

**GETHSEMANE PRAYER SCHOOL
NIGERIA**

**PRAYER
SCHOOL
LECTURES**

(Special Prayer Course)

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Topic:

Dealing With
STRATEGIC TARGETS
In
Spiritual Warfare

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Section Four

UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL GATES

Introduction

Our study passage is Matthew 16:18 where Jesus said: *“And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*

A gate can mean an opening, a place of entry and exit, a control point, a place of assembly or a parliament or in some other senses it means power or dominion. A gate is a place of public concourse, a place to administer judgement. At other instances it can mean a barrier or a secret confederacy or a caucus gathering. When the Lord Jesus Christ said, *“I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”*, what He was saying indirectly is that the confederacy, assembly, dominion or the barriers of hell would not prevail against His Church. Thus, a gate is a place of power where decisions are made. For instance, Daniel was a member of the Babylonian gate (court) - Daniel 2:48-49 while Mordecai was also a member of the Medeo-Persian gate (Esther 3:14-21). The gates of hell is the house of assembly of hell, a place of the gathering of demonic powers. There they meet to take decision to launch their attacks on the Body of Christ and all other interests of God on earth. That is what the word gate means. Every enemy we have as individuals and all enemies the Church have their seats at the gate. There is a group called the gates of hell.

No attack comes by accident. Attacks are usually satanically pre-planned. Before you are attacked, may be in the dream, in the house, in the office or in the car, decisions of such would have been taken somewhere before the physical manifestation.

The devil does not just attack us or attack the interests of a local church anyhow. The devil is not only crafty, but also very organized and strategic. The devil is an intelligent being. He has his parliament with an hierarchy of demons - a confederacy that sits regularly to consider reports brought by evil spirits from all over the world. The Church must know that there is a place called gate, which executes the plans and purposes of hell.

What God is doing now is to raise up a company of men and women who operate under a unique anointing of the Holy Spirit; the prophetic anointing, and whose business will be to turn the battle to the very gates of the enemy.

The battle of these last days will not be fought on the premises of the church, but the church herself will carry the battle to the territory of the enemy. It will be a disaster the day we begin to fight the last days battle in the house of God. Yet very disappointing, that

is what seems to be happening at present. The battle which ought to be fought out there in the kingdom of darkness where the parliament of hell meets, is now being fought in the church. Have you not seen believers fighting each other over money and position in church? The gate of hell is surely bringing the battle to our gates. That is why the Bible says God is going to strengthen those company of men and women who have come to a definite level of understanding and maturity, and who have zeal for God's house and interest. Their business will be to turn the battle to the gates.

(A). MANIFESTATIONS OF SATANIC GATES

The gates of hell can also have certain physical manifestations in form of altars, covenants, ancestral spirits, covens of witches, etc. Wherever you find an altar, you should immediately realize that there is a covenant in existence over that place. The physical altars you see around-the shrines, the sacred forests, markets and the cross-roads altars in some rural communities (where men make sacrifices), the different statutes that represent the old ancestral spirits are all physical symbols of the invisible gates of hell. They are the entry points of spirits into the earth. These places are the spiritual havens for demons to have their meetings. In some villages, certain trees are the gates for several legions of demons. People have reported hearing definite unearthly sounds inside some of these mystical trees.

Some converted occultists tell us of demonic cities beneath rivers and the sea and of some cities in trees. Such places constitute the gates of hell - their parliament. We have heard very weird stories of how people fly in the night, go inside certain trees or go inside certain rivers for spiritual meetings. Anywhere you have such physical places of meeting and sacrifice, like mystical trees, strange streams, shrines etc. they are satanic altars and gates of hell.

(B). EFFECTS OF SATANIC ALTARS - GATES OF HELL

These altars generate powerful satanic anointings which produce a spiritual covering over a geographical location. There must be a covenant in place before there can be an altar, and out of every altar comes forth a kind of anointing. And where you have demonic anointings coming forth from a satanic altar, that geographical area will be full of darkness, depression, perversion, immorality, poverty, death, murder and all forms of negative things.

(C). EFFECT OF GOD'S ALTARS - GATES OF HEAVEN

In the positive sense when you have God's altar like a church or a group of living and praying churches in an area. They represent the altars of the living God! - gates of heaven.

Due to the influence of these church altars in some communities, areas you'll find a unique anointing of progress coming forth upon such localities. We would see an atmosphere of righteousness where people find it difficult to sin. There will be freedom from fear and oppression. There will be joy, security, prosperity and a high conversion rate in such areas.

When the operations of the gates of hell are totally broken over a community; then they'll be released into their full potentials and blessings.

