

# GOSPEL AUTHORITY IN THE ANCIENT GATES

*“A Vision for Life and Family - the City of God”*

(Nehemiah 3; Genesis 28:16-17)

As Paul said in the letter to the Philippians:

*“Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.” (Philippians 3:8)*

This process is what the Bible calls ...

Refiners Fire

Malachi 3:2 speaks of the cleansing fire that purifies gold and silver to make it pure.

It takes discipline and Godly vision to walk unstained by the world. It is only possible if we do three things. First, take a ...

- Deep Dive into the Word of God

*“Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord!” (Psalms 119:1)*

- Avoid the Counsel of the Ungodly

*“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;” (Psalm 1:1)*

- Remain in the Presence of God

Now we come to the third set of gates - the POWER GATES!

Power cannot precede purity in our lives!

*"Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them. Then Elisha prayed and said, 'O Lord I pray, open his eyes that he may see.' And the Lord opened the servants eyes and he saw; and behold the mountains were full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha." (II Kings 6:15-17)*

Jacob had two major experiences in his life that would ultimately impact him spiritually and empower him for his calling.

- The first was the dream experience of Genesis 28 but this was only a VISION OR VIEW OF WHAT JACOB WOULD BE!
- The second was the divine encounter of Genesis 32 and 35 where God TOUCHED AND TRANSFORMED JACOB INTO THE ISRAEL ENVISIONED in Genesis 28.

Let's begin by looking at the next gate after the Dung Gate ...

❖ The Gate of the Fountain - The Way of the Spirit (*Nehemiah 3:15-25*)

Notice the sequence of the last three gates: The Valley Gate (humility) - The Dung Gate (cleansing) - The Fountain Gate (filling of the Spirit).

Before we can access the power within us, we must exercise humility, confess our sins and then we can be filled (or controlled) by the Holy Spirit!

- Reasons for being FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

- ▶ Obedience to God

*“And be not drunk with wine wherein is excess, but be filled with the Holy Spirit.”  
(Ephesians 5:18)*

This verse is a command, not a suggestion!

- ▶ Obligation To God

Not only do we owe God our obedience in this matter of Spirit-filling, we also have an obligation to Him.

- Your Worship life (Ephesians 5:19-20)
- Your Wedded Life (Ephesians 5:22-25)
- Your Work Life (Ephesians 6:5-9)
- Your War Life (Ephesians 6:10-17)

- Your Witness Life (Ephesians 6:18-19)

- Requirements for being FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

- ▶ Conversion
- ▶ Commitment

- Results of being FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

- ▶ Relationships will Change

Toward God

Toward Others

- ▶ Reactions will Change

Criticism will be replaced with thanksgiving – I Thessalonians 5:18.

*“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

- ▶ Reality will Change

*“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...” (Galatians 5:22-23)*

*"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh." (vs 16). "If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another." (Vs 25-26)*