

“Agreement at the Gates”

April 14, 2019

Psalm 24

CORE: Just as a walled city in biblical times had gates—significant entry points in the life of that city—so our souls have “gates”—vulnerable entry points greatly impacting our lives!

1. Importance of Gates

- **Access points** where city authorities either AGREED/RECEIVED or RESISTED/REFUSED
- **Business transactions** were ratified
- **Court convened & judgments were made**
- **Public announcements/declarations** were made

2. Importance of Agreement

Twice in Psalm 24, David compares receiving the fullness of the Lord’s presence with decisions made **at the gate:**

- **“Lift up”**—to receive
- **“Heads”**—to agree with
- **“Gates”**—(root- *“shaar”*) to consider, evaluate (*i.e.*, “to see the value in”)

This process of evaluating & agreeing/disagreeing is done in our soul.

In **Psalm 19:14**, David declares:

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.”

Our words—both spoken and pondered—directly affect the fullness and flow of His activity in our souls (*i.e.*, His “living water” flowing from “our innermost being.” **John 7:38**)

A paraphrase of Psalm 19:14: “May the words of my mouth & the murmuring of my self-talk—deep within my heart (Hebrew word: “leb” meaning “soul”)—always delight and please You!”

3. CONFESS- “to fully agree; to say the same thing as”

As we stand at the gates of our souls, we make 3 powerful **‘Agreements at the Gates’**:

John 16:7-11

(Agreement with the convictions of the Holy Spirit RE: sin, righteousness, & judgment)

a. **We CONFESS SIN at the Gate.**

- Faulty understanding of “tolerance” says everyone has a right to their opinion—and every opinion is of equal value. But that isn’t tolerance—it’s insanity!
- Though everyone has a right to their opinion—everyone’s opinion isn’t right!
- It’s equally foolish to embrace the “hyper-mercy” lie that sin is no longer an issue!
- REPENTANCE is the only way to “soul alignment” with God!

“If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.” 1 John 5:7-10 NIV

- The conviction of HS is not to punish us—but to restore us!

*“Return to God totally, heart and soul, **holding nothing back!**” Deuteronomy 30:10 MSG*

- Resolve to **quickly confess—refusing to hide**, as you plunge into **His light & love!** [NOTE: Jesus forgives confessed sin—not denial or excuses!] (*i.e.*, “The Lord’s Prayer”)

b. **We RECEIVE RIGHTEOUSNESS at the Gate.** (*i.e.*, **fully restored to place of “right standing”**)

*“Since we have been **declared righteous by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ!” Romans 5:1 HCSB*

- As we fully face and confess our sin—He is faithful to fully cleanse us!
- **“In His light” we hide nothing—and receive everything!**

c. **We OVERCOME THE ENEMY at the Gate.**

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” James 4:7 NIV

- Just as we confess our sin and confess His gift of righteousness—we confess **our victory** over the enemy by his **judgment & defeat at the Cross!**
- We refuse to meditate on or speak any lies contrary to this truth! [NOTE: Specifically vows of self-loathing, shame, defeat, despair...]
- The enemy has “gates”—places of significant access & influence in the world. But...
 - His “gates” **“will not overcome”** the Church Jesus is building (**Matt. 16:8**)
 - **WE (Abraham’s “offspring”)** **“will possess the gates of the enemy!”** (**Genesis 22:17**)

AGREEMENTS:

- *As we confess sin—Jesus is faithful and fully justified to forgive us and make us clean!*
- *Because He is mighty to save us—we’re restored deeply & fully to our Father!*
- *The enemy has been defeated by Jesus—his schemes against us will fail. The Father’s purpose for our lives will be fully accomplished!*