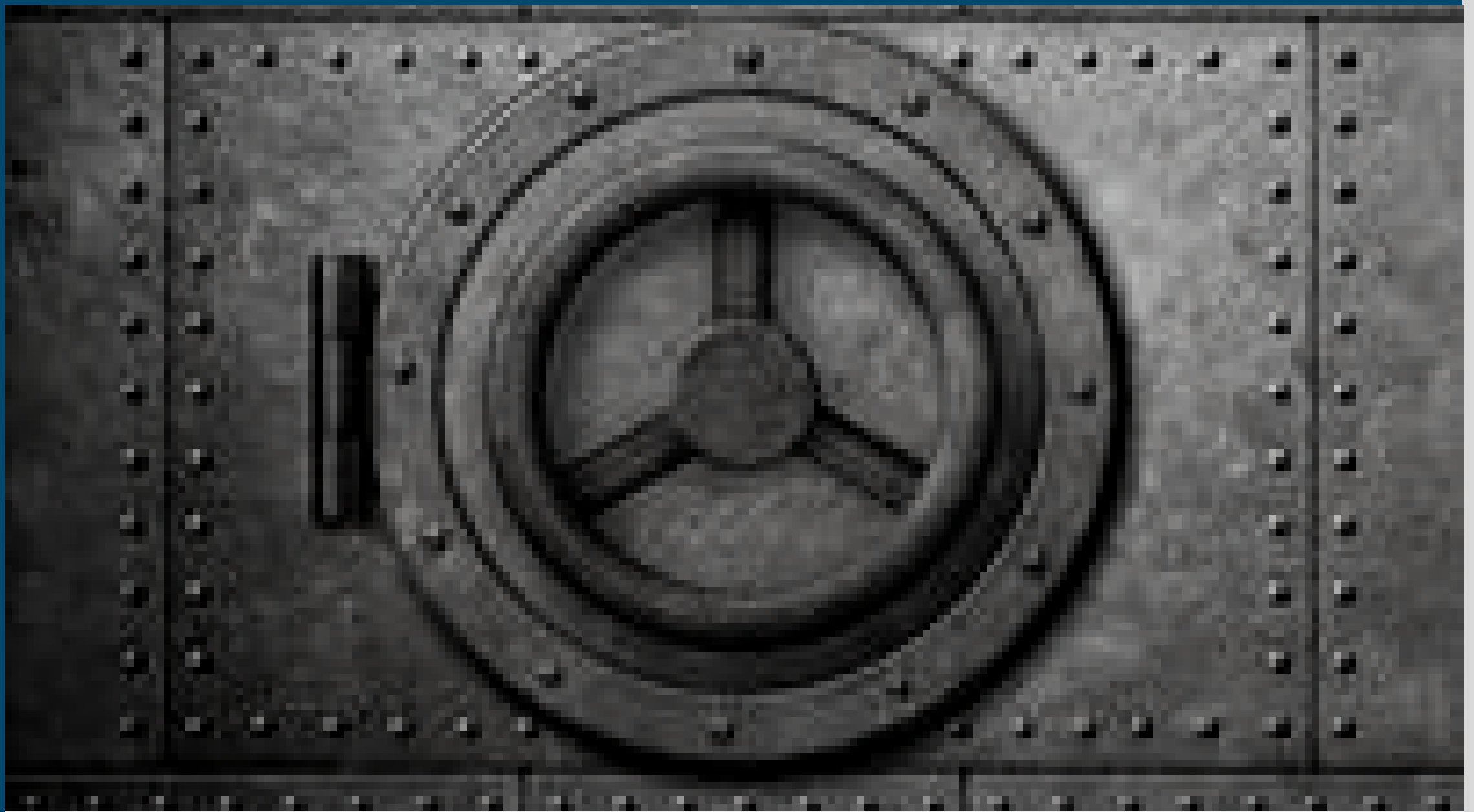
**THE BUTTERFLY
EFFECT**

UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

THE KEY TO HOPE

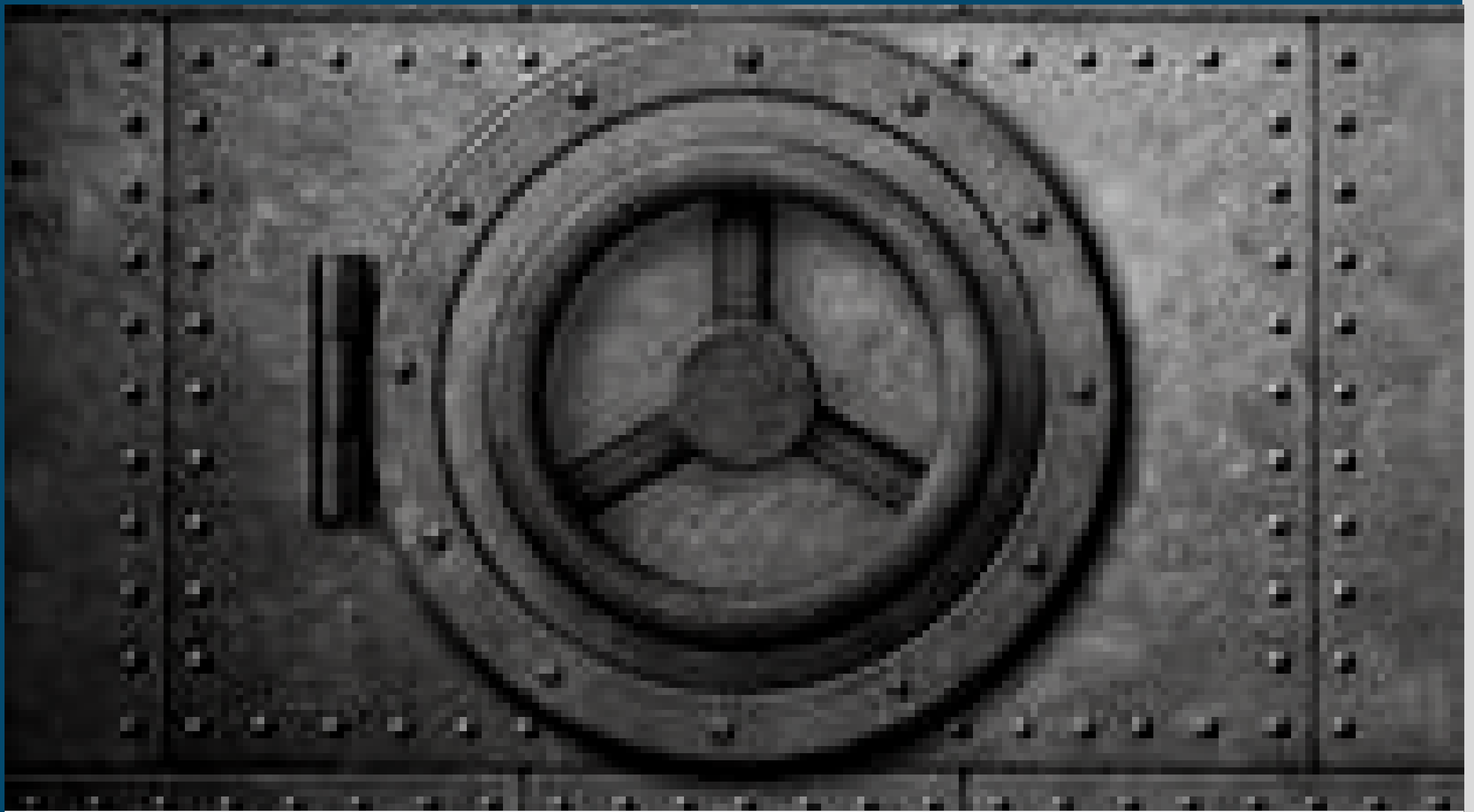
