


Chris Oyakhilome



The  
Gates  
of Zion

*Experiencing the glory of God in every phase of your life!*





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**CHRIS OYAKHILOME**

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

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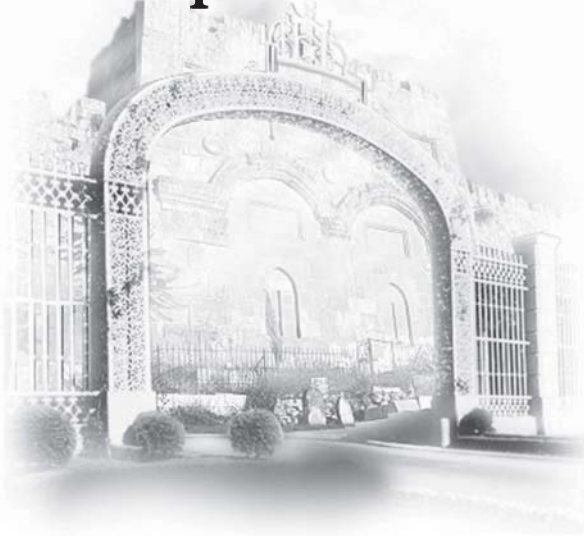
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# Chapter One



## EXPERIENCING THE GLORY!

*1 Peter 1:9-11: "Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied*

*of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.”*

The prophets of old testified of the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow. Isaiah gives a detailed account of his sufferings in **Isaiah Chapter 53:**

*“Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces*

*from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his*

*generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because*

*he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors”*

(Isaiah 53:1-12)

Isaiah spoke forth the vision of God in his heart concerning Jesus Christ, the Son of God, speaking of the sufferings of Christ; suddenly he went beyond that to what would happen after the resurrection.

*Isaiah 53:10: “... he shall see his seed, (and through his seed) he shall prolong his days and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hands.”*

This means that the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper under His authority. Then Isaiah said, “*He was given a portion with the great, He shall divide the SPOIL with the strong..*” (Isaiah 53:12). The word ‘spoil’ refers to ‘arms stripped from a foe.’ In those days, after a war, the victorious army would ‘spoil’ the vanquished, that

is, they would take everything of value from their enemy.

When Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would divide the spoil with the strong, he was referring to those whom Jesus would raise up; His seed through whom He would prolong His days. The spoil is all that the devil took that never belonged to him; the earth and all the authority he took from Adam and ruled with till Jesus Christ came on the scene. Now the spoil is with Jesus, and this He shares with the Church. This is not talking about when we get to Heaven, but now! We know that the sufferings of Christ have already taken place and this is the day of the glory that should follow; this is the time and the hour for that glory to be made manifest.

We need to know where we are in God's timetable, and this does not apply to the Church in general. As an individual, you need to know where you are in God's time table for your life. Where are you? Are you in God's purpose now? Are you falling behind or are you moving ahead of God? It is possible to move ahead of God or to lag behind. When you move ahead of Him, you get to the wrong place. The Bible says in

due time, at the right time, at the set time, Christ died for the ungodly (Romans 5:6). This means He was delivered for our transgressions according to the predetermined counsel of God. There was a time for it, for God planned it prior to that time and at the appointed time it happened.

Now is the time for the glory those prophets spoke about!

## **CALLED TO A LIFE OF GLORY**

God has called you to a life of progress, a life of success and a life of glory. You were recreated to experience the glory of God; you were made for that purpose. No matter what phase of life you're in right now, I want you to know if you're born again that God created you for a life of glory, so you ought to be experiencing His glory in your life.

I know people say that life is full of ups and downs but that's no news. The direction our lives ought to be going is upward and forward. If you find yourself at the down part, you get up and go over! When you're at the

up part, you still go over! The down part shouldn't make you despondent. No! In the valley, shout His praise; on the mountain top, you shout His praise also. Why? God is God everywhere!

The Psalmist said, *"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me... Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies..."* (Psalm 23:4-5). God didn't say you would not have enemies, but right there in their presence, He prepares a table for you. You see, life takes on a new meaning when you know where you're going, you know the One Who's with you and you know the kind of life that He has planned for you to live.

Are you experiencing the glory? Are you walking in the glory? Are you experiencing the upward, supernatural and progressive life? As you read through the pages of this book, you will get to learn and walk in accordance with the pattern that God has revealed in His Word. This pattern shows how you ought to experience the glory of God in your life.



## MANIFESTING THE GLORY!

A lot of people, including Christians, are merely existing, not knowing where they are, what they ought to be doing or where they ought to be in life. So they just go about in the mere human course of life. This is wrong because God has a definite plan for every one of His children. God has called us to manifest His glory, display His virtues and show forth His praises. The Bible says in **1 Peter 2:9**:

*“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:”*

How do you show forth His glory? John 2:11 says, *“This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.”* When Jesus performed the miracle in Cana by turning water into wine, the Bible says that

was the first miracle He performed, and by it He manifested forth His glory. In manifesting His glory, there was no cloud, smoke or a light beaming out of His head. This doesn't mean such experiences aren't good. They're good, but, they're not all there is, when you talk about glory. The Bible says when He turned water into wine, He manifested His glory by that miracle. This tells us that the supernatural life - the life of the miraculous - is the glorious life.

Do you know you can live a life of victory everyday without a tinge of despondency or discouragement? Your life can keep moving forward, because that is the call of God for your life.

But before you can manifest His glory, display His virtues and show forth His praises, you have to experience first His glory. You have to understand that no matter what phase of life you're in or how you may be feeling, you can actually experience and manifest the glory of God.

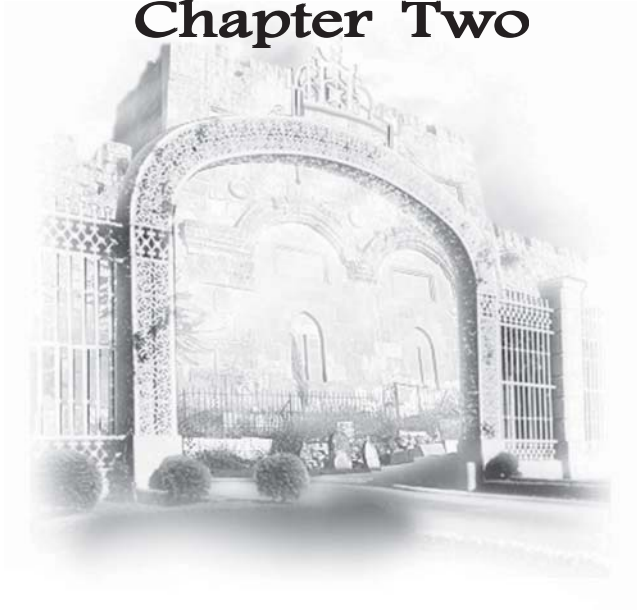
I invite you to go through this book with all your heart. You will certainly learn how to manifest the glory

of God everywhere and every time.

Welcome to the life of glory!



## Chapter Two



## NOW ARE WE IN ZION!

Zion is the city of the living God. It is the city which Abraham in Hebrews Chapter Eleven was looking for; a city whose builder and maker is God!

*Hebrews 11:8-9 : "By faith Abraham, Abraham, when he was called to go*

*out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:"*

These verses of Scripture imply that Abraham sojourned in the promised land, which means he actually got to the promised land. Yet he looked for a city which had foundations, whose builder and maker is God. How come he got to the land of promise and sojourned there, and was looking for a city? It means that the promised land, the city he was looking for, was beyond the physical land on which he stood.

**Hebrews 12:18-19; 22-23:** *"For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, And the*

*sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more...But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,"*

Abraham was a prophet of God (Genesis 20:7), so, he had enough spiritual insight to know that Zion was the promised land, the city which he sought. The physical land of Canaan only typified it. To the children of Israel in the Old Testament, Canaan was the land of promise, the land of their inheritance; Canaan was their physical Zion. But it was not for Canaan the fathers of faith looked (Hebrews 11:13 - 16). They looked forward

to the Church of Christ, which Israel, the Church in the wilderness, typified. The 'promised land' in which they sojourned was a type, a shadow of the real promised land. Canaan was an allegory of this city; the city that has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Zion is the city of the living God!

## A TWO-FOLD APPLICATION

*Psalm 102:13-18: "Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come. For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof. So the heathen shall fear the name of the Lord, and all the kings of the earth thy glory. When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory. He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer. This shall be written for the generation*



*to come: and the people which shall  
be created shall praise the Lord.”*

In Scripture, Zion either has a direct application to the Church or a two-fold application to Israel and the Church. “When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory... and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord” (Psalm 102:16,18). When Scripture talks about “the people which shall be created” it refers to the new creature. The Lord building up Zion refers to the Lord building the Church, just as Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, “...I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

Jesus is the One building the Church and when He builds up the Church, which is Zion, He shall appear in His glory. Hence, this Scripture has a double application: for the present, and for the future when Jesus returns. If it were for the future alone (after we’ve gone to Heaven), then the Bible would not talk of standing against the gates of hell because there are no gates of hell in Heaven. The gates of hell refer to the powers, authorities and the works of darkness.