The emphasis of God in these last days is on prayers, aggressive prayers, rather than the ordinary "Father bless me, bless my wife, Florence, and my son, Joshua" kind of prayers. The Bible is talking about aggressive warfare prayers. All over the world today, you find people referred to as prayer warriors who not only operate in their local churches, or localities but have also become prayer jourriers, anointed for territorial intercession and deliverance.

(D). TYPES OF GATES

There are different kinds of gates. These different types and their implications are outlined below:

(1) Personal and Human Gates

Many get into trouble because they can not guard their human gates.

i. The eyes

The eyes feed the mind and the brain. The brain interprets whatever the eyes see and suggests immediate line of action. Job made a covenant with his eyes on what to focus on and what not to watch. If God's eyes are too pure to behold iniquity, our's should not watch pornographic pictures, movies and any such thing meant to feed filthy hearts.

"I made a covenant with mine eyes. Why then should I think upon a maid?" (Job 31:1). Others passages include I John 2:15-16 and Matt. 6:22-23.

ii. The mouth

This is another human gate. What enters through this gate matters as much as what goes out. If you let in good food into your body, it will be nourished, but if you eat or drink poison, death could result. The mouth is not for cigarette, nor intoxicating drinks. It is for eating or drinking healthy food or drinks.

It can utter life-giving words and at the same time destroy individuals, family, a community and even a nation. So it should be guarded. James calls the tongue a world of iniquity! (James 3:2, 6)

Many sweet relationships; and great associations have been irreversibly destroyed by allowing destructive things flow through this gate. This shows you how delicate this gate is.

iii. The ear

The ear is another important gate. You can grow or be destroyed by what enters through this gate. The scripture says, *“Faith comes by hearing and hearing the word of God”* (Romans 10:17)

iv. The umbilical cord

This is the supply route of food and nourishment from a pregnant mother to the baby. Other spiritual things pass through the same gate into the baby.

Most times physical and spiritual issues existing in the mother are transferred to the unborn baby through here. When dealing with personal deliverance you will learn more about this. This is a gate that needs to be addressed as soon as the baby is born. And please do not take your umbilical cord to your village to give your ancestors. You are not an apron string to be tied to anybody. You are a miracle on your own released from heaven and sent to earth on a mission. Do not tie yourself to the success or failure of your ancestors. Prayerfully dispose your umbilical cord or those of your children.

v. Sexual organs

The sexual organs of both sexes are gates into our bodies, and our spirits. Diseases and demons are easily transmitted and transferred both ways. Condoms do not hold evil spirits back! Covenants are also easily contracted through those gates. Guard them jealously. Do not throw this gate open to your own ruin.

vi. Hands

The Bible speaks very much about clean hands and pure hearts. The works of our hands bring to us blessings or curses.

Healing flows through our hands. When our spirit is defiled, spiritual pollution can be transferred to the heads of innocent people. Power can be transferred through your palms.

vii. The head

You need not be told that by laying hands on your head you can be filled with the Holy Spirit as well as be filled with something else. Physically, even heat evaporates more through the head than the skin. That is why we cover our head to be warm. The head is also a human gate. The Bible encourages that your head should not lack God's oil. *“Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment”* - (Ecclesiastes 9:8).

Maintain and service this gate regularly. Samson thought the oil was still there and

went out to do what he did before and was safe and never returned. Guard this gate; it is called the head gate. What happens there has enormous consequences.

(2) The Place of Your Nativity (Birth)

The place where you are born can serve as an entry point to your life. Many deliverances are usually incomplete until such places are addressed in serious prayers.

(3) Family Gates

These are openings through which the enemy can invade a home or family or cast away your goods spiritually or physically. They include your house doors, windows, physical gates and those whom you authorize to speak into your lives as a married couple. He may be a pastor, counselor, prayer partner, parents or parents-in-law, friends or someone whom you listen to. These doors include your staff and housemaids and cooks who prepare what you eat and drink. Your gynecologist has a great access into your life and family and has great spiritual access not only to the woman, but also through her to the husband and to the children delivered by him or her. So you need to watch these areas prayerfully.

(4) Neighbourhood/Estate Gates

Neighborhood or estate gates exist. Of course you know that in some neighborhoods you cannot enter without going through a gate.

(5) City Gates

Cities have gates. These are entry points into the city. It could be a waterfront, or a bridge across a river or simple flat surface road, seaports or airports. If you wake up and visit these locations between 12 midnight and 2:00am, you will be surprised by the number of people who worship Satan, who do not sleep while others sleep but go to the gates to seek for power, raise and service evil altars for one diabolical reason or the other. This happens in every part of the world. There is no part of the universe where the devil does not have agents.

(6) State/Province Gates

States or provinces have gates. The major entrance through which one crosses from one sovereign state to another (e.g. Airports, Seaports, Borders are all gates) is a gateway. Here, important national and international guests are handed over from one government to the other. Movement of people and goods are controlled here and powerful actions, and activities that influence an entire state take place in those places. With prophetic actions a state can be sealed or opened up at her gates. Any of these actions

by Christians must be originated and directed by the Holy Spirit.

