

Messages From the Gates of Jerusalem  
#17 - Fountain Gate - Is The Spirit-Filled Life for Me?

Matthew Henry: "A lamb was to be offered upon the altar every morning, and a lamb every evening. This typified the continual intercession which Christ ever lives to make for His church. Though He offered Himself but once for all, that one offering becomes a continual offering. The continual burnt-offerings were placed at the doorway to the Tabernacle and were offered in obedience to God's promise to dwell among Israel. This was the pathway to God. This teaches us to daily offer God our spiritual sacrifices of prayer and praise. Our daily devotions are the most needful of our daily works, and the most pleasant of our daily comforts. Prayer-time must be kept up as duly as meal-time. Those starve their own souls, who keep not up constant attendance on the throne of grace; constancy in religion brings in the comfort of it."

Ps. 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.

Isaiah 59: 1-2 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. <sup>2</sup> But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden *His* face from you, so that He will not hear.

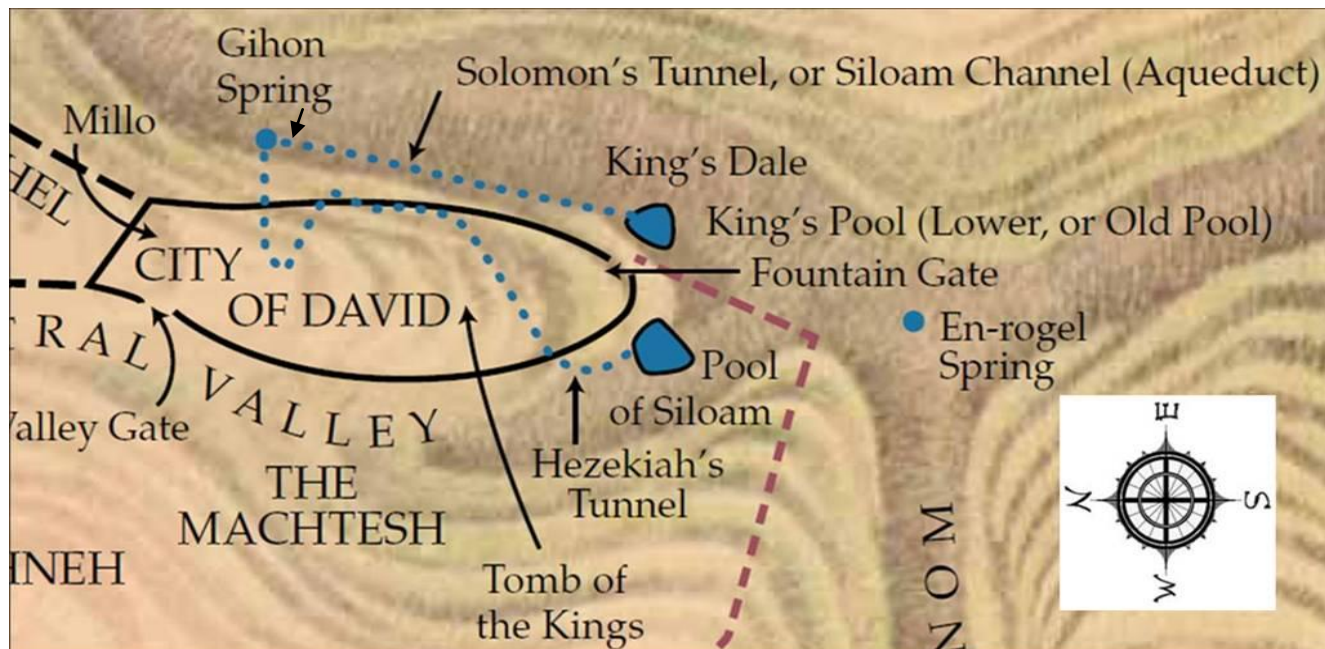
Truth: 1. My obedience to daily offer myself a living sacrifice, wholly and acceptable to God  
2. My obedience to be transformed by the renewing of my mind  
3. My obedience to confess my sins so I can be an empty, clean vessel for His use  
4. My yielding for absolute surrender  
5. My posture before Him with a perpetual fire and its ascending smoke >>>>>>>>  
*Gateway to the Fountain Gate and the Spirit-filled Life*

Truth: "The Spirit-filled life is NOT a special, deluxe edition of Christianity. It is part and parcel of the total plan of God for His people."