**TURNING OPPOSITION
INTO OPTIONS**

**THE POWER OF
CREATIVITY**



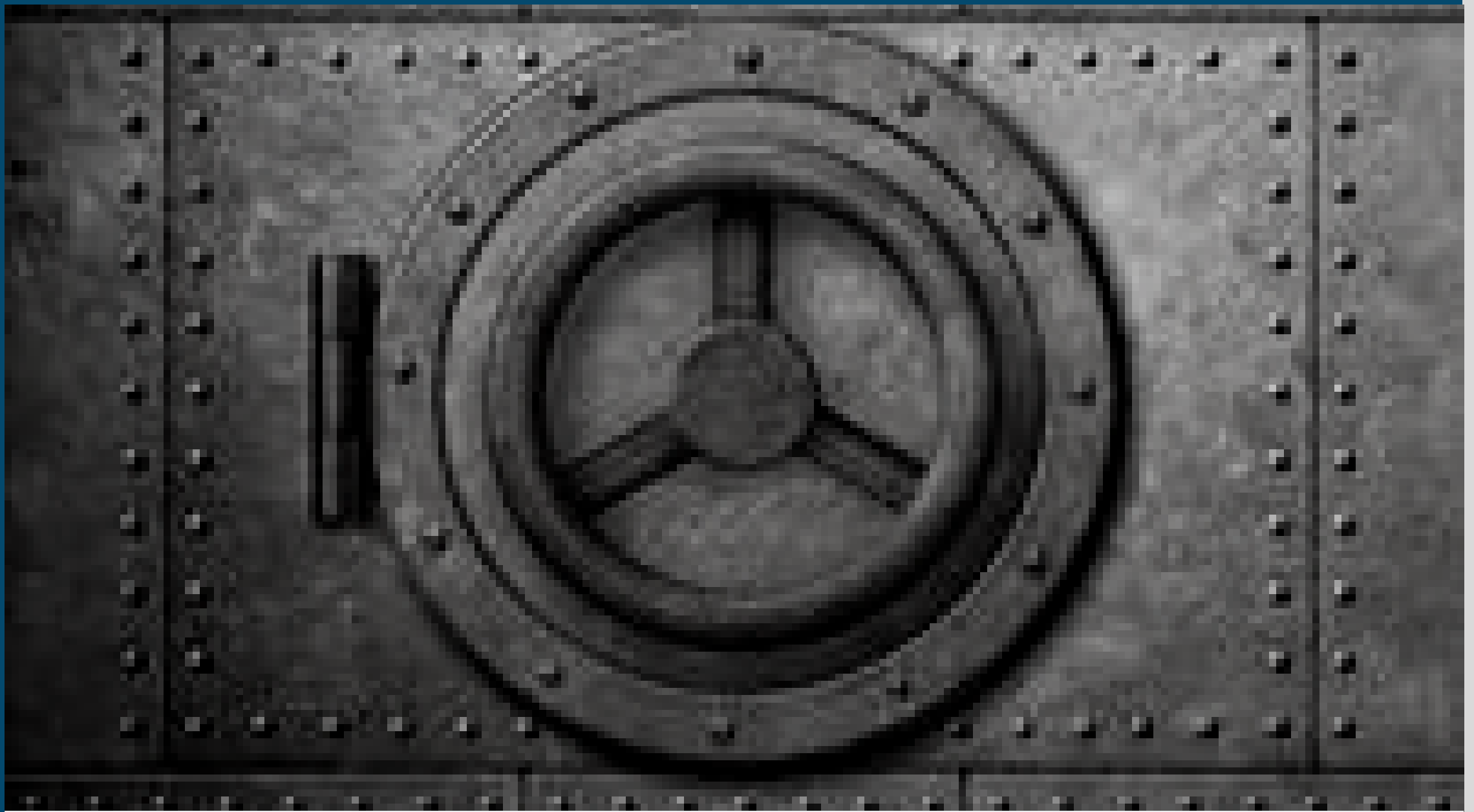
OPEN DOORS

This is happening in your back yard! Especially if you live in the Chicagoland/Lake County region – which is where I happen to live – doors are opening for formerly incarcerated individuals due to the current Covid-19 pandemic. But doors aren't just opening for people who are in jail/prison.