Jesus is building up His Church today; He is doing something in His Church today. It is so vital that you have an understanding of God's work in the present hour, that is, His work in your life and in the Church as His body. When you do, you can move with Him and flow together with Him at the same pace.

## A SET TIME TO FAVOUR ZION

*Psalm 102:13-14, 16-18: "Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come. For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof... When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory. He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer. This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord."*

There is a set time to favour Zion and the time is NOW. The Bible says in **2 Corinthians 6:2**, *“(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”* Now is the set time to manifest God’s favour in Zion, not tomorrow, not next year not when we get to heaven but NOW! it’s a present hour reality!

## **NOW ARE WE IN ZION!**

**Psalm 87:1-7:** *“His foundation is in the holy mountains. The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. Selah. I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to them that know me: behold Philistia, and Tyre, with Ethiopia; this man was born there. And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her:*

*and the highest himself shall establish her. The Lord shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there. Selah. As well the singers as the players on instruments shall be there: all my springs are in thee."*

This Scripture perfectly describes Zion and the kind of people that would be in it. What kind of people are there in Zion? Happy people! Happy people are born in Zion and glorious things are spoken of them. We know that Zion is the city of the living God, for we are called unto Mount Zion.

*Hebrew 12:23-24: "To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh*

*better things than that of Abel.”*

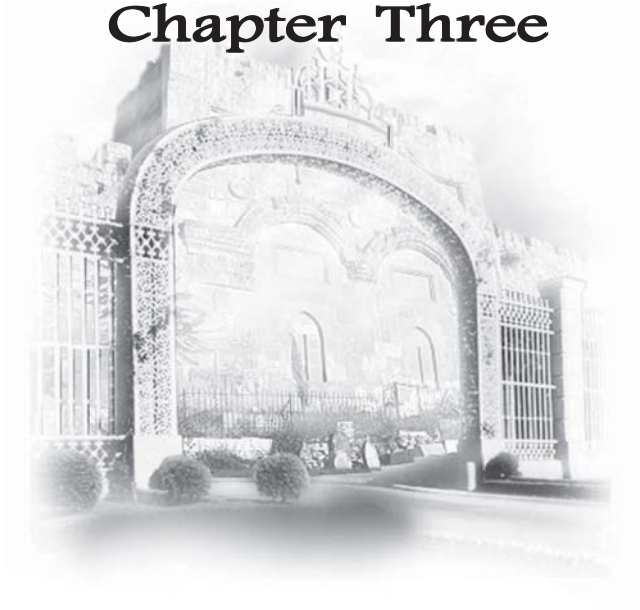
We're in Zion now; the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem and the assembly of saints. We're not trying to get to Mount Zion, neither are we getting to Mount Zion after the rapture. No! We're already there now - today - and it is a present hour reality. When you were born again, you were born into Zion! That's where your heavenly Father dwells; He lives in Zion and you became a citizen of Zion when you were born again!

Have you ever found out that the glorious things are spoken concerning you? Psalm 87:2-3 says, *“The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God...”* Hallelujah! Glorious things, not sad things, depressing things, destructive things or discouraging things, but glorious things are spoken of you! These glorious things produce strength in your inner man, in your spirit.

You've got to wake up to the consciousness of the glorious life to which you've been called in Zion.

This consciousness will cause you to experience His glory as revealed in the Word of God and this is typified by the re-building of the wall and gates of Jerusalem.

# Chapter Three



## GATES

*Matthew 16:18 : "... I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*

Gates, in the Scriptures, are always used as the symbolic expression and demonstration of power and authority. Here, the gates of hell represent the powers,

authorities and works of the kingdom of darkness.

When the Psalmist said in Psalm 118:19 *“Open to me the gates of righteousness...”* he was referring to the works of righteousness. In Psalm 87:2, the Bible says, *“The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.”* This means that God loves the works of Zion,

that is, the glorious works of righteousness which the Church does by living in His Name. That’s why Paul proudly declares in **Ephesians 2:10**,

*“For we are God’s [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live]”*

(The Amplified Bible)



There are works that God has predestined us to do in Zion; He had planned beforehand that we would be the ones to do these works. God loves these works we do, for the Bible says in Psalm 87:2-3, *“The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. Selah.”*

The dwellings of Jacob are the natural land of the Jews. The Bible shows us how God constantly fought for the children of Israel to possess the land and He will even fight at the battle of Armageddon to ensure that His dwelling place among men in the Millennium at the present day Jerusalem is not desecrated! God still loves the gates of Zion more than all the natural dwellings of Jacob. The works of the Church are more precious to Him than the land where His future throne on earth will be situated.

Why are the works of the Church more precious to God than all the dwellings of Jacob? It is that the Church is His peculiar treasure purchased with the precious blood of His Son Christ Jesus and ordained to display His excellencies (1 Peter 2:9).

## BUILDING THE GATES OF JERUSALEM

Reading through the book of Nehemiah, you'll find the kind of attitude the child of God should have, the kind of things he ought to do and the boldness he should display.

*Nehemiah 1:1-4: "The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace, That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and certain men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates*

*thereof are burned with fire. And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven. ”*

Nehemiah was among the Jews that were in captivity in Babylon and he was chosen by the king to be his cupbearer at his palace in Shushan. Nehemiah was actually at ease in the palace until the day Hanani and certain other people came from Judah. Nehemiah enquired after the state of Judah and the Holy City Jerusalem, the city of the great King. When he heard their reply that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and the gates burnt with fire, he broke down and wept. He was grieved for the city because it was the city of the Lord.

**Nehemiah 2:11-18:** *“So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days. And I arose in the night, I and some few men with me; neither told I any*

*man what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem: neither was there any beast with me, save the beast that I rode upon. And I went out by night by the gate of the valley, even before the dragon well, and to the dung port, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem, which were broken down, and the gates thereof were consumed with fire. Then I went on to the gate of the fountain, and to the king's pool: but there was no place for the beast that was under me to pass. Then went I up in the night by the brook, and viewed the wall, and turned back, and entered by the gate of the valley, and so returned. And the rulers knew not whither I went, or what I did; neither had I as yet told it to the Jews, nor to the priests, nor to the*

*nobles, nor to the rulers, nor to the rest that did the work. Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and LET US BUILD UP THE WALL OF JERUSALEM, that we be no more a reproach. Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work."*

This is the heart of a righteous man. When Nehemiah thought about God's people, God's promises, God's work and all that God had invested in the kingdom and in the people, and when he learnt of the broken wall of Jerusalem and the burnt gates, he broke down and wept. Moreover, he was told that the people were

in great affliction and reproach, so Nehemiah mourned and fasted several days and prayed to the God of Heaven.

The temple at Jerusalem was the centre of worship; it was the place where God had put His Name. Solomon had prayed many years prior to this time that if anybody came into that temple to pray, God should hear from Heaven. Solomon also prayed that::

*“If they sin against thee, (for there is no man that sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captives unto the land of the enemy, far or near; Yet if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they were carried captives, and repent, and make supplication unto thee in the land of them that carried them captives, saying, We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed*

wickedness; And so return unto thee with all their heart, and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies, which led them away captive, and pray unto thee toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name: Then hear thou their prayer and their supplication in heaven thy dwelling place, and maintain their cause, And forgive thy people that have sinned against thee and all their transgressions wherein they have transgressed against thee, and give them compassion before them who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them:"

1 Kings 8:46-50)

Nehemiah knew all this, so when he heard that

the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and the gates were burned with fire, it touched him and he began to pray about it. He prayed for his people; he prayed for Jerusalem that God would help him get back and rebuild Jerusalem. God heard him and granted him favour before the King, and the King gave him leave to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the broken walls and restore the burnt down gates.

## **BUILDING UP OTHERS IN LOVE**

In the natural realm, Jerusalem represents Zion and the gates represent the great power within the kingdom, the glory within the kingdom and the works of the kingdom. The report brought to Nehemiah was that the gates were burnt with fire, this was not a glorious day for Jerusalem and Judah.

