

**GETHSEMANE PRAYER SCHOOL  
NIGERIA**

**PRAYER  
SCHOOL  
LECTURES**

**(Special Prayer Course)**

**CODE: GPS -SPC-02**

Topic:

*Dealing With*  
**STRATEGIC TARGETS**  
*In*  
**Spiritual Warfare**

Compiled by:

**Gethsemane Prayer Ministries International**

Edited by:

**Rev. Moses Olanrewaju Aransiola, Ph.D**

**(LECTURE NOTES SERIES 8)**

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## Section Five

### TURNING THE BATTLE TO THE GATE

*In that day shall the Lord of hosts be for a crown of glory, and a diadem of beauty, unto the residue of his people, And for a spirit of judgement, to them that sit in judgement and for strength to them that turn the battle to the gate (Isaiah 28:5-6).*

In this study, we shall be considering certain time-tested principles and strategies of spiritual warfare through which we can successfully take the battle to the enemy's gate.

#### 1. THE NEED FOR PRAYER WALKS AND STRATEGIC ACTIONS

One way of taking the battle to the gates is to go out to the locations or territories where demons are worshipped through altars and covens of witches. The Church must take the battle to the habitations of wickedness, and contend with ancient territorial demons or deities. The Church or at least her prayer warriors ought to do this as a calling. We need to go on prophetic prayer actions, prayer journeys and prayer walks to deal with different sacred forests, rivers and territories under satanic hold and to ensure territorial and community deliverance. There is a serious defect in the kind of training we give our converts today. There are no prayer disciples again. The moment the gates of hell know you are ignorant and you can't do what God has in mind for you to do or has anointed you to do, they bring the battle to your own gate! A lot of people are really going through terrible times in the hands of the gates of hell. But there is a way of deliverance.

#### 2. THE VALUE OF AGGRESSIVE EVANGELISM

The second way God expects us to turn the battle to the gates is through aggressive evangelism. The church that is not evangelising, going out to take the battle to the gates of the enemy by ministering to those the devil has possessed as his inheritance and taking them violently out of his hands - from the grips out of the grips of alcohol, immoral spirits, bad habits, drug addiction and the spirit of death will have a problem. Today, many believers who used to be aggressively involved in evangelism have cooled off. We have all cooled off. The virgins have fallen asleep while demons are on rampage. Many churches don't go on evangelism again. They are no longer going forth to battle to possess the gates of the enemy; delivering men and women who have been captive by the enemy. Therefore the enemy is now on his own offensive, bringing the battle down to our homes, offices and churches.

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### 3. THE IMPORTANCE OF FRONTIER MISSIONS

The third way God expects us to take the battle to the gates of the enemy is through aggressive and persistent missionary efforts in places where Christ has not been mentioned. The Church must move out in men, resources and prayers to places where idols, water bodies, mountains, the sun and the moon are still being worshipped and to places, where antichrist religions still hold sway and where spiritual darkness reigns. We must take the word of God there, present the Lord Jesus Christ as the only and best alternative to these people. The 10/40 window regions of the world are still largely unreached, even by prayers!

The moment the Church begins to do this seriously, satanic attacks against the Church will be minimized, because demons will be busy defending their territories, instead of coming to attack believers in their homes, offices and in their churches.

### 4. THE DANGER OF SPIRITUAL INACTION

It is commonly said: "The moment you stop evangelizing people, men will evangelize you. The moment you stop praying for people, people will pray for you. You will become a prayer point. And the moment you stop delivering people, you'll end up a deliverance case yourself". You must therefore be spiritually busy, active and on the offensive for God. That is the law of the kingdom - the law of the battle-front. You dare not stop fighting. The moment you stop praying serious prayers for deliverance of the land, of the nation and its oppressed peoples, Satan will turn round and launch an offensive battle against you and your church.

Many once fervent, aggressive and problem free christians are now neck deep in the waters of trouble. Why? Because they have stopped fighting. They have stopped praying and ministering to people. They have stopped evangelizing. Many of them are in the fast lane of backsliding; back into sin as a result of their lethargy and inaction. If you stop evangelizing you will end up being evangelized. If you stop fighting and confronting Satan in prayer, evangelism and missions, Satan will turn round and fight you. It is the simple truth. Satan has decided to keep many believers busy with problems of life because they have refused to fight.

## STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH SATANIC GATES

### 1. CONFRONTING THE GATES THROUGH PROPHETIC PRAYERS

In the Book of Joshua 6:1, we see what the enemies of Israel tried to do to stop the advance of God's army into Jericho. The city of Jericho was among their promised inheritance. But the gods opposed them. So what must we do to enter into our personal Jerichos, collective Jerichos and national Jerichos? How can we deal with the impregnable walls, opposing gates and all the intimidating barriers the enemy has put in place to keep us out?