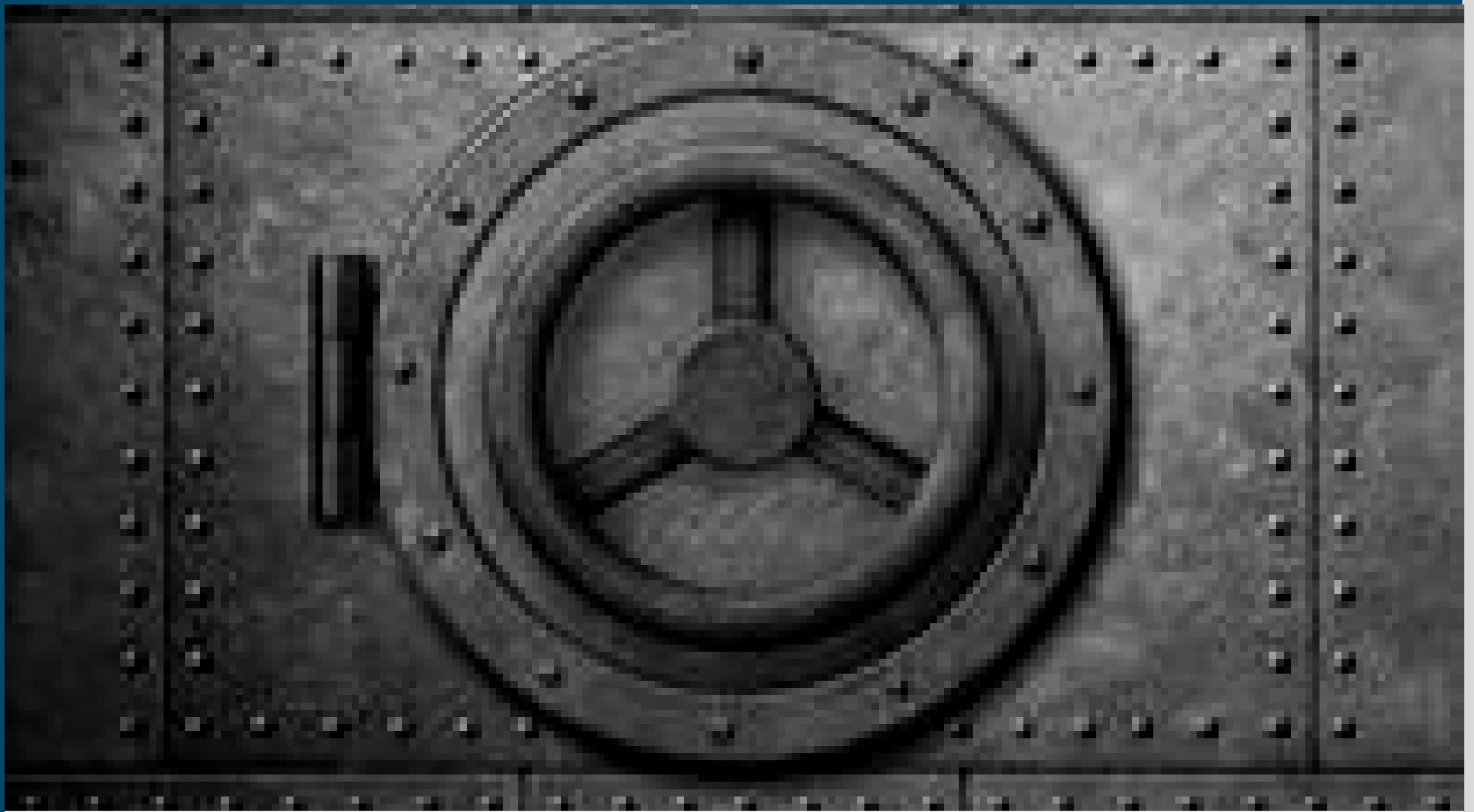
I personally know people who have to seek immediate provision for their children. Businesses are hemorrhaging and ministries are at their wits' end. But somehow, many of these individuals, these same businesses and ministries are finding hope in the midst of hopelessness.

Insurmountable odds are causing all of us to look for open doors.



What would you consider to be an open door?

For over 400 detainees that were released last week from Cook County Jail and for the 40 that were released from Lake County Jail – what you see is what you get. In other words, an open door to them might just mean being released from a jail cell. But for others, it could mean opportunity.