Today, the gates and the temple typify the Christian life. How do you feel when you see a Christian whose business is completely broken down and is in great affliction? You ought to have a righteous heart



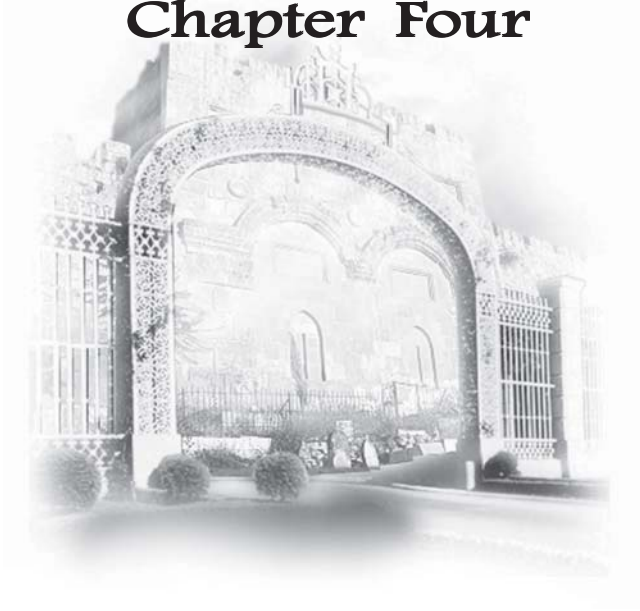
like Nehemiah and let the situation spur you to intercede for that brother or sister.

Something I find very moving as a minister is the ignorance of many Christians as to who they are in Christ. They glorify religion but don't know who they are in Christ, neither do they know of the glorious things that are spoken of them in Zion. As a result, they're in great affliction and reproach; their walls are broken down and their gates burnt with fire. There's no glory, neither is there power, in their lives. Things like this should arouse the anointing of the Spirit within you and cause you to intercede for such people. You should pray for them as though they were lost, because they're lacking in the midst of plenty, dying when there's abundant life. This is the position a lot of Christians are in today. Their walls are broken down and their gates burnt with fire. So like the Psalmist, we ought to pray, *"Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem"* (Psalm 51:18).

As we look into the Scriptures, we find a pattern for building the walls of Jerusalem, that is, a pattern for building the lives of God's people who are not exhibiting

the glorious life. The Bible says that the things that were written in the Old Testament were written for our learning; they were written as examples for us. They were written as a pattern for us to follow.

## Chapter Four



## A SET PATTERN FOR ZION

Nehemiah 2:17- 18: *“Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no*

*more a reproach. Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work."*

Studying Nehemiah's rebuilding of the wall and gates of Jerusalem, we find a pattern that God uses in building His Church. "When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory" (Psalm 102:16).

The Lord is building the Church today and the first thing you find is that Nehemiah got the people together and they started with the gates of Jerusalem and then went on to the wall. This set pattern, typified by Nehemiah's rebuilding of the gates of Zion, corresponds with the restoration of the glory of God in the Christian's life. There are ten gates listed, which indicate the pattern by which God builds up His people whose walls are broken down and gates burnt with fire and brings His glory into their lives.

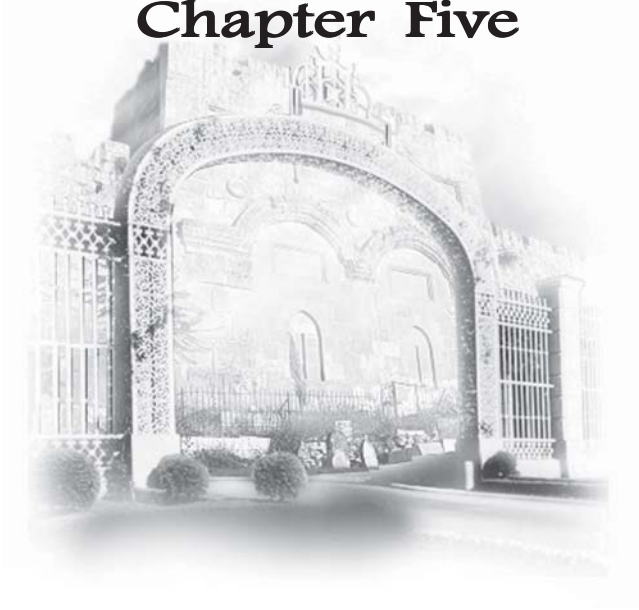
The first gate is the Sheep gate, followed by the Fish gate and then the Old gate. The Valley gate is next, then the Dung gate. After these are the Gate of the Fountain and the Water gate. The eighth gate is the Horse gate, then there is the East gate and finally the Gate Miphkad.

*Psalm 51:18: "Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem."*

The gates of Zion are the works of Zion and the works of Zion are the works of the Church. This is why the Bible tells us that God loves the works of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. The ten gates which Nehemiah, together with the priests and the people, built are a type of the manifestation of the glories in the life of a believer; the outworking of the supernatural life in and through us.



## Chapter Five



## THE SHEEP GATE

Nehemiah 3:1: *“Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set up the doors of it; even unto the tower of Meah they sanctified it, unto the tower of Hananeel.”*

The high priest rose up together with his brothers and fellow priests, and initiated the work of building the gates, and they built the Sheep gate first. This first gate is called the 'Sheep' Gate, not the 'Lion' Gate or the 'Dog' gate, because they are not the kind of animals used for sacrifice. The sheep was the accepted animal for sacrifice due to its meek nature. It was through this gate that the sheep were brought in. The sheep is a self-giving animal, with a calm and friendly nature, and it follows the shepherd's leading trustingly and unreservedly.

In John 5:2, the Sheep Gate is referred to as the sheep market. *"Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches."* It was also known as the sheep court or pool. Sheep brought in through this gate were usually meant for sacrifice and not for consumption.

So they built the Sheep Gate first, letting us know that if we want to experience the glory of God in our lives, we begin by coming to Him as His sheep, that is, we submit ourselves to Him as the sheep of His pasture,



for He is the Shepherd of our souls. God is the great Shepherd of the flock; He is the Shepherd of Israel. As the sheep of God's pasture, you ought to give yourself to Him as a living sacrifice.

**Romans 12:1:** *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."*

Many people haven't known God as a shepherd. To become a Christian at all, God has to be the One to lead you in. And in building your life according to the plan of God you have to begin at the Sheep Gate. God is the One who made the plans for your life, therefore you must follow Him as a sheep of His pasture, then you can walk in the glory He prepared for you. Your ways ought to be determined by your Shepherd and not by you. Recognize and follow Him as your Shepherd and when you start following Him, you will stop saying, "Lord, follow me."

It's easy to know Christians when they're not following God as their Shepherd. This is because, always, they tell Him what they want to do and where they want to go instead of following God. Such people have a catalogue of the things they want God to do for them. Christians like this have not come to God as His sheep and have not come to recognize Him as their Shepherd and the One who leads them in the way that they should go.

These are the kind of people that lead young Christians astray, the reason is that a lamb (a young Christian) doesn't understand the voice of the shepherd as he is still too young; so he follows the bleating of the sheep. That's why a lamb ought to grow and develop in the things of God. The sheep however know the voice of the shepherd and will not follow the voice of a stranger.

Are you a sheep? Have you really ever taken a step to become His sheep? David said, "*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want*" (Psalm 23:1) because he had full comprehension of who a shepherd is and how a sheep ought to follow him. Remember, he was a

shepherd boy who tended his father's sheep; so he knew what it meant to have God as his Shepherd. He also knew he had to submit to God as his Shepherd and that's the reason he could say, "...thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4).

This is discipline. The shepherd has a rod which he uses sometimes to whip the sheep into line. Sometimes, the sheep may want to drink water some place else, but because the shepherd doesn't want them to drink water just from anywhere, he whips them to move on.

You know, that's just the way some Christians are; they quote Psalm 23 but have never really understood the meaning of the Scripture. They're always looking for water (the Word) some place else because they're not following the shepherd that God has placed over them. They don't have a home church; they're visitors everywhere, living a 'nomadic' Christian life. Some Christians just get up after they've been in a Church for over a year or even more and say "I don't want to go to that Church any more." They've been Christians for many years, yet have never accepted this

kind of truth. They argue and say, “As many as are led by the Spirit” claiming the right to decide where they should go to worship without restraint.

For people like this, I have this question: Is He not the same Spirit that made the pastor a pastor; that called him to be a shepherd to nurture, guide and lead you? When will it dawn on you that God has been leading you through the pastor and you didn’t even know it?

If you’re in such a boat, you’re not a sheep but a dog! Now don’t get upset, because I’m only echoing what Jesus said, that “... *without are dogs...*” (Revelations 22:15). This means outside the City of God are dogs. If you’re a sheep stay inside and listen to the shepherd because he has something to say about where you go.

When God leads you to a Church, stay there! The Bible says in Psalm 92:13, “*Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.*” Stay where God leads you to and be planted there. This is Biblical truth and adhering to it shows spiritual maturity. You’re not mature just because you think you are or because of the way you look. It has nothing to do

with how long you've been a Christian. Moreover, you're not mature just because you've been teaching people the Word of God.

The measure of your submission to God and His Word shows your level of maturity. You can't increase in your knowledge of God and still act as though you are lord of your life. The more mature you are in Christ, the more submissive you become; and I don't mean facial or superficial submission. Outward sobriety doesn't depict spirituality; you can look sober, speak with a soft voice and still remain every bit unspiritual. It just makes you religious and pharisaic.

