

Messages From the Gates of Jerusalem  
#16 - Dung Gate - Part IV

Suffering in the valley doesn't necessarily yield spiritual growth.

Counsel: Lord, reveal sin I need to confess and repent of (rubbish to clear away).

Seriously come before Him to be cleansed and prepared for God's power which will be revealed in the next 3 gates. Only then can the fruit of the Spirit be produced in you.

If you want to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to be used by Him, the Dung Gate must become your friend. Consistent use of this gate yields powerful and fruitful benefits.

Truth: God expects all believers to grow, develop, change and be fashioned into Christlikeness. Paul in Heb. 6:1 urges the believer to leave spiritual babyhood behind and grow up and mature in the Word. Do ALL believers mature? NO

- a. It is possible for a Christian to go through life without much change taking place.
- b. He refuses to cooperate and expose himself to the Holy Spirit.

Question: Can a believer "fashion himself" by exposing himself to the wrong influence?

- a. The wrong influences > the "former lusts."

Eph. 2:2-3 Wherein in time past you walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, <sup>3</sup> among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

b. These forces had a part in shaping you in your past. Do not expose yourself to them any longer.

Prerequisite to Being Filled With the Spirit > CLEANSING

Two Commands to the Believer:

1<sup>st</sup> Command: Eph. 4:30 And do not \*grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

\* Grieve is a love word. You cannot grieve one who does not love you.

How do I know what grieves Him? Look at His character:

- a. John 14:17- He is the Spirit of Truth - anything false, deceitful, hypocritical - grieves Him.
- b. II Cor. 4:13- the Spirit of Faith - Doubt, unbelief, distrust, worry, anxiety-grieves Him
- c. Heb. 10:29 - the Spirit of Grace - Bitter, ungracious, unthankful, malicious, unforgiving > grieves Him.

Questions to Ponder:

Is there anyone whom I will not forgive or to whom I will not speak? Is there bitterness in my heart toward God? Do I spend my day murmuring against my circumstances?

- d. Rom. 1:4 - Spirit of Holiness - anything unclean, defiling, degrading > grieves Him

Questions: Do I harbor unclean thoughts? What am I watching and listening to?

- e. Eph. 1:17 - Spirit of Wisdom - ignorance, conceit, arrogance, folly > grieves Him

Consider: The Holy Spirit stands ready to teach me and to reveal the deep things of the Word. My ignorance of the Bible, my pride in my own knowledge and ability grieve Him.

f. II Tim. 1:7 - Spirit of Power, Love & Discipline - our weaknesses, fruitlessness, disorderliness and lack of control > grieves Him

g. Rom. 8:2 - Spirit of Life - anything that savors of indifference, lukewarmness, dullness or deadness > grieves Him

Question: Do I go for days without opening my Bible? Do I prefer to spend time in my desires rather than in prayer?

h. I Pet. 3:14 - Spirit of Glory - That which is worldly, earthly or fleshly grieves Him. Am I carnally minded? Love the world? Is my heart set upon things of earth?

A.W.Tozer: "The Spirit cannot fill whom He cannot separate, and whom He cannot fill, He cannot make holy, and whom He cannot make holy, He cannot make joyful."

Prayer: "Father, cleanse my heart and fix it so I may perfectly love You and worthily praise You."

### Holy Spirit's Purpose in me

a. The Holy Spirit dwells within me to enable me "to grow up into Christ in all things," and to bring me daily "into conformity to His image."

b. Putting to death the deeds of the body is a continual process the believer must engage in on a daily basis. When you submit to this daily, the Holy Spirit can "grow you" and mold you into the image of God's Son.

Truth: ANYTHING which hinders Him from carrying out this purpose grieves Him.

1) To indulge known sin means that I am living with a grieved Spirit.

2) God does not require golden or silver vessels, but He does demand clean, empty ones.

2<sup>nd</sup> Command: I Thess. 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit.

a. We GRIEVE the Spirit when we say YES to Satan when he lures us into sin.

We QUENCH the Spirit when we say NO to God as He woos us into sanctification & service.

Ponder: To bring the believer wholly into the will of God is, perhaps, the Holy Spirit's hardest task.

Truth: I must make a deliberate choice to do God's will in all things, at all times, at all cost.

I must firmly fix my heart upon the doing of God's will as the rule for daily life and permit no exception to the rule.

b. He brings into the light the sin that is in my life. The more completely He fills me the more perfect will be the revelation and recognition of sin.

c. The nearer God comes to me the more sensitive to sin am I made.

d. So long as I am living with a grieved or quenched Spirit, I CANNOT be filled.

Truth: Now, you must engage your own will in the direction of God's will for your life.

a. You "fashion yourself" by exposing yourself to the divine power which shapes you.

b. Tozer: "Stay out, you devilish influences, in the name of my Savior! Let my soul alone - it belongs to God."

### Believer's Part in Becoming Spirit-filled > YIELDING

a. God has given us all we need in His Son and the Holy Spirit to enable us to live the abundant life.

b. I must make the decision to be continuously filled with the Spirit.

Tozer: "Most of us are as filled with the Holy Spirit as we want to be."

c. God has set a FEAST before me, but He will not compel me to eat.

d. God has opened the door into the abundant life, but He will not force me to enter.

e. God has placed in His bank a deposit that makes me a spiritual millionaire, but He does not write the checks.

f. The responsibility for fullness or the lack of fullness is in my hands.

g. God is hindered by only 1 thing > the room that I give Him to fill.

Truth: The Holy Spirit works to bring me to refuse the further reign of self and to choose the sovereignty of Christ over my life by yielding to Him as Lord and Master.

"I cannot pray Thy Kingdom come until I am willing to pray "my kingdom go."

h. To yield my life to Him unconditionally is the first step.