(7) National Gates

National gates exist. They include the independence square where the altar of the country's existence is located, the sea, and airports and their connecting roads with other nations. It is impossible for foreigners to legally enter into other countries without going through immigration services. They are the governmental gatekeepers.

(8) Global Gates

There are global gates. Have you ever wondered why the prophets of Israel chose to locate their Schools of the Prophets in places like Gilgal where Elijah lived, and also at Bethel and Jordan? At Gilgal, Joshua circumcised the men who became God's displacement army led by the "Captain of God's Hosts" to take Israel into the Promised Land. It was there that the reproach of Israel was rolled away.

(9) Administrative and Governmental Gates

These are a caucus or group of people who meet in a certain location to take decisions binding on the generality of people under them. They may be called legislators or lawmakers parliamentarians or congress men. On the other hand, they could be top company executives who decide what happens in such company. We have them in almost every sphere of life, be it in the Police, Customs, Immigration, the Armed Forces and the parastatals. They are the hidden mafia or secret decision makers who control the entry and exit of people into and out of such organisations.

(E). PURPOSE OF SPIRITUAL GATES

What is the main purpose of gates? Joshua 6:1 says, "*Now Jericho was straightly shut up because of the children of Israel, none went out and none came in*". The Living Bible says, "*now the gates of Jericho were tightly shut, nobody was allowed to go out and nobody was allowed to come in*".

No physical gate is erected for mere decoration, every gate has an assignment. the same is true for spiritual gates.

(i) Gates hinder or prevent entry

Jericho happened to be an inheritance for God's people. A promised inheritance. God promised the children of Israel that they were going to take over all the enemy lands and Jericho. There were quite a lot of things in Jericho. In particular, there were devoted things like gold and silver meant for God.

Therefore when the enemy knew that the Israelites were coming to take over the city

as the Lord had promised, they locked up the gates and barricaded all the entrances. The city walls were very high; so Israelites couldn't jump over them. In other words, the physical gates of Jericho served as a barrier, preventing the people of God from entering into their inheritance. The ministry of the gate is to deny entry and exit. They limit the advance of the people of God and limit our access to our promised possessions.

(ii) Gates limit

Gates have limited the house of God from taking over many nations of the world. However, God is opening our eyes to the ministry of the gates in these last days. They have a ministry of restriction and prevention; a ministry of barrier and a ministry of barricade. However, we are going to pull down the gates and their barriers in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We have an inheritance, our inheritance is our nation together with her peoples, her silver and her gold. All her wealth will flow into the Church. The enemy knows this, very well. That's why they are trying to shut up nations. There are certain places in the world that are no go areas to Christians especially gospel ministers. Many Islamic countries would refuse your entry once you are known to be a clergyman or a missionary.

(iii) Gates restrict or keep out

When you go to certain Muslim regions, you will find places that are called the cities within cities. You dare not go and preach there. In Nigeria, we have places like Zaria city (old Islamic city), Kano city, Sokoto city etc. In Kano city with its ancient walls, it is forbidden to preach the gospel in any form. When you go to Maiduguri it is the same thing. They have places like Sabongari (new town) where everybody can go and Tundun Wada (mostly market areas) where you can evangelize. The ancient cities remain impregnable fortresses. They say, "*this is the ancient city of Kano, Zaria, or Katsina and strangers are not allowed*".

(iv) Gates lord it over people compulsorily (they dominate)

Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem. (Isaiah 28:14)

This is a case of scornful, arrogant, devilish people lording it over the righteous populace.

(E). CHARACTERISTICS AND OPERATIONS OF SPIRITUAL GATES

Now let's go ahead and see ten basic characteristics of gates, how they function, so that when you begin to pray, you'll pray strategically and intelligently.

(i) Their works are usually in secret

Gates members never do their works openly. They do their works in utter secrecy. That is why most of the times they meet at odd times and in isolated places. They meet in hidden places: locked up offices, houses, under the water, inside of certain evil trees and in some spiritual locations in the atmosphere as the case may be in Africa or Asia. Nobody really knows the exact location and time of their meetings.

(ii) Gates can also be found in religious circles

They are found in Islamic, traditional, occultic and even in some orthodox and pentecostal gatherings. In fact, no operation of gates takes place until some religious rites and rituals are performed. Gates exist in many religious circles.

(iii) Gate members are usually very prominent and devious

When you think about the gates that control the affairs of a nation and names are mentioned, you are likely to discover that only about six to ten men who are in some satanic form of covenant relationship actually meet and take decisions for others. You will be amazed at the calibre of men involved. They meet in the day and they meet in the middle of the night. Some of them are top traditional rulers, religious rulers, top generals, industrialists, businessmen and politicians. They all have the same agenda - to lord it over the rest of the people. So, it involves very eminent people.