Look at Jesus our role model! You couldn't be more submissive than Jesus. God sent Him to preach the gospel to the lost sheep of Israel and He stayed with this commission. He loved the world, He wanted to preach to and to save everybody, but He had to be disciplined. That was why He told the Canaanite woman who asked for healing for her daughter *"...I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel"* (Matthew 15:24). He could have gone to Damascus or Arabia or even to Ethiopia, but He didn't. He stayed where God

sent Him; the Bible says He was obedient and submitted to God's plans and purposes, even unto death (Philippians 2:8).

This is the simple reason a lot of Christians are neither experiencing nor manifesting God's glory in their lives. You can't be your own shepherd or boss and expect Him to bless whatever it is you're doing.

## THE RIGHT WAY TO FOLLOW

Don't ask God to bless your plans and follow you wherever you want to go! It's supposed to be the other way round. This is exactly what you learn at the Sheep Gate. "Lord, help me. I'm going to such - and - such a place, take me there, and glorify Your Name as I go." If you follow God you wouldn't need this kind of prayer. You only need this kind of prayer if you're going where He didn't send you, because if God sends you, He'll be with you to fix every thing for you.

Are you in the job or the business God called you into? Or are you just doing your own thing? If that's the case, then you will need such prayers. But if you

want to see and experience the glory of God in your life, the first step is to recognize that you're the sheep of His pasture. Recognize Him as your Shepherd and let Him lead you. Don't lean on your own understanding, for there's a way that seems right unto a man, which only leads to destruction (Proverbs 3:5; Proverbs 16:25). He's the only One who knows the way you should go. When you recognize Him as your Shepherd, He'll show you where to go.

*“Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate...”*

**(Nehemiah 3:1)**

There are times in our lives, when we need to pause briefly and appraise ourselves to find out if we're actually following God's plan and purpose for our lives. Tremendous glory follows when you're at the right place at the right time. To be His sheep must continually be your life's goal, it will show in your prayers and actions. When you submit yourself to the Shepherd then you're at the Sheep Gate. This was the starting point for the

building of Jerusalem, and in your life, it would mean the beginning of glory.

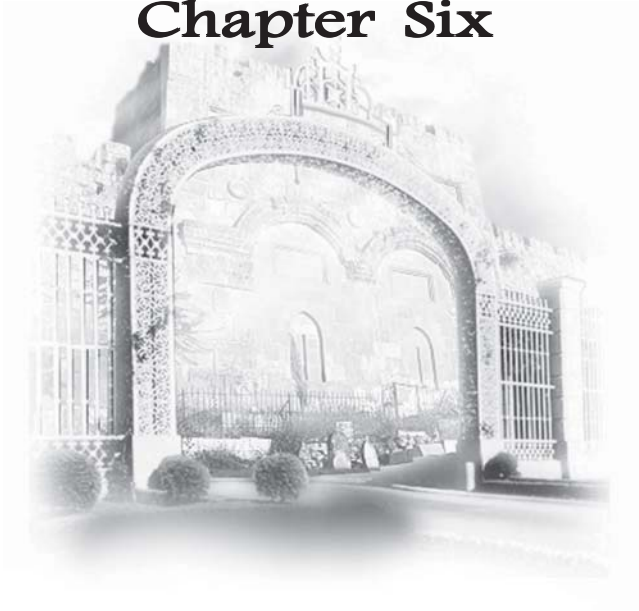
You cannot skip the Sheep Gate experience. Some Christians want to have the end result without following the necessary steps. It's like trying to build the roof of a house before the foundation.

I want you to notice also that it was the priests who built the Sheep Gate; the priests had to prepare the gate of sacrifice. This symbolizes preparation for worship in our lives. We must remember that we have been called to offer God sacrifices which are the lifting up of our hands in worship, admiration and love (Psalm 141:2), the fruit of our lips (Hebrews 13:15), our prayers (Psalm 141:2) and good works (Hebrews 13:21). As priests, we must prepare for the holy sacrifice and build the Sheep Gate of submission and worship.

You must begin building your life by building the Sheep Gate, the first gate in Zion. You should willingly submit to the Lord as your Shepherd and the glory of God will begin to show in your life.



## Chapter Six



### THE FISH GATE

*Nehemiah 3:3: "But the fish gate did the sons of Hassenaah build, who also laid the beams thereof, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof."*

The Fish Gate was the gate through which

fishermen brought fish into the city from the River Jordan and the Sea of Galilee. This is the gate next to the Sheep Gate. When you submit to God as His sheep, you're taken to the Fish Gate. This shows that you've been brought in through the Sheep Gate to be a soul - winner, that is, to bring in fish.

*Matthew 4:18-19: "And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

In Scriptural connotation, 'rivers' and 'seas' refer to multitudes of people, that is, the nations of the world. That they brought the fish from the River Jordan and the Sea of Galilee tells us that people were to be brought from the nations of the world to worship at Jerusalem. This refers to soul winning - bringing people out of the world to worship God in Zion.

## **“FOLLOW ME AND I WILL MAKE YOU...”**

Some people are praying, “Oh God, help me. You know the only problem I have in my life is that I can’t win souls.” The problem with this kind of people is that they’re not following Jesus. Being a soulwinner is a direct result of following the Master. So if you haven’t been winning souls for the Lord Jesus Christ, don’t cry. Crying to God to make you a soulwinner is not going to work. In fact, praying to God about it is a waste of time. The secret of soulwinning is following; following the Master.

Jesus talking to Simon and Andrew, said, “...*Follow me and I will make you...*” (Matthew 4:19). Notice, He didn’t say, “Follow me and make yourselves,” instead He said, “Follow Me, (I am your Shepherd) and I will make you fishers of men” When you have submitted to Him, the next thing you know is that you become a soulwinner. It is therefore your responsibility to follow Him and His responsibility to make you a soulwinner. You won’t have to pray, “Oh God make

me a soulwinner.” Such a prayer is not necessary. All you need to do is follow Him and when you do, you will never need to pray to God to make you a soulwinner.

Somebody could say, “Well, He answered me when I prayed like that.” Really? You see, sometimes you have certain things happen to you as though they were answers to your prayers. But only through knowledge would you discover that God didn’t answer that as part of your prayers.

For example, a man lying in bed and saying, “Oh, I’d like to have breakfast today” when the breakfast table has already been set is not having his prayer answered. The breakfast table has already been set, he just didn’t know it. All he had to do was just get up from his bed, walk to the dining room and have his breakfast, because it was there all the time.

The same goes for soulwinning. You do not become a soulwinner by praying about it, you become a soulwinner when you follow the Master. Your being a soulwinner has nothing to do with how bold you are to declare the Word with power. All it requires is your

submission to God and to His Word. As you submit yourself at the Sheep Gate, all that is required of you is to follow the Shepherd and He makes you a soulwinner.

As you participate in the business of soulwinning, you begin to experience the glory of God that comes as a result of being a soulwinner. You see, there's a depth in God that you cannot know until you start winning others to the Lord Jesus Christ. There's a joy indescribable, a depth unfathomable and a rekindling of zeal unexplainable that you experience when you lead a man out of the control and grip of darkness into the glorious liberty of the sons of God.

The glory and power of God were demonstrated in the lives of the early apostles as they proclaimed the will of God. The same happened to Paul and will happen to you in this day as you proclaim the saving grace of God in the glorious gospel of Christ.

## **SOULWINNING – A PARTICIPATION IN THE NEW COVENANT**

Soulwinning for the Christians is not an option.

It is an essential or a vital aspect of our work. It shows your participation in the Covenant to which you have been called. In the Old Covenant, when the children of Israel came out of Egypt, something happened – they came out as a mixed multitude. Some of the people that were freed with them were not Israelites. It was mostly these people that caused the children of Israel to deviate from the set pattern.

You see, God was not really bothered about the non-Jews who got freed; they all could have inherited the promises. But the Bible tells us that they were a source of weakness in the body. The mixed multitude caused the people to lust for the garlic and onions of Egypt. When God gave them manna, they cried out, “Manna! Manna! Manna! We’re tired of manna, give us meat to eat!” They were a source of constant grief to God. God said to them, “Do you think I can’t give you meat in the desert, I will surely give you meat to eat. You will eat so much you will hate it,” (Numbers 11:18-23).

Then God caused quails to fly to the camp of the Israelites. They had more than enough meat to eat,

but when the meat got into their mouths, they had trouble.

*Numbers 11:31-33, "And there went forth a wind from the Lord, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, as it were a day's journey on this side, and as it were a day's journey on the other side, round about the camp, and as it were two cubits high upon the face of the earth. And the people stood up all that day, and all that night, and all the next day, and they gathered the quails: he that gathered least gathered ten homers: and they spread them all abroad for themselves round about the camp. And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the Lord was kindled against the people, and the Lord*

*smote the people with a very great plague.”*

Why were they smitten with a great plague? God didn't give them the meat to eat. He only brought the quails to prove to them that He could give them meat if He wanted to. Understand this, when God leads you through certain paths, it's not because He could not have done it any other way. It only shows that's the best plan for you at that particular point in time. God is the Master Planner; He is the One with the blueprint for your life and knows what you ought to do, what you ought to be and where you ought to be at every point in time.