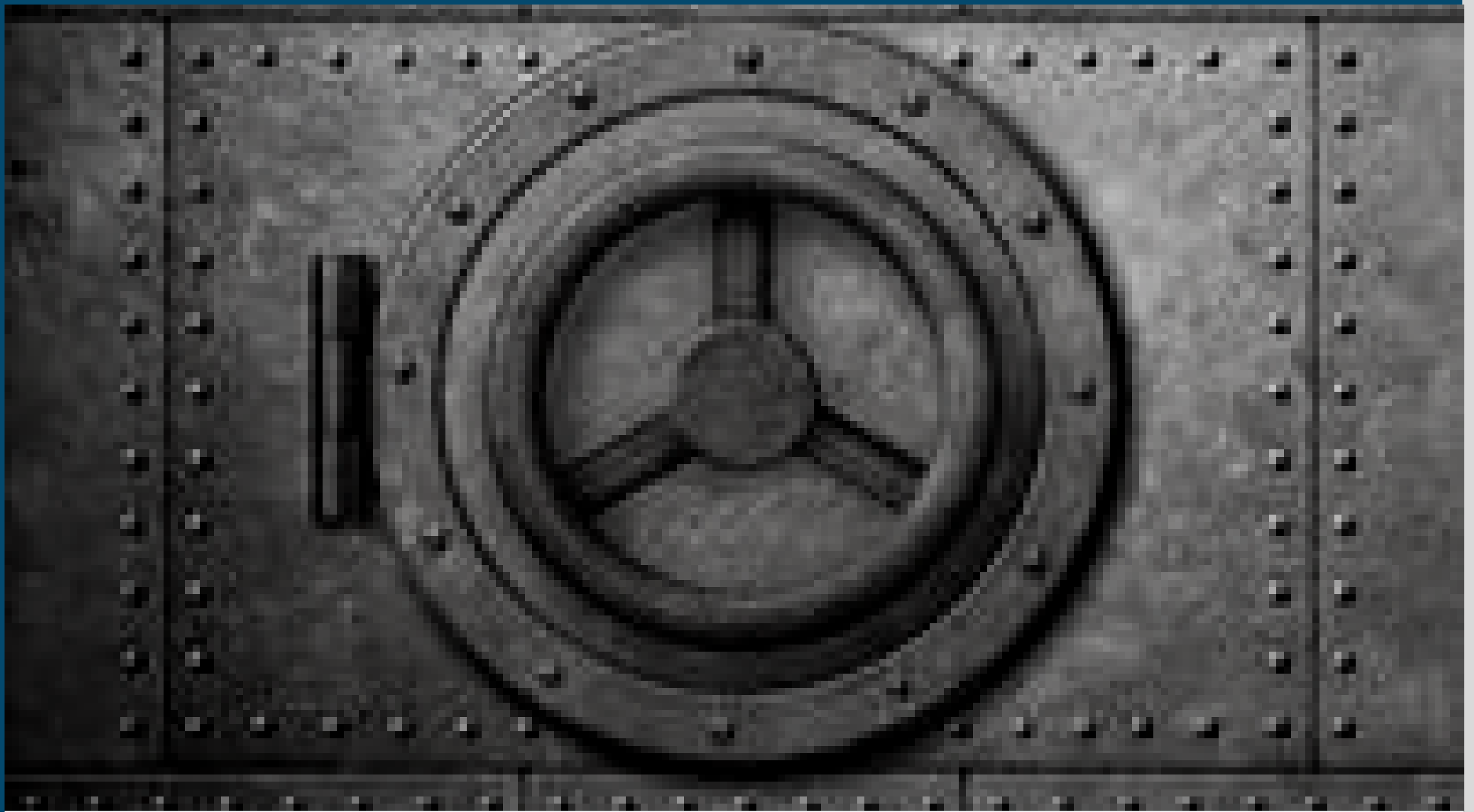


Jesus said...

"I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture."

– John 10:9 ESV

If we just chewed on the fact that Jesus said, "**I am the door**" we would be full in the face of famine. In places where we see deficit, we would consider taking dominion. Destiny simply depends on doors.



This second installment of "Chronicles of Hope" is designed to open our eyes to the potential that comes from having the right perspective.

Sometimes that thing that makes us feel destitute is the very thing that we need to expose us to access – to a door that we may not have considered.

– George Moore



QUARANTINED TO CONQUER

When this massive quarantine was extended to April 30th, you could almost feel the gasp of an already reeling state – well at least if you live in the State of Illinois. The only comforting thing that I can pull out of this chaos is that Illinois residents are not in this alone. This is considered to be a global epidemic. No matter where you're or what you're doing – you have to some degree been quarantined.



We can actually look at the word "quarantine" with two different sets of eyes.

On the one hand, the word quarantine can mean "a place of isolation." But, on the other hand, it can also be seen as a place of incubation.

When I was little, I had no idea that caterpillars turned into butterflies. Had I known that, I probably wouldn't have stepped on so many caterpillars. I had the wrong prospective.



These ugly, slinky belly crawlers had potential that I wasn't aware of. So, I stepped on something that had potential simply because I didn't know that it could morph into something far greater and more beautiful.