"God cannot work through me until I allow Him to work in me."

I Cor. 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

i. God needs our body as a channel for a revelation of Himself to the world.

j. I belong to Christ by the right of purchase. Christ's claim to the undivided possession and control of my life is an absolutely legitimate claim.

Consider: My attitude needs to change from: "Must I give myself totally to Him?" to "Lord, may I give myself totally to You?"

Yielding: Definite, voluntary transference of the undivided possession, control and use of my whole being, spirit, soul and body, from SELF to CHRIST, to whom it rightfully belongs by creation and purchase.

Truth: It is not in order to be His, but because WE ARE HIS, that we yield to Him.

a. Purchase gives title to property.

b. It is only DELIVERY of the property that gives possession.

Have you delivered unto Him that which is His? Have you moved out so He may move in?

God's way is to constrain us to yield by His love rather than to conquer us by force.

Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.

*Burnt Offering of the old covenant describes the dying of the flesh in the New Covenant*

Animals were cut in pieces which were then burned. The animal's inward part and the feet were washed with pure water in the offering.

Spiritual Application > The process of the dying of the flesh: We die in the flesh piece by piece as the burnt offering was also burnt in pieces. The offering of the inward parts and feet washed with pure water conveys a vivid picture of our walk.

Inward part (our heart) must be washed with pure water, the water of the Word.

When our heart is cleaned, and we do the will of God, our walk is pure, and acceptable to Him.

Pure Feet pictures walking in the will of God by the power of the Holy Spirit who does the work of purifying our heart by putting our flesh to death.

Tozer: "God is not honored by our arrested development. The New Testament teaches that we should go on to full maturity, that mediocrity is not the highest life that Jesus offers!"

The Biblical account of the Israelites' crisis at Kadesh-Barnea teaches us the Promised Land (abundant life) is ours when we by faith submit to God and allow Him to lead us in victory.

1. The day after they refused to enter Kadesh-Barnea, they were to start on their long march through the wilderness. This was God's judgment.
2. They refused to obey. They may have "mourned greatly," and said, "We have sinned," but this was regret and not true repentance.
3. They moved from rebellion to presumption that they can now obey, fight the enemy on their own and take possession of their Promised Land.
4. Since Israel was not right with God, they cannot claim God's help as they sought to conquer the land.
5. They went out to do battle without Moses, the ark, the cloud leading them or the silver trumpets blowing. Tried to gain the Promised Land on their own - strength of the flesh.
6. Num. 14:44 They presumed to go up to the mountaintop. Presumed > to be lifted up; proud, arrogant; swelled up with one's own importance.
7. God's warning: I will not be with you. Man's effort without God's blessing > much harm.
8. The enemy chased them over 100 miles north.
9. There is no substitute for faith in God's promises and obedience to His commandments.
10. Obey God in spite of how I feel, what I see or what I think might happen.

God will sift out those who only speculate and know about the claims of Christ and the abundant life. He will lead forward to experience the abundant life those who by His grace are willing to submit to the control of the Holy Spirit to be conformed to His image.

The story of Gideon illustrates how God is seeking His qualities in us. Gideon was facing the enemy and he had an army of 32,000 soldiers. God said that was too many. Those who are afraid should turn back. 22,000 of the men turned back. God said there is still too many. I see some in the 10,000 left who are not prepared for what we are going to do. They will never be a soldier. God was putting emphasis on quality -on those who would cooperate in the performance of the will of God. Gideon took them to the river and tested them as God ordered. After the test, there were 300 soldiers.

Truth: God is seeking those who are willing that their life should be fashioned according to His will and grace. He sifts out those who cannot see God's purpose and design for the blessing of the abundant life.

In light of the abundant life that Jesus offers me, how can I settle for anything less?

Many of us have spiritual desire and long for victory, but it seems our effort to go on with God bring more bumps, testings and discouragement.

You are tempted to say, "How long can this go on?"

Consider: The Journey of Jesus to Glory and Immortal Triumph

1. Luke 22:44 Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.
2. Remember Pilate's hall where they put on Him the purple robe and smote Him.
3. Remember His experience with His closest disciples as they all forsook Him and fled.
4. Remember the journey up the hill to Calvary.
5. Remember how they nailed Him to a cross - Why have You forsaken me?
6. Remember the darkness and the surrender of His spirit in death.

Truth This was the PATH that Jesus took to everlasting glory and immortal triumph.

As He is, so are we in this world!

Clearing away the rubbish in my life is never easy but the benefits will bring supernatural power in my life. The key to The Dung Gate is daily confession, cleansing and filling of the Holy Spirit. It speaks of a posture of humility and submission to God in the heart of a believer. If the valley experiences I go through do not lead me into repentance then they are wasted and I am not cleansed.

Heart's Desire: I want to be totally given up to Your purpose for me. (Pencil)

I desire for the Holy Spirit to cut away from me everything that is not like Jesus.

I want to be an instrument for Your glory. I want to be empowered for Your service.

I am committed to obedience for sanctification by the Holy Spirit.

The desire of my heart is for absolute surrender to God's will and purpose for me.

Neh. 3:14 "The Dung Gate was repaired by Malkijah son of Recab, ruler of the district of Beth Hakkerem. He rebuilt it and put its doors and bolts and bars in place"

This gate represents the sold out, consecrated, surrendered spirit-filled life of the child of God. The hinges on this gate must be well oiled because of the frequent use.

Notice in Neh. 4:10, Nehemiah said, "There is much rubbish- not able to build the walls".

Notice only one name of a worker is mentioned. Few will enter into the sold out, surrendered life that awaits the child of God who will utilize the Dung Gate.

Few will ever come to the point of sacrifice that is required in order to step into the realm of "I surrender all."