We can possess the gates by prophetic utterances in the place of prayer. Psalm 24:7-

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10 says: *“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.”* This was a record of what transpired when Jesus Christ died and went to the gates of hell to retrieve back the keys of death and of hell. One major thing He had to do before His resurrection was the issue of these keys. Keys are a symbol of authority. Those keys were initially given to Adam but he voluntarily surrendered them to Lucifer and so Lucifer became the new earthly authority - the god of this world.

Since the fall of Adam, Satan has had the power of death. He killed, maimed and destroyed humanity at will. He could not be hindered by any one. He sent men to hell with impunity. He could not be stopped. For Jesus to completely redeem humanity and set mankind free, He needed to possess that symbol of authority. In ancient and even in this modern times, anytime people want to welcome and honour an important visitor, they'll take him to the city gate and give him a big key to put upon his neck or shoulder. By this gesture, he now has authority in the city just like any other important citizen. This gesture also has another dimension - you have become a honorary member of the parliament of that city. So, in order for mankind to be redeemed, Jesus needed to collect the keys of hell and death from the gates of hell (see Hebrews 2:14-15).

Before the coming of Jesus, everyone that died both the godly and the ungodly did not go to heaven or hell directly. They were kept underneath the earth in the place of the dead called Sheol. Right from Adam, Abel to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, none ascended up to heaven but were kept in Paradise - the compartment of the godly in Sheol. The souls of the departed wicked were on the other hand kept in another compartment called Hades which was a sort of miniature hell (See Hebrews 2:14-15).

That was the situation before the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. For a total redemption of the godly righteous, Jesus needed to collect the keys of death and heel and open up Sheol to release the captives. When Jesus died and was buried, for three days he was in hell (hades) ministering to the souls there. (I Peter 3:18; 4:6); Ephesians 4:8-10).

#### **(i) Jesus used prophetic prayers**

Prophetic prayers are simply strategic and specialised divinely inspired words, scriptures or commands given to us by the Holy Spirit or certain actions, as we wait on Him in prayer.

The Lord had to go to that dark dungeon where Lucifer sat on the throne, for the ultimate conflict with the Prince of darkness, whose place was in total darkness. As Jesus

got to where they were meeting, Lucifer stood to challenge Him for intrusion. But Jesus confronted him and his gates with those prophetic words of Psalm 24:7 *“lift up your heads, O ye gates and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors and the king of glory shall come in”*. The gates bowed in reference and worship to their creator and conqueror. Finally, Lucifer surrendered the keys. Jesus took them and put them on His own shoulders. That is why the Bible says, “He is the one that has the key of the house of David upon his shoulders.” That was not all, the Lord seemed to have called the weakest demons of hell to strip Lucifer of his self-awarded medals, badges and decorations. The Bible records in Colossian 2:15 that: *“And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it”*. Jesus spoiled principalities and powers and made a public disgrace and a public example of them before the demons of hell. As soon as the Lord had retrieved the keys, He went to the Paradise compartment of Sheol and opened it up. The Bible confirms this in Matthew 27: 52-53 *“And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose. And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.”* The Bible tells us more of this in the book of Ephesians 4:8-10.

He led captivity captive. All men who had been held captive by Satan, He captured back and took them to heaven. This is how prophetic prayers work.

## (ii) Prophetic prayers work

The best way to confront the gates of hell is by prophetic prayers. We must prophesy in the place of prayer. We must make Spirit-inspired pronouncements against the citadels of hell. The words of Psalm 24:7-11 were a prophetic utterance, coming as it were, out of David’s mouth. But when Jesus came under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, before satanic gates, the very words that David used in his Psalms to God were what the Lord Jesus repeated in prophetic prayers. In other words, when we begin to pray prophetic prayers, we speak out scriptures, relevant scriptures dictated and inspired by the Holy Spirit. We throw these words against the powers of darkness, against barriers and against all hindrances to the advancement of Christ’s Church and they will give way.

✦ After He collected those keys, Jesus then revealed himself to Apostle John and told him about the accomplishment of his conflict. In Revelation 1:17-18, John said:

*And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forever more Amen; and have the keys of hell and death.*

He later told John, *“When I shut, no man opens; and when I open, no man can shut”*. He had collected those keys and we, as His disciples presently have the keys. He told Peter, *“I give unto you the keys of the kingdom”*. That is a symbol of our authority

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to shut, lock, open, bind and loose.

**(iii) Practical examples**

I want to give you some practical examples of how prophetic utterances opened certain gates.