We often do that when adversity comes our way. Instead of seeing a "quarantine" as a place where we can tap into our potential - we see it as something that needs to be done away with quickly. However, we could see it as a time of metamorphosis.



The amazing thing about caterpillars is that they either turn into butterflies or they will turn into moths - but they NEVER remain in caterpillar form. So, if you purposely step on a caterpillar, no matter how ugly or undesirable it may look at the time, you are stepping on the potential growth of God's creation.

Likewise, God never intended for our trials to keep us trapped in some meaningless existence. Our trials were designed to help us triumph. Our challenges are destined to help us change.



The longest chapter in the bible hides one small verse that can go unnoticed if not scrutinized with spiritual eyes.

King David once said:

"It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes."

- Psalm 119:71 ESV

He understood that what God was allowing him to go through was not meant to destroy him - but it was meant to teach him. His stage of incubation became a place of inspiration. Calamity ultimately produced a conqueror.



UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

I used to run away from home a lot when I was a teenager. That was my way of getting my mother's attention. But that all stopped when she got sick and tired of following me around the block, pleading with me to come back home. It finally dawned on me that she had the key to the house and I couldn't just come and go as I pleased.

Without "the key" I really had no power.



Some doors only open if we have access and some of these doors require a specific key. Most keys possess a unique series of grooves on both sides so that they can only unlock certain doors. In other words, you need the right key for the right door.

It really blows my mind that Jesus calls Himself "the door" in John 10:9. He's basically saying that He is "the access" that we need to whatever door that we're knocking on: *peace, security, confidence, provision etc...*

He is the gateway.



The reason that I'm pointing all this out is because this quarantine can make it easy for us to try to find alternative ways to get what we want. But we can actually stop running away and simply come back home because Jesus has the only key to whatever we're looking for. Only He can give us access.

And right now, we need access to hope.

In Colossians 1:27, Jesus is called "**the hope of glory.**" The hope of glory is that Jesus would live on the inside of us – and not just on the surface.



Boats don't sink because of what's going on outside - boats sink because whatever's going on outside got on the inside. We don't want our hope and expectation in Christ to get drowned out by fear and anxiety. It would be a shame if the very thing that we we're meant to float on ends up taking us down.

This is a challenging time designed to unlock our potential. It was never meant to destroy our resolve.

We possess "the key to hope."



And we're called to overflow with it.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

- Romans 15:13 ESV

I believe the Apostle Paul wrote to the Jewish and Gentile believers in Rome - in the same way that he would write to us today. He gave them the key to unlock their potential. He simply prayed:

"May the God of hope fill you."



T U R N I N G O P P O S I T I O N I N T O O P T I O N S

I'm living proof that God can turn a mess into a message. When I look back at my life, I can honestly say that He turned lemons into lemonade. He's not only "the Creator" but He's creative. He knows how to make something out of nothing.

But if God is creative, then shouldn't His children also be creative?



A painter can sometimes feel God when they paint. A writer can sometimes feel God when they write. Eric Liddell was a runner and he once said, "*I believe that God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast and when I run I feel His pleasure.*" Just like a fish can easily navigate through water, we were meant to thrive in our own element.

Fish don't flap until you take them out of their element. That's why it's so important for us to walk in our God given purpose.



For example: Let's just say that you were recently released from jail or prison. You have limited resources and almost everything known to mankind is closed or on quarantine right now.

What do you do?

Well, you could go somewhere and cry all day and night. Or, you could ask God to give you a way to be resourceful during this time of limited resources.

You could totally turn your heart over to Him and ask Him plant you in your purpose. Or, you could wallow in despair.



Let me just get to the point...

IT'S UP TO YOU & IT'S IN YOU!

You can create an online business, regardless of your background. You can network or share your story on all social media outlets - nothing is stopping you. Or, if you're not allowed to get on the internet - call around. Perfect your pitch, use your charisma and watch God turn lemons into lemonade. You don't have to be a fish out of water.

My battle is not with quitters - my main challenge is with people that won't even begin to embrace their destiny.



In closing...

Jesus died on the cross, He was buried and He rose in three days. He didn't do all that for us to crumble at the faintest sign of adversity. Receive His Spirit and - with His help - you will soon laugh in the face of your opposition.

Let Christ show you your calling so that you can be creative during this time of calamity. And remember, no matter what opposes you, Jesus has the key to...

OPEN DOORS!