The people of Israel cried out because they were a mixed multitude. Don't ever find yourself entangled with the mixed multitude. Follow the pattern that God has already laid out for you in His Word (as typified by the various gates in Zion,) so you can experience His glory in your life.

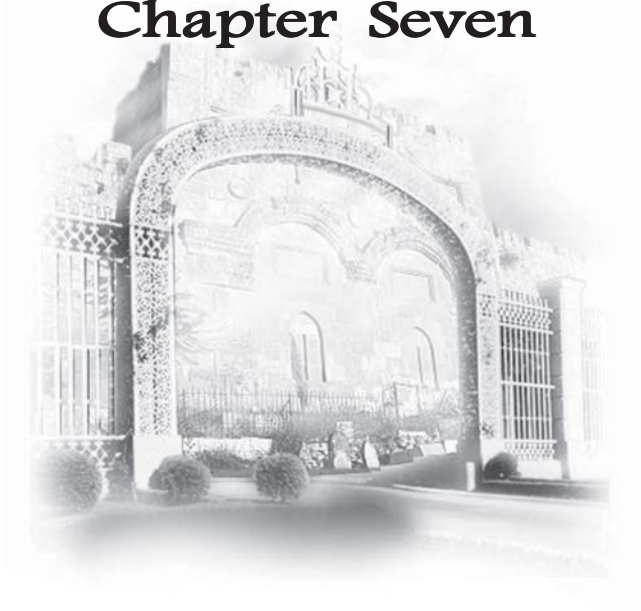
You come in at the Sheep Gate and He becomes your Shepherd, and you His sheep, after which He



makes you a fisher of men from the Fish Gate. This is one reason you cannot afford to be idle, you must be a soulwinner. You must testify of what the Lord has been doing in your life. Testify of the salvation that has become free for all, and as you do, He will continually confirm your life with victories and testimonies.



## Chapter Seven



### THE OLD GATE

*Nehemiah 3:6: “Moreover the old gate repaired Jehoiada the son of Paseah, and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah; they laid the beams thereof, and set up the doors thereof, and the locks thereof, and the bars*

*thereof.”*

The Old Gate is a place where you are founded on the Word of truth. As a soulwinner you'll have a lot of new converts to your credit. These are brought to the Old Gate to be taught the principles and doctrines of our Kingdom.

There's something very peculiar about the location of the Old Gate. The Old Gate was located at the northern side of Jerusalem; the main gate that led to the city was situated here and we know from the Word of God that the throne of God is in the third heaven, in the sides of the North (Psalm 48:1-2). So, new converts that are being won to Christ only get to know the Lord in depth and know the foundation of the Christian faith when they're taken to the Old Gate.

The Old Gate is a place of learning, where both young converts and older Christians are taught. The Bible says in **Proverbs 22:28-29**:

*“Remove not the ancient landmark,  
which thy fathers have set. Seest  
thou a man diligent in his business?”*

*he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.”*

**Malachi 2:7** also says,

*“For the priest’s lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts.”*

As you bring in these new folks from the Fish gate, you start teaching them the ancient landmarks; the Word of God, and while you’re teaching them, you’re also being re-established in that stable truth.

The foundational teachings acquired at the Old Gate cannot be belittled. There are no assumptions in the things of the Spirit. It is either you have knowledge of these truths or you don’t. This is one reason some Christians have problems making spiritual progress, they have not submitted themselves at the Old Gate to be taught the ancient landmarks; the fundamentals of the Christian faith.

It doesn’t matter how long you’ve been born again, you must go through the experience of being

taught at the Old Gate. God wants us to stay inside His house till we're nurtured, built up, trained and given the right kind of orientation. We must stay in the house! We must be brought up in the house of God under the guidance of tutors and governors who He has appointed.

We have a better Covenant and the ministration of this Covenant is accompanied by a far exceeding glory (2 Corinthians 3:8) because the glory of God accompanies the life at the Old Gate (2 Corinthians 3:18).

*Ephesians 4:11-13: "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:"*

In many local assemblies, there's a training specially arranged for young converts. Get identified with one. Don't say, "I know these things already."

*Hebrews 6:1-3: "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit"*

If you've not gone through the foundational truths enumerated in Hebrews 6:1-3, you need to acquaint yourself with them. Don't assume you know them, your lack of knowledge of them will reflect in your life sooner or later.

Some Christians want to skip the Old Gate; this is wrong because you cannot acquire the knowledge of the eternal verities taught there any other way. By refusing to be subject to the ordinances of God,

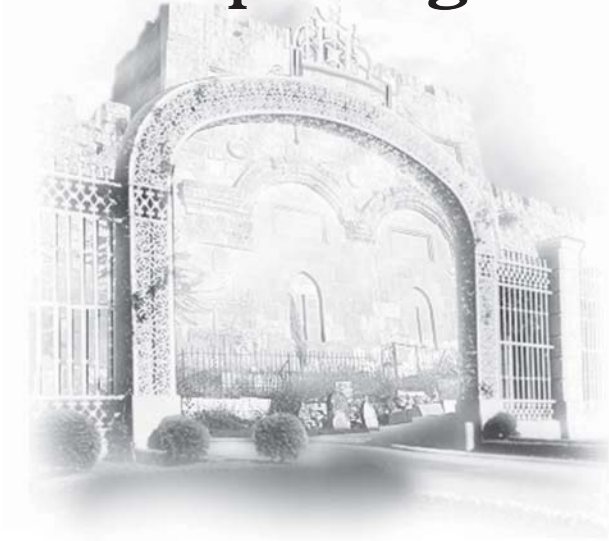
you have classified yourself to be among the mixed multitude coming out of Egypt, who were never really thinking about the Promised Land. That's why they always remembered the garlic and onions they left behind in Egypt.

By the time you find yourself saying things like, "If it weren't because I am born again, I know where I would be by now, probably enjoying myself somewhere downtown," then it's time to get your life realigned with God's plan for you. It's time to go to the Old Gate and be taught the fundamental elements of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

How do you know you're at this particular phase of your life? If you've just been born again, this is actually the first phase you experience; the first stage of growth. Also, several times throughout your Christian life, as you bring others up, you may also need assurance. At such times, you will find yourself at the Old Gate, where the foundation of the gospel is renewed in your life. The beautiful thing about this gate is that the glory of God follows the Word of God, both in the lives of the hearers and the teachers.



# Chapter Eight



## THE VALLEY GATE

*Nehemiah 3:13: “The valley gate repaired Hanun, and the inhabitants of Zanoah; they built it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof...”*

After the Old Gate is the Valley Gate. The Valley gate symbolizes the valleys of life; when you seem to

be going down in trouble and it's as though all hell has broken loose against you and criticism is coming from every angle. It seems you're the only one in the world with all the troubles and God has supposedly taken a holiday or has ignored you completely.

You see, when you came through the Sheep Gate, everything was just fine and you felt cool. The Lord had just become your Shepherd and '*Psalm 23 verse one*' and '*Amazing grace how sweet the sound*' were your best songs. Then having come through the Fish gate, you were made a soulwinner and you went with those souls to the Old Gate. At the Old Gate you were taught the Word of God; all the mighty works that were wrought by your forefathers in the faith – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses – and your faith soared high.

What did you think you were hearing all those great things for? You were hearing all those mighty works of faith so that your faith could be built up and you could learn how to base your life on God's Word alone and not on your feelings or circumstances. This was to help establish you in the Word and get you prepared for the valley experience.

There are two types of valley experiences: one helps the new convert become more patient, while the other brings the older Christian to a place of humility.

Romans **5:3-5** says,

*“And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”*

The Valley experience serves to work in you both patience and experience, which result in further stability and hope. You see, when you're a soulwinner it is possible for you to begin to smirk that you're at the top because the glory of God is being released in your life. Coupled with the abundance of revelation you received at the Old Gate, the tendency is for you to be exalted above measure. Paul citing his experience said,

*“For though I would desire to glory,  
I shall not be a fool; for I will say  
the truth: but now I forbear, lest  
any man should think of me above  
that which he seeth me to be, or  
that he heareth of me. And lest I  
should be exalted above measure  
through the abundance of the  
revelations, there was given to me  
a thorn in the flesh, the messenger  
of Satan to buffet me, lest I should  
be exalted above measure”*

(2 Corinthians 12:6-7)

Sometimes we need to realize that there's so much we don't know in spite of the abundance of revelation we may have received. I was listening to Rev. Kenneth Hagin one time as he recounted an encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ and he said something that really touched me. He said Jesus told him certain things of which he wanted proof from the New Testament. Then the Lord said, “There is enough proof in the New

Testament.”

“Well,” Rev. Hagin replied, “I’ve read the New Testament a hundred and fifty times and haven’t seen such a thing.”

