

# GOSPEL AUTHORITY IN THE ANCIENT GATES

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

(Nehemiah 3; Genesis 28:16-17)

To help us understand, we have categorized the gates into four groups:

The **Priority Gates** are the SHEEP GATE, the FISH GATE and the OLD GATE

The **Purity Gates** are the VALLEY GATE and the DUNG GATE

**Power cannot precede purity in our lives!**

*“But I say walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh; for they are opposition to one another so that you may not do the things that you please.” (Galatians 5:16-17, 25)*

**“If we live by the Spirit let us also walk by the Spirit”**

❖ **The Water Gate - The Life Giving Word of God** (Nehemiah 3:27)

The Psalmist says, *“Forever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in heaven” (Psalms 119:89)*

When it comes to God’s Word, we understand it to be alive and therefore it is ...

- A Proceeding Word

*"It is written, man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4)*

- A Proven Word

*"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)*

*"Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, if you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine and you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free." (John 8:31)*

- A Penetrating Word

*"For the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)*

- ▶ The Revealer (Answers the Question WHO) - God is the Author of Scripture

*"The Gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation from Jesus Christ." (Galatians 1:11-12)*

- ▶ The Revelation (Answers the Question WHAT) - The Scriptures are a Written Disclosure by God of Himself to Man

*"You do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom He has sent. 39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me." (John 5:38-39)*

- ▶ The Inspiration (Answers the Question HOW) - How God Wrote the Word of God through Human Authors

*"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for doctrine, for reproof for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, equipped for every good work." (II Timothy 3:16-17)*

*"But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." (II Peter 1:20-21)*

The Holy Spirit's intention with the Word of God is to bring about ...

- ▶ The Illumination (Answers the Question WHEN) - When you understand the Word of God (Holy Spirit illumines the mind).

*"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling." (Ephesians 1:18)*

*"As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful search and inquiry, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow." (I Peter 1:10-11)*

- ▶ The Preservation (Answers the Question WHERE) - Our Present Day Word of God is Basically the Same as the Original Autographs

*"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away." (Matthew 24:35)*

*"But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot (small mark in Hebrew lettering) of the Law to become void." (Luke 16:17)*

*"This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14)*

*"The gospel must first be preached to all the nations." (Mark 13:10)*

- ▶ The Application - The Truths of the Scripture Get into Your Everyday Living

- The Word of God is True

*"Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth." (John 17:17)*

- The Word of God is Infallible and Authoritative

*"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." (Psalm 19:7)*

- The Word of God is to be Understood

Understanding the Scriptures avoids error in life. *"Jesus said to them, 'Is this not the reason you are mistaken, that you do not understand the Scriptures, or the power of God?'" (Mark 12:24)*

- The Word of God is Effective and Eternal The Word of God transforms the believer!

*"And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe." (I Thess. 2:13)*

*"The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever." (Isaiah 40:8)*

- The Word of God is to be Studied and Obeyed

*"Study to show thyself approved to God, a workman who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Timothy 2:15)*

*"But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves." (James 1:22)*

- The Word of God is to be Defended and Lived Out

*"Always be ready to make a defense (Apologia) to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you." (I Peter 3:15)*

*“This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.” (Joshua 1:8)*

- The Perfecting Word

*“But prove yourselves doers of the word and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer only and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law of liberty and abides by it not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.” (James 1:22-25)*