**Case one**

A lot of us have heard about the Berlin wall. This wall separated the former Eastern Germany and Western Germany. It was built shortly after the second world war when the U.S.S.R. and the Allied Forces parted Germany into two. Nobody could move from the west to the east and vice versa. A single country was divided into two. But do you know what happened? About ten years before that wall collapsed, a lot of believers, disguising as tourists, but who were actually anointed intercessors and who had fasted for days, were going to the Berlin wall, taking photographs and that sort of thing. But along the line, They would carefully lay hands upon the wall and prophesy its fall within a period of time. In fact, about six months before the wall was pulled down, they went there, they praised the Lord there, anointed the wall and prophesied its collapse. God did the miracle shortly afterwards. The Berlin wall fell.

**Case two**

Men and women in several parts of the world have also prophesied in the place of prayer against the spirit of the Red Dragon which is the spirit of Communism worldwide. Before long the communist empire of the Soviet Union fell like a pack of cards. God will honour our prayers over the nations. We will prophesy under the anointing of the Spirit to the gates, to the walls, to the fortresses that still remain and there shall be an opening. The King of glory must of necessity come into our lands and take His rightful place. This principle can be applied also to private - personal problems. You can use prophetic prayers to confront any satanic gate or fortress militating against your progress. They will similarly fall.

**2. CONFRONTING SATANIC GATE KEEPERS THROUGH VIOLENT IMPORTUNATE PRAYERS**

Secondly, gates can be removed through God's supernatural intervention as we fervently pray. This we see in the case of the early Church in Acts 12:1-5. In verses 6 - 10, we see all the satanic gate keepers guarding Peter falling into deep slumber as the angel released Peter. The physical gates also lifted up their heads and the everlasting doors gave way. Peter was free at last. We need to understand that there is no gate without gate keepers or neither can you have a horse without a rider.

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It is during fervent prayers that we deal with all satanic gate keepers. Scriptures such as Isaiah 26:1-2; 45:1-3; 60:11 and Psalm 24:7 are very powerful tools for dealing with satanic gate keepers.

### 3. PROPHETIC PRAYERS AND PROPHETIC ACTIONS

The third way of dealing with gates is recorded in Judges 16:1-2:

*“Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot; and went in unto her. And it was told the Gazites saying, Samson is come hither. And they compassed him in, and laid in wait for him all night in the gate of the city, and were quiet all night, saying in the morning, when it is day, we shall kill him”.*

Although Samson did something he ought not to have done in Gaza, committing the sin of adultery and sleeping with an harlot. God was still merciful and gracious to him and the anointing of God still answered for him.

The power manifested in the time of need. The people thought they had trapped their enemy, because he was inside the city. They had of course, locked up the city gate made of iron. They believed Samson was already delivered into their hands. Thus they were already making plans for dealing with him in retaliation for what he had done to them. The Bible says men were lying in ambush till when Samson would come up early in the morning wanting to go back to his city, at which time they would capture him. They locked the gate so there was no way of escape. *“And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of an hill that is before Hebron”* (vs. 3)

The essence here is for us to understand that occasionally we have to physically confront the gates. And this brings up the issue of going to physical altars, marine altars of sacred rivers, sacred forests etc., and doing prophetic actions in them. Moses dealt with River Nile in Egypt. He destroyed the power of Egyptian water spirits, mermaid spirits and so on.

The Lord through Moses and in accordance with His promise in Exodus 12:12, *(For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord)* dealt with all the power bases of Egypt and the spirits behind them. From the water based altars to land altars and finally to the astral altar of the sun god. The ancient palaces of Egyptian Pharaohs have several astrological markings to show that the Egyptians had understanding of the heavenly bodies. It is an established fact that mathematics and astrology originated from Egypt. They had understanding of these heavenly bodies and they served the sun god. God told Moses, except the Egyptian covenants with the sun was broken the Israelites would not go anywhere.

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And God told him to turn the sun into darkness. The Bible says for three days, a darkness that could be felt descended upon the land. The satanic transmission between heaven and earth, between the sun and the Egyptians was cut off for three days and thus all the enabling covenants were broken one after the other, and at last, God's first born, Israel was freed.

#### **4. THE USE OF HOLY GHOST SYMBOLS**

Intercessors (prayer warriors) must be ready to physically confront the gates of hell and their demonic symbols, where possible, physically destroying them or at least desecrate them by pouring anointing oil or holy communion wine on them. These prophetic actions seriously offend resident and entrenched territorial spirits and they leave their habitation in a hurry. The Lord God urged Israel to take this type of action in Deuteronomy 7:1-5.

#### **5. CONFRONTING THE GATES THROUGH HIGH PRAISES**

Through intercessory praise, we can uproot and deal with the gates of hell. That was precisely what the Israelites did at Jericho under the leadership of Joshua. Read Joshua 6:1-5.