But the Lord said to him, “Well, son, there’s a lot in there you don’t know yet.”

Jesus didn’t say there was a little more, He said there was a lot in there that he didn’t know. The man had read the New Testament one hundred and fifty times and spent more than fifty years in the ministry, yet the Lord said there were a lot of things he didn’t know in the New Testament. You probably haven’t even read the New Testament as many times as Rev. Hagin, so where is your boasting?

At the Valley Gate everything looks like trouble. Before now, if you prayed for something, it came speedily, but now, you pray for something and it’s not just working, you can’t believe it! A young convert just came from the Old Gate and the next thing he knows; he’s down in the Valley and wonders, What am I doing here? If this is what it takes to be a Christian, I don’t think I want it. He wants to go back now but it’s too

late; he's in the valley now, so deep he can't come out. Remember the words of the Psalmist,

*“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul... Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me”*

(Psalm 23:1-4)

When trouble strikes, don't complain. Instead, believe that God is there with you to bring you out. Remember, when Saul of Tarsus was blinded by the light that came out of Heaven, God knew where he was and what to do to get him out of the mess. He went to Ananias and said, “... Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus...And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on

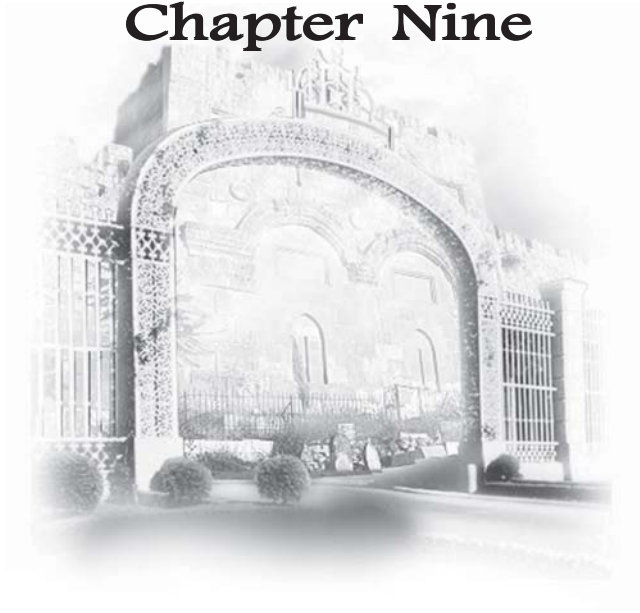
*him, that he might receive his sight...and be filled with the Holy Ghost" (Act 9:11-12, 17).*

When you're at the Valley Gate, the proper response to all that is happening is to trust in the Shepherd of your soul and not complain. The Valley Gate experience came so you could go on to the next gate, and as you respond positively by trusting in God you will surely experience the glory of God in your life.





## Chapter Nine



## THE DUNG GATE

*Nehemiah 3:13-14: "... and a thousand cubits on the wall unto the dung gate. But the dung gate repaired Malchiah the son of Rechab, the ruler of part of Beth-haccerem; he build it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof,*

*and the bars thereof.”*

The Dung Gate is the gate through which most of the dung is taken out of Jerusalem. This was the gate through which refuse generated in the city was taken out. In Scripture, ‘Dung’ refers to worthless or useless things; things that must be removed for purity and cleanliness to be maintained. The valley experience that causes complaining, murmuring and grumbling leaves you with a lot of refuse or dung that you must dispose of to experience a greater measure of the glory of God.

## **SANCTIFICATION – THE DUNG GATE EXPERIENCE**

The Dung Gate is where God takes away the mess from your life. Now, you’ve learnt that you’re nothing without Him. You’ve stopped seeing yourself as the boss that’s running everything. You’re now aware that the real Greater One Who is in you is the One in charge. You no longer trust in your brain, education, training or your shield and spear; you look up to God

now. Paul said,

*“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:”*

(Philippians 3:7-9)

You have to learn like Paul to throw yourself unreservedly into God’s everlasting arms. He said again in **Galatians 2:20**,

*“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but*

*Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”*

The valleys no longer frighten you because you're already dead and He's the One living in you. You should no longer be afraid of losing anything, because you've already given them all up for the knowledge of Christ. You should regard all you have as tools for bringing glory to God.

## COUNT IT ALL DUNG!

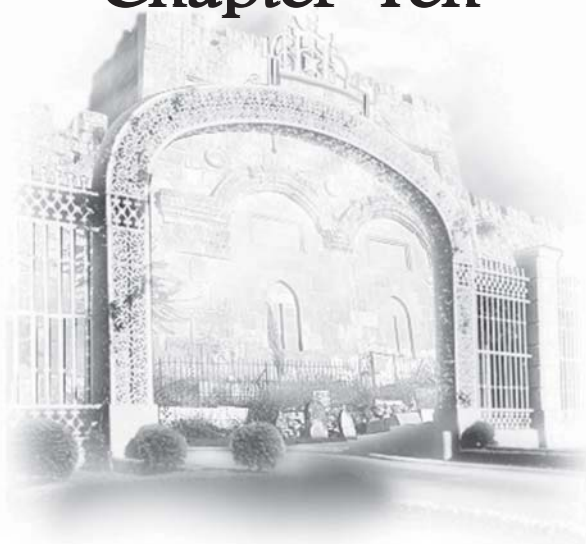
At the Dung Gate, you count all but dung. You give up your own struggles and the mess is taken out of you. This is separation unto God, consecration, sanctification.

**Romans 5:3-5:** “...tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed...”

The hope that comes to you when you realize that greater glory comes from looking unto Jesus instead of your own abilities leads you to the next gate. You came to the Dung Gate complaining and disgruntled, but you see light coming your way and there's expectancy in your heart as you move to the next gate.



## Chapter Ten



### THE GATE OF THE FOUNTAIN

*Nehemiah 3:15: "But the gate of the fountain repaired Shallun the son of Col-hozeh, the ruler of part of Mizpah; he built it, and covered it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof,*

*and the wall of the pool of Siloah by the king's garden, and unto the stairs that go down from the city of David."*

Nehemiah instructed the rulers to build the Gate of the Fountain after the building of the Dung Gate. The Fountain Gate was near the pool of Siloam. In John 9:1-7, we read of the pool of Siloam where a man who was born blind washed and came back seeing. When you study this Scripture in detail, you will realize the man didn't have eyes, he just had sockets.

*John 9:1-7: "And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him that*



*sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.”*

This man was born without eyes; he only had sockets. When Jesus got there, He spat on the ground and made clay with the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay. This was not just rubbing the clay on the sockets, He actually made balls of clay and put them where the eyes should have been. The Creator of the universe performed a creative act on the blind man. This is the reason it was a marvel in Israel, nothing like it had been seen before! Jesus instructed the man to go

to the pool of Siloam to wash. The man went there and washed and came back seeing.

The despondency resulting from murmuring and complaining are overcome by the welling up of life afresh from within you. You experience afresh the vitality of the life of God that is in you. It is as though you are newly born again. Jesus said,

*“But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life”*

(John 4:14)

The life in you springs up like a fountain when you get to the Fountain Gate. This life ought to bubble up like a fountain in you and not be like a still pool of water. If you drank from Jesus, the Fountain of living water, the life ought to spring fresh from within you at the Fountain Gate. Caleb when he was eighty-five years old, said,

*“As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in. Now therefore give me this mountain...”*

**(Joshua 14:11-12)**

Are you as alive as you were five years ago when you first gave your life to Jesus. Somebody met me sometime ago and asked, “Are you still like this?” Glory to God I’m more excited now than when I was born again over twenty years ago! Why? The Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in me and He is a well of water springing up to eternal life (Romans 8:11). He is in me, vitalizing my mortal body daily and I am more alive today than I was yesterday!

God takes you to the Fountain Gate when you are through with the Dung Gate. There He washes you from those things which attracted but distracted you by taking you away from the right path. You go through the experience of the Dung Gate before the glory of

the Fountain Gate. There you begin to shine and burst forth with joy that was inside you all the while and you have to maintain this joy of the Spirit. In **Revelation 2:3-5**, Jesus was telling the Church at Ephesus to get to the Fountain Gate:

*“And hast borne, and hast patience,  
and for my name’s sake hast  
laboured, and hast not fainted.  
Nevertheless I have somewhat  
against thee, because thou hast left  
thy first love. Remember therefore  
from whence thou art fallen, and  
repent, and do the first works...”*

## A PLACE OF FRESH REVELATION

The Fountain Gate is the place where God gives you a fresh revelation. Something new happens in your spirit; the stirring up of the inner man. It’s the stirring up of the life that’s in your spirit.