(iv) Members of a gate are usually bound together by a strong covenant

I am not talking about a secret society. Secret societies are somehow different from what we are talking about. But whether secret society or members of a gate, (satanic parliament or evil doers where evil decisions are taken) the members are usually bound together in an unbroken affinity by a strong covenant. We see an example in the Book of Isaiah 28:14: *“wherefore hear ye the word of the Lord ye scornful men that rule these people which is in Jerusalem.”* They were rulers, they ruled the people of God who were in Jerusalem. God called them scornful people who bear rule, who control the lives of people and lived in Jerusalem in the midst of the people - unknown Mafia. Members of gates normally seek to dominate people. They exercise their powers either physically or spiritually through some remote control mechanism of witchcraft and sorcery.

You cannot go further than they allow in any of life's endeavours - governmentally, professionally, academically, economically, matrimonially, spiritually - people can't go further than they permit. That is why God has to anoint us as His instruments to be able to deal with the gates in our land. Many nations would have moved forward in several spheres, of life but the gates will not permit that.

In Isaiah 28:15 the Bible says, *“because ye have said we have made a covenant*

with death and with hell we are at agreement.” This is a covenant men make with death and agreement they make with hell. The covenant with death is one of the strongest covenants and the agreement with hell is one of the most powerful agreements men can make with the devil.

That is the satanic confidence of the gates. They always say “let any overflowing scourge come: whether bullets or arrows or any weapon, it will not come near us because we are in agreement with the prince of death”.

(v) Gates usually employ witchcraft, sorcery and divination in their activities

Through the use of magic and satanic anointing, gates members and satanic gate keepers somehow possess certain superior strategic advantage over the other people. Such advantages include future information, supernatural knowledge of persons, place and things and an unusual satanic aura that instil fear in men.

One of the manifestations of the gates is what you find in I Kings chapter 21. There was a physical king over the land of Israel whose name was Ahab. But inside the house of Ahab was a one man gate whose name was Jezebel - his own very wife. Every decision in Israel was taken by this woman. King Ahab was royally paralysed. The woman employed three tools of witchcraft: manipulation, intimidation and domination, to achieve her diabolical goals. Ahab was completely inert. He could not reason, he could not think for himself. Before any decision, he had to consult Jezebel. The gate must give the final approval. I Kings 21:25 says: *“but there was none like unto Ahab which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the Lord, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.”* When you read one profound translation, it says: *“whom Jezebel his wife manipulated, dominated, controlled or wound up.”* He was wound up by the in-house gate. Behind Ahab’s idolatry, wickedness, greed, murder and corruption was a gate. He only fronted for it.

(vi) Gates pose a major obstacle to God’s perfect plan for a nation or for a person

They are the major hindrances to the manifestation of the power, purpose and will of God for a nation or for a person. The operation of gates: little satanic cliques meeting from place to place trying to thwart whatever God has decided over people’s lives by making contrary and counter decisions. Has God not said in the Book of Jeremiah 29:11, *“I know the thoughts that I think towards you, the thought of good and not of evil, to give you an expected end”* If God said His thoughts are thoughts of good and not of evil and also in III John 2, says *“... I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in good health even as thy soul prosper”*, then any contrary manifestation in your life is from the gates of hell. It shall not stand.

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- (vii) The victims of gates are usually ignorant of their operations.
- (viii) Sometimes, gate members and informants may be members of our own household or office.
- (ix) Gates can only be detected and discovered by divine revelation.(II Kings 6:8-22)

Elisha successfully dealt with the Syrian gate. Gates are confronted and possessed through prophetic praying and spiritual warfare. To release ourselves and the land we need to begin to contend with the various local and national gates in battle.

- (x) Gates can be confronted and dealt with. Gates can be smashed and overthrown.

■ *Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. (Psalm 24:7-10)*

■ *In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks. Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in. (Isaiah 26:1-2)*

■ *Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut. I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron. And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel. (Isaiah 45:1-3)*

Today's Assignments

1. *Beginning from today, begin to ask God to open your eyes to discern*

and locate the gates and the gate keepers of your neighbourhood and work place.

2. *Having identified the gates and their gate keepers, declare a prophetic and strategic war against them.*
3. *Pray and begin to take practical steps to possess and control your human gates.*

]Today's Specialised Prayers

1. *(Lay your right hand on your head and the other on your navel as you pray this prayer):
By the power of the Holy Spirit, I possess and regain the control of all my human gates in Jesus name.*
2. *I sack and scatter all gates and gate keepers hindering me from entering into my possessions, in Jesus name.*

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