

Guard Your Gates

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic
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In our homes, gates provide us with security. To be reliable, the gate must be strong, impossible to invade and able to withstand repeated use. In our spiritual life, the one gate to salvation is through our Lord Jesus Christ (John 10:7-9).

1. We must be on guard against Satan. He comes to steal and destroy (John 10:10).

1.1. Satan enters unguarded gates in our lives. One way is through anger (Eph. 4:26-27). We must not allow the devil gain a foothold because other spirits will enter our mind and heart, e.g., unforgiveness and hate.

1.2. He attacks the gates of our minds (2 Cor. 4:1-6). Satan blinds the minds of unbelievers and even believers, so that they cannot see the light of the Gospel. We are the light, the reflectors of Christ (2Cor. 3:18). We should not let Satan put barriers (rebellion, pride, self-righteousness) that hinder the light of the Gospel from shining through us.

1.3. Satan sends wolves clothed in sheepskin (Acts 20:28-31) to use us to work for him. We must be aware and watchful to allow only God to use us to evangelize and witness for Him (1 Peter 1:13; 1 Peter 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8).

2. We must guard our Gates (Nehemiah 1:3-5).

2.1. We must guard our mindset (Rom 12:1-2). We should not conform to the standards of the world, but transform the way we think. Our mindset must be filled with the Holy Scripture to know the will of God (Eph. 4:23).

2.2. We must ask God to change our hearts - to obey His commands (Ezekiel 36:26).

2.3. We should listen to God's words (Romans 10:17) and be doers of the Word (James 1:22).

2.4. We must have the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16) by being compassionate, kind, forgiving, and always seeking and saving the lost. (Matthew 9). We must get rid of

greed, anger, sexual immorality, dirty language, malice, lies.

2.5. We must fill our minds with what's true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, excellent, worthy of praise (Phil. 4:8).

2.6. We should ask for Godly wisdom from above which is pure, gentle, full of mercy (James 3:15-18).

2.7. Be careful with our heart, for it determines the course of our life (Prov. 4:23-27). The heart is the core/center of our being and we should open our hearts to the Lord (Rev. 3:20).

3. There are 4 Gateways that lead to the Soul.

3.1. **EYE Gate.** We need to fix our eyes on God alone (Heb. 12:2). Let us not look at things that are temporary (our circumstances).

3.2. **TONGUE Gate.** Death and life are in the power of the tongue (Prov. 18:21; Mt. 12:36). Words that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile (Mt. 15:18). Foul, unwholesome language should not come out of our mouth (Eph.5:18-19).

3.3. **EAR Gate.** Let us turn away from corrupt speech, walk away from profanity and blasphemy.

3.4. **FEET Gate.** We should mark a straight path (Prov 4:27) and resist the devil (James 4:7-8). Before going places, ask yourself "Can I take Jesus with me?"

Testimony:

Adversity, misfortune and death are inevitable. During these times, we must guard our gate closely and choose God as refuge and strength to keep away from melancholy & depression.

Conclusion:

The things we allow into the gateways directly affect the spiritual condition of our hearts. We must guard the gates so that the right things are in, and the wrong things are out (Eph 4:13; Gal. 5: 16). Taking charge of the 4 gateways is crucial (Gal 5:16).

Reflection: What is your weakest gate? How will you guard and fortify your gate?

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