Jesus writing to the Laodicean Church in **Revelation 3:15-18** said,

*“I know thy works, that ...thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth...I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.”*

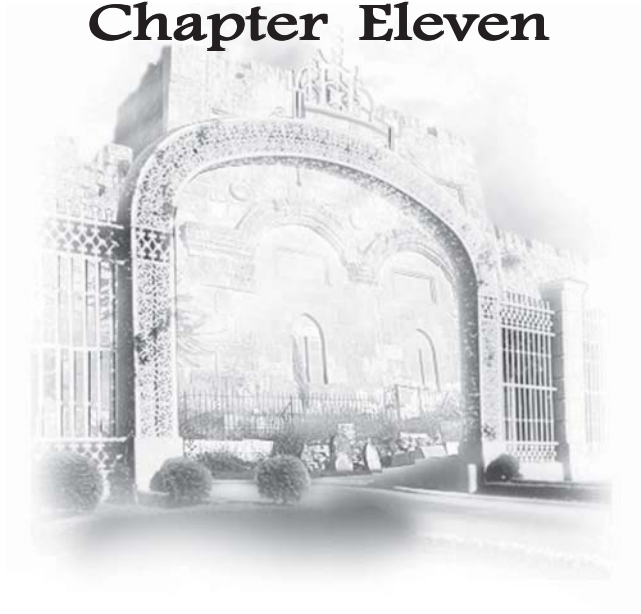
When you're at the Dung Gate you're neither hot nor cold. You no longer 'feel' like praying, though really you want to pray. The spirit is willing now, but the flesh is weak. So you sleep when praying and you wake up hoping you did not say abominable things to God. When this becomes a daily occurrence, then you need the experience and the glory of the Fountain Gate that comes when you receive fresh revelation from the Scriptures. This happens as you focus on God and His

Word; this brings renewed power and fervency to your prayers.

I don't know what your experience of Jesus is, but mine is very real to me. They said He died a long time ago, but God raised Him up and He still lives and He is very real to me today as He was back then in the Bible. This is because fresh revelation keeps coming to me from the Word of God. As I keep coming to the Fountain Gate to receive fresh revelation the new life in me is refreshed continually.

The same thing can happen to you too. You don't receive the Word of God once for all time at the Old Gate; rather, you keep coming to the Fountain Gate for refreshment. As the new life in you springs forth strongly, it takes you to the Water Gate.

## Chapter Eleven



## THE WATER GATE

*Nehemiah 3:26: “Moreover the Nethinims dwelt in Ophel, unto the place over against the water gate toward the east, and the tower that lieth out.”*

The Water Gate speaks of the Holy Ghost. Let

me tell you something about the Water Gate, it was located near the springs of Gihon and the Bible tells us of the waters of Gihon in **1 Kings 1:32-35**:

*“And king David said, Call me Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada. And they came before the king. The king also said unto them, Take with you the servants of your lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own mule, and bring him down to Gihon: And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel: and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, God save king Solomon. Then ye shall come up after him, that he may come and sit upon my throne; for he shall be king in my stead: and I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah.”*



King David in his old age named Solomon as his successor, and he asked the priest and the prophet to take him to Gihon to be anointed. From this, we see that the Water Gate is a place of anointing. You see, when you receive fresh revelations at the Fountain Gate, with it comes a fresh anointing on your life.

How can you experience this in your life? It is by praying and walking in the consciousness of the Holy Ghost. Jesus said that out of your belly shall flow rivers of living water, referring to the Holy Ghost which they that believe on Him should receive (John 7:38).

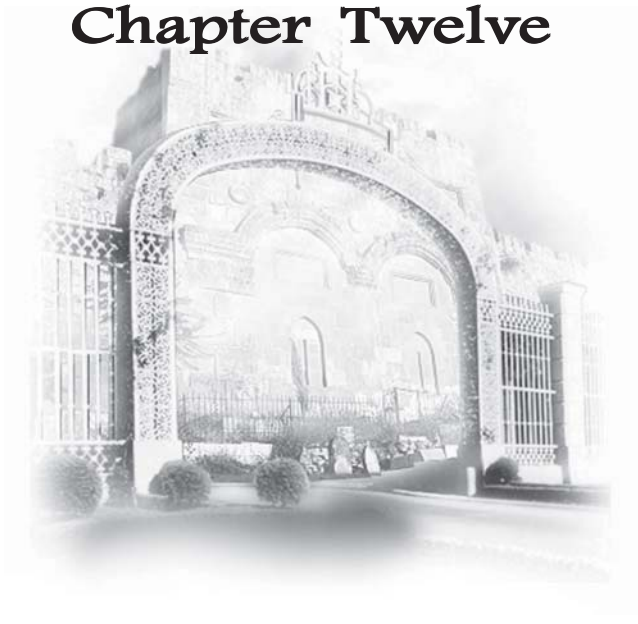
Speaking in other tongues for the Christian is not optional, because as you speak continually in other tongues, something happens.

*1 Corinthians 14:4: "He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself..."*

As you read the eternal truths contained in this book, believe in them, meditate on them and live by them, something beautiful will happen in your life. There is a fresh unction at the Water Gate, and you can be full

of this new unction, which gives you the power to reign in this life.

## Chapter Twelve



### THE HORSE GATE

*Nehemiah 3:27: "After them the Tekoites repaired another piece, over against the great tower that lieth out, even unto the wall of Ophel."*

In Scripture 'Horse' represents strength, might, power and authority. When you receive a fresh unction at the Water Gate, you become more conscious of your

right to reign in life through Christ. This begins another phase in your life; the Horse Gate experience.

David in Psalm 92:10 said, *“But my horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of an unicorn: I shall be anointed with fresh oil.”* A unicorn is a peculiar horse with one horn, and horns in scripture are also figurative of authority and power.

## AUTHORITY TO REIGN

At the Horse Gate you start to have better understanding of your authority in Christ and your strength in the Holy Ghost Who has filled you at the Water Gate. At this gate you begin to speak words of power, just like Solomon after his anointing at Gihon, the Bible says he was appointed ruler over Israel and Judah and he began to reign as king. The same thing happens to you after you’ve received a fresh unction; you begin to reign. Jesus gave us the gift of righteousness so that we may reign as kings in this life, for He has made us kings and priests unto God.

**Romans 5:17:** “ *For if by one man’s*

*offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ."*

No matter what circumstance of life we find ourselves in, we've got to reign as kings and overcomers for we've been endued with power from on high to reign. This is what Jesus has been waiting for.

**Revelations 1:5-6:** *"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."*

The major reason some Christians are not

reigning is their lack of knowledge of the things that are freely given to them of God. They're ignorant of the things that belong to them and have not begun to reign as kings in the earth. That's why they're still under the whiplash of the devil.

*“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God”*

**(1 Corinthians 2:12)**

When you buy a plane ticket from an airline, that ticket not only covers the cost of your journey but also includes refreshments and all other services rendered during the flight. They all belong to you, at least for as long as you are on that airplane. Some people don't know that, so when the air hostesses are serving lunch or snacks, they just shake their heads and refuse, so it passes them by. It's true that for some of them who refuse the refreshments they really don't want to eat, but it's also possible for some to think they might be

asked to pay; especially if they're traveling for the first time in such a carrier and are not acquainted with these things. As a result, they refuse the meal without knowing they had actually paid for it!

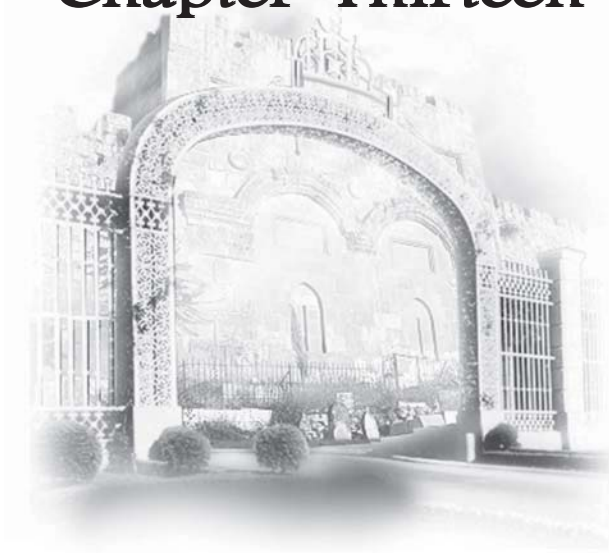
When you decided to give your life to Jesus Christ, you got a ticket to the Kingdom just like that passenger who purchased a ticket from an airline. The ticket of the Name of Jesus covers everything that has been freely given to you by God; they're yours to enjoy now!

You must apply yourself to the Word of God; understand who you are in Christ Jesus; find out the things you've received from God as a result of the New Birth, then begin to reign as a king in this life.





# Chapter Thirteen



## THE EAST GATE

*Nehemiah 3:29: “After them repaired Zadok the son of Immer over against his house. After him repaired also Shemaiah the son of Shechaniah, the keeper of the east gate.”*

I’m sure by now you know the pattern. You

become His sheep and He your Shepherd Who leads you. After which you win souls and together with those souls you come to be re-established in the truth. The valley and dung experiences serve to further establish you in the faith. Thereafter, you're washed clean and your experience of eternal life begins and bubbles within you at the Fountain Gate. Then a new unction comes on you at the Water Gate.

