Home Sweet Home

Dealing with the Dynamics of Everyday Life

“GUARDING THE GATES”

God loves families! The world can try to redefine , but we must not allow them to erase what God has built into the very fabric of creation itself.

Family life is the foundation on which we learn to interact with the world around us, to serve ,to love ,and to forgive.

BUT AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD!

JOSHUA 24:15 NKJV

Joshua is asking them to choose between the God who delivered them from Egypt or will they bow to the culture of the day. He is asking us that same question today.

God desires for us to have Home Sweet Home.

Our houses should be havens and places of peace.

Places where the love of God is saturating the very atmosphere!

Sometimes with the dynamics of everyday life we can portray one thing to the world and something else behind closed doors.

IT IS THE LITTLE FOXES THAT SPOIL THE VINE. (Song of Solomon 2:15)

Seemingly minor habits, can silently deteriorate the relationships in our families.

So today we are going to learn how to fortify our gates.

Every home has gates, not of wood or iron, but of spirit and soul. These unseen gates open through our words, choices, and actions. Whatever we allow through them—peace or chaos—shapes the atmosphere within our walls.

Gates in the Bible were crucial, they had physical, social ,judicial, and spiritual roles.

They are Mentioned over 400 times in Scripture, were central hubs of life, were the primary point of entry, and the most heavily GAURDED!

1 Corinthians 16:13 NLT

- Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong

Gate #1: THE WORD GATE

- **Proverbs 13:3 NIV** Those who GAURD their lips preserve their lives, but those who speak rashly will come to ruin.
- Surfboard Dream
- So important what you are saying to and about your families.
- We must stop cooperating with the wrong forces.
- **Proverbs 18:21 KJV** Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.
- We must learn to guard our words, because the default for the flesh is to whine and complain. There are a lot of dangers in this action, especially because children mimic what they see and hear. They are watching us!!
- Will you pass the test?
- Philippians 2:14–15 AMP
- **Do All Things Without Grumbling:**
- **We need to teach them that no person or thing is responsible for their happiness. We must stop playing the blame game.**
- **Holy Spirit show me-me!**
- **Am I critical, fault finding looking at every thing through the eyes of my flesh. Do I dwell and speak the problem instead of the answer, or am I empowering my family with my words?**
- **Over and out.** We must speak the best OVER them to get the best OUT of them.
- **When we say and pray the right things invisible walls rise around our homes and families, walls of blessing and protection.**

GATE #2 THE VALUE GATE

- **Are you treating others with more value than your own family?**
- **LET ME GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE**

- **If your mate or child is talking to you and you don't look up from your phone, this demonstrates indifference!**
- **YOU ARE CONVEYING TO THEM YOU ARE NOT AS IMPORTANT TO ME AS THE TASK I AM DOING.**
- We must t**ame the smart phone beast.**

GATE #3 THE EYE AND EAR GATE

- These are vital gates we need to protect.
- Are we letting phones, devices or televisions babysit our children?
- 3 years ago the average age of exposure to pornography was 11 today it is 8 years old.
- 84% of kids who are exposed to it happen upon it on an unprotected device.
- Once again we must set the example.
- Boredom is not a problem to fix—it is a vital developmental tool that helps children build independence, creativity, and emotional resilience.
- We must train our flesh to be alone with our own thoughts.
- Quiet the chatter so we and they can hear from God.
- Both the content and act of checking our phones trigger the stress hormone cortisol.
- Remember we are talking about daily habits that silently deteriorate the relationships in our families.
- Excessive phone use can lead to comparison which breeds ungratefulness and money problems.
- Thinking we need every new thing we see on social media .
- Money is the number one issue married people fight about following only adultery as the major cause of divorce.
- So how do we teach ourselves and ultimately our children to be content?
- It comes through the Power of Practice.
- Gratitude and contentment are learned behaviors.

- Our children will learn as they hear and watch us react by sing ing and praising even in the midst of difficulties.

- It is the simple things of life that usually bring us the most joy.

- Which leads me to the next gate.

GATE #4 THE GATE OF THE SHARED TABLE

- Sharing meals together significantly improves physical health, mental well being, and emotional bonds within the family,. It also encourages face to face dialogue.

- According to findings from the World Happiness Report, **and yes there is such a thing, frequent family mealtimes give us better mental health, emotional well being, and higher life satisfaction. It is also associated with higher school grades, better language development, and larger vocabularies in younger children.**
- **And very importantly parents spot changes in a child's mood or behavior.**

- **In our FAITH 5 (PLEASE SHOW SLIDE)**

- **community which is part of our family life dept. they teach simple but powerful ways to stay connected with you family.**

- **Teaching them to Guard their heart !**

- **Proverbs 4:23 AMPC Keep *and* guard your heart with all vigilance *and* above all that you guard, for out of it flow the springs of life.**

GATE #5 THE GATHERING GATE

- The enemy rarely barges in; he whispers. He slips in through distraction, fatigue, and compromise dulling our discernment, and causing us to let down our GAURD. This tactic is nothing new. In Genesis 3, the serpent did not storm into Eden. He began with a quiet question that planted doubt. Today it could be “do I really need to go to church?” “Can’t we just stay home?”

- He whispers YOU ARE SOOO busy.. to tired

- He distorts truth by appealing to our comfort, the love of this world and the dullness of our spirituality.

- Hebrews 2:1 NKJV Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.

- EARNEST HEED!
- Why because statistics show that parental church attendance,
- especially a father's active involvement, strongly influences whether children stay involved in church as adults.
- When our children stand before the Lord as we all will someday,
- it is their love and relationship with JESUS that will matter, not there accolades.
- God is asking us to aligns our lives and our schedules to Him
- Not the other way around.
- You see today we think of an idol as a a statue of gold but the true root of idolatry is putting anything of this life as a higher priority than our love, devotion and obedience to God.
- Putting the things of THIS world first and giving God the leftovers.
- Don't take this wrong there are many beautiful things in this life that are given as gifts from God for us to enjoy and be refreshed by.
- However if these things crowd in and start capturing our hearts, they become idols. Idols can be food, television, social media, sports, making money, the list could be endless…
- These things in and of themselves are not the problem. We are the ones who make them an idol.
- **1 John 2:15-17The Message 15-17 Don't love the world's ways. Don't love the world's goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father. Practically everything that goes on in the world—wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important PRIDE—has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from him. The world and all its wanting, wanting, wanting is on the way out—but whoever does what God wants is set for eternity.**
- Give us wisdom Lord to put you first, those things that will echo in eternity, and not these earthly distractions.
- We must make the decision to guard our gates.
- As for me an my house we will serve the Lord. Joshua tells us to draw a line in the sand, and Moses before him.

- Deuteronomy 30:19 nkjv "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live"

- Just like them we have a **Choice:** Moses outlines two distinct paths—obedience to God leading to life and blessing, or turning away leading to destruction.

We have to just keep getting up!

You see there is a greater grace given to us and most people don't press into.

Jesus died not just to give us saving grace but an empowering grace!

It is an active, divine enablement that gives us the strength, wisdom, and capacity to live righteously, fulfill our purpose, and overcome challenges of the gates we talked about today.

This grace acts as an internal teacher that helps us to reject the ways of the world and walk out the dynamics of our everyday life

With peace and joy!