There is power in intercessory praise. God has not called us not to only pray, there is also the need for times of intercessory high praises. When we do this by God's leading, we might precipitate a very strong move of the anointing of the Holy Spirit that might make us to dance, sing and laugh in the Spirit. I have been to places where people have danced for hours in the Spirit, they praised the Lord in the Spirit, and yokes and fetters began to break all over the place. God is restoring prophetic praise to the Church. So many new things are being revealed to us in these last days through the Spirit of God. we need to know that we can possess the gates of our enemies through praise as much as we can do through prayer.

#### **6. PROPHETIC PRAYER WALKS**

This strategy was used as well in the battle of Jericho. Abraham and Joshua were also instructed by God to apply prayer walk in order to possess their possessions. (Gen. 13:14-17; Josh. 1:3-4).

This principle can be applied in possessing a disputed land or property, and it can also be a useful tool in dealing with the forces that keep believers from getting useful employments in certain organisations. They can in fasting and prayer, prophetically prayer-walk round their 'Jericho' using prophetic scriptures to deal with the gates, and the doors will open for them. Many have successfully done this with outstanding results.

#### **CONCLUSION**

I do not know which gates of Jericho are keeping you away from your inheritance,

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but this is the time for you to rise up, use whatever weapon the Holy Ghost inspires you to use and you'll find the gates breaking into pieces. If you like, you can go back to your village or town, and like Gideon of old did, destroy all the ancestral strongholds of your community. God told Gideon that his father's altar would limit and hinder him in the fulfillment of his ministry. He was commanded to pull down the altars of Baal and cut down the sacred groves around it and in its place raise another altar to Jehovah, the God of Israel (Judges 6:25-32). Gideon was afraid to do it in the day time, so, in the night he took ten of his servants out and cut down the groves and destroyed the altars of Baal. Thus, he destroyed all the altars and their associated covenants that posed a limitation to his progress. He knew they were satanic chains keeping him back, even as he struggled to go forward. Every covenant dragging you back must be broken in Jesus name. Every ancestral chain, every remote control that prevents your forward march must be cut into pieces with the Sword of the Spirit. Soon after this operation, the power of God came upon Gideon. Why? He had dealt with all the remote control devices that had tied him down through Baal altars and covenants. Gideon went into battle and won convincingly. A lot of us are limited by similar chains from our foundations. Many of us know that the 'Baal idols' and the covenant altars of our communities and father's houses are limiting us. This is the time to deal with those gates. When you deal with these things there will be total release to enter into your inheritance.

### **Today's Assignments**

1. *Ask the Lord to help you to identify certain evil gates that are opposed to you and His work in your neighbourhood, native community and in your church environment.*
2. *Within a month from now, try to find one or two other brethren with this understanding of gates, and prayer-walk in your neighbourhood and community for God's glory.*
3. *If you have employment or examination problems, try to apply the principles you've learnt in this lecture - confront the gates in strategic prayer actions.*

### **Today's Specialised Prayers**

1. *By the word and voice of the Lord, I dismantle every gate and barrier hindering the move of God in my community and nation in Jesus name.*
2. *Lift up your heads O you gates and you gate keepers that are keeping me from entering into my divinely given inheritance in Jesus mighty name.*

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**For further Information Contact  
THE MINISTRIES' ADDRESS**

### **Nigeria**

Gethsemane Miracle Centre  
32, Ladoke Akintola Rd, Sango - Eleyele Road,  
Mosafejo B/Stop, Eleyele,  
U.I. P.O. Box 14697, Ibadan.  
Tel/Fax: 234-2-8103578, 234-805-848-2959  
234-2-7516490, 234-805-659-3344, 234-803719-2945  
E-mail: info@gethsempray.org,  
gethsem@skannet.com  
website: <http://gethsempray.org>

### **Ghana**

P.O. Box 15408,  
Accra -North Accra, Ghana  
E-mail: [gethsemghana@hotmail.com](mailto:gethsemghana@hotmail.com)  
Tel: +233-277-864-287

### **The United Kingdom & Europe**

194, Winchat Road,  
Thamesmead West,  
London SE 28 ODR  
Tel: 0208-317-7272,  
0207-252-0232, 0207-252-7522

### **The United States of America**

1105, Hanover Drive,  
Euless Tx 76040  
Tel: 817-856-6670, 817-721-3496,  
202-549-2004, 907-442-4254

### **Lagos (Nigeria)**

Gethsemane Prayer Ministries Int'l  
400 Herbert Mercaulay Street,  
By Mac/s Bridal Shop,  
through Hagley Str., Junction,  
Beside Enic Book Shop,  
Jibowu, Lagos.  
Tel: 01-4733603, 08023027551,  
0805-626-5884