From the Water Gate, you go to the Horse Gate and move on with the authority of Christ to the East Gate. The East Gate is to the East of the temple in Jerusalem.

*Ezekiel 43:1-5: "Afterward he brought me to the gate, even the gate that looketh toward the east: And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory. And it was according to the appearance of the*

*vision which I saw, even according to the vision that I saw when I came to destroy the city: and the visions were like the vision that I saw by the river Chebar; and I fell upon my face. And the glory of the Lord came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east. So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house."*

## **A PLACE OF GLORY**

The glory of God came from the east through the East Gate. Remember how wise men came from the east when they heard about the birth of the Lord and King. A star appeared to them in the east and led them in through the East Gate. Why? The glory of God had come among men.

This lets us know the East Gate is a place of glory.

Look at the Church today. We are discovering who we are and possessing our possessions.

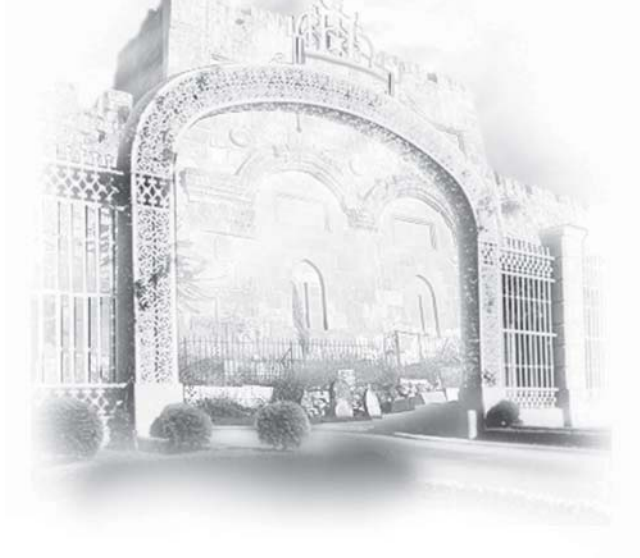
**Obadiah 1:17** says,

*“But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.”*

What happens when saviours come from Zion? When the glory comes into your heart, it doesn't stop there, because the glory of God left alone in your heart is of no benefit to anyone else. To be of benefit to others, it must be used. The Bible says *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven”* (Matthew 5:16).

The works of the Kingdom of God are being wrought everywhere in the world today because we are the glory of God. He has filled us, for we are His dwelling place and are preparing the way for the coming of the King. His coming is nearer than ever, for many Christians are already praying, *“Maranatha! Our Lord cometh.”* This indicates that as a Body, the Church is ready for the next gate.

## Chapter Fourteen



### THE GATE MIPHKAD

*Nehemiah 3:31: "After him repaired Malchiah the goldsmith's son unto the place of the Nethinims, and of the merchants, over against the gate Miphkad, and to the going up of the corner."*

The Gate Miphkad is also known as the appointed place. It is an appointed place for commissioning as well as inspection for rewards. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples and made an appointment with them to meet Him at an appointed place.

*Matthew 28:16-20: "Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even*

*unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

Here, Jesus commissioned them to take the gospel to the world! The Gate Miphkad is a place of commissioning; Christ commissions you and tells you exactly what He wants you to do for Him. So if you're living in this world without a definite knowledge of what He wants you to do, then you have not found a purpose for living. Come to Jesus at the Gate Miphkad, the appointed place where you will receive your commission. After the commissioning, you are ready to spread the gospel and show forth His glory to all people.

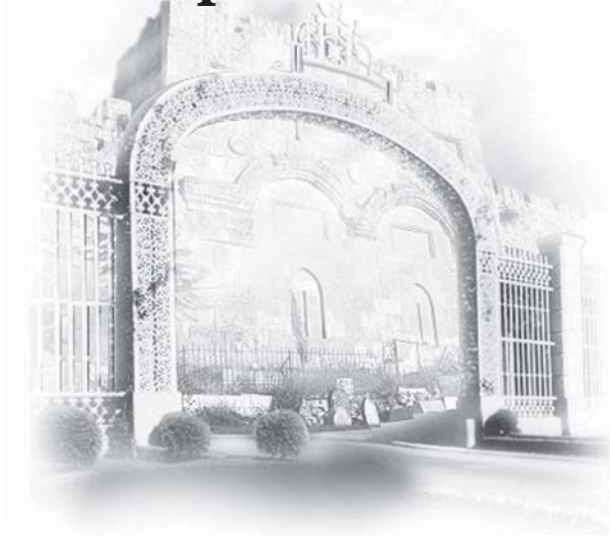
*1 Peter 2:9: “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, [God’s] own purchased, special people, that you may set forth the wonderful deeds and display the virtues and perfections of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”*

*(The Amplified Bible)*

The Gate Miphkad is also the appointed place for inspection of works for rewards. When the glory fills your life, you ought to spread the savour of the knowledge of Christ in every place. Jesus is going to inspect our works and we shall receive rewards for whatever we have done. Let Him have all the glory; testify of His goodness because it is the testimony that we bear to His Name that remains.



## Chapter Fifteen



## AN EXPRESSION OF EXCELLENCE

*Nehemiah 3:32: “And between the going up of the corner unto the sheep gate repaired the goldsmiths and the merchants.”*

After going through the ten gates, you get back

to the Sheep Gate and the cycle continues.

This does not mean that you go through the various experiences at different days of the month or year, nor do you only move through them once in your lifetime. You could experience all the gates in a short time. It only goes to show that our experience as Christians should go from glory to glory, that is, we move from one realm of glory to another and mature in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

In living this Christian life, recognize that you're in a covenant relationship with God and this relationship requires the constant participation of both parties - you and God. This means you have a role to play. When Jesus met a man who was sick and had not walked for 38 years, He asked the man, "Do you want to be well?" (John 5:6). Of course, the man wanted to be well, yet Jesus asked him if he wanted to be well. He didn't say, "Okay let's start healing; let's start doing something now." No! The man had something to do with it, Jesus said, "Get up, take your bed and go home" (John 5:8). Jesus didn't carry him up; the man got up by himself. He had something to do with his healing!

You might say, “But He is God and He can do anything.” Yes, but God doesn’t just rule over your life. You have a role and a will, and He wants you to make your own choices. God gives you His message, speaks to you from His heart and it’s up to you to apply it. When you apply it, you get what the Word promises, because it never fails. Your life must be an expression of His glory.

**2 Corinthians 3:18** says:

*“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”*

The word ‘changed’ in the Greek is ‘Metamorphoo,’ from where the English got the word ‘Metamorphosis.’ This is the same Greek word used to describe what happened to Jesus on the mount of transfiguration in Matthew 17:2. The Bible says that in the very presence of His disciples, He was transfigured. This Greek word refers to something that starts off from

within and eventually shows up outside; this change takes place from the inside out. So we are metamorphosed as we look at the glory of God in the glass from glory to glory.

You're not what you see on the outside. It's what God says you are on the inside that you are. As you keep meditating and contemplating on it, you'll find yourself growing and changing from one level of glory to another. That change comes from within and it's already happening to you.

The Bible tells us in **John 2:11**, *"This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him."*

He turned water into wine and by that miracle He manifested His glory. Over and over as Jesus performed miracles, the glory of God was manifested. He lived in the realm of the glory of God and this glory refers to all the attributes of divinity, that bring the perfection of beauty. No wonder Paul told us in **Philippians 4:8**, the kind of things we should think about:

*"Finally, brethren, whatsoever*

*things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."*

Just as Nehemiah went to Jerusalem, got the people of God together and said, "Let us rebuild the city of the great King," that's the same way you should be. There must be a strong desire to build up your life for the glory of God. God lives in you; He has chosen you for His dwelling place that people might see His glory. Everything you're involved in ought to be blessed, favoured and progressive, for this is the life God has chosen for you. He said in Jeremiah 29:11, "*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*" People may talk about 'the case of the unexpected,' but God has chosen you for the expected

end.

What is the expected end? The glory of God! This is the mystery that has been hidden from ages past which is Christ in you, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27). When you're not experiencing the glory of God in your life, it's like a city broken down, and Nehemiah is crying, "Let's rebuild the wall and the gates!"

What does this tell you? That you should focus on the realm of glory, then you will think, talk and live in the realm of glory, and your life will be the expression of His excellence, Hallelujah!



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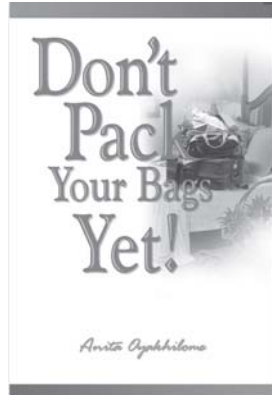


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