The Fountain Gate appeared to be the gate that was in the worst condition. There was so much rubbish that the ruins of this gate actually blocked Nehemiah's journey when he made a secret reconnaissance of the city walls during the night. (Neh. 2:13-15) When he approached the Fountain Gate, he had to turn back because he could go no further until it was repaired.

The Fountain Gate was the primary access to the Fountain located at the Gihon Spring which was Jerusalem's only reliable source of water. In times of drought, the Gihon Spring would still flow freely. Since this water of life was unending and Jerusalem could last a lot longer with good clean water, Nebuchadnezzar's army centered its attack upon the Fountain Gate.

Spiritually, The Fountain Gate represents our building a strong relationship with Jesus Christ and being filled with the Holy Spirit. Drinking of that Living Water means that we are continually drinking of His mercy, His grace, His love and His resurrection power. We are ever seeking and needing more. We need to be continuously filled with the Holy Spirit.



Notice the progression. The valley gate and dung gate stood for humility and repentance. The fountain gate represents Spirit fullness. We must humble ourselves, yield, confess and repent before we can be filled with the Spirit! You can't fill something that's full of something else. The Holy Spirit of God won't force Himself on immature Christians. Only those who are hungry for it will ever experience it.

Do you desire the Living Water to flow in you? It will NOT flow until you have dealt with the garbage and refuse in your life that clogs up the "drains, the pipes and water system." Living Water flows when you get rid of the refuse and the Lord has a free hand to do the things He needs to do in our lives. Notice the close proximity of the Fountain Gate to the Dung Gate. The Holy Spirit is immediately available and rushes in to the obedient, yielded believer.

### Enemies of and Hindrances to the Spirit-Filled Life

1. Satan and his forces

a. Conspiracy of the Enemies to overthrow the work

Neh. 4:7-8 *Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, they became very angry,<sup>8</sup> and all of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion.*

Neh. 4:14-15 *And I looked, and arose and said to the nobles, to the leaders, and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight... And it happened, when our enemies heard that it (their conspiracy) was known to us, and that God had brought their plot to nothing, that all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work.*

Romans 8:31 *If God be for us, who can be against us?*

b. Join the Holy Spirit in the spiritual battle for the power gates in your life. The Fountain Gate's spiritual counterpart in my life will be a target of concentrated and continual Satanic

attack as he attempts to destroy my relationship with Jesus Christ and cut off the Living Water. He will do all in his power to distract me, discourage and prevent me from the use of the Dung Gate. He will make every effort to hinder my prayer life and Bible study time.

If he is successful:

1. I will lose my focus which will result in my vessel being clogged with unconfessed sin.
2. I will not be a clean, empty surrendered vessel that God can work in and use.
3. If the Holy Spirit has very little influence in my life, I will not be a Spirit-filled Christian.
4. I am not obedient to the command: *Glorify Him and be conformed to the image of His Son.*
5. I am "unplugged" from my power source. His ability to work in me is quenched.
6. Attacked by his fiery darts, I can experience frustration and defeat.

How can I be assured of victory?

a. Take a stance of defense; commit (to deposit for safekeeping) and submit to the Holy Spirit; Set your mind to the task.

Neh. 2:18 Nehemiah encouraged the people to "rise up and build." They set their hand to this good work.

b. Difficulties will be encountered; the enemy will rise up to stop the work.

Neh 4:11 *And our adversaries said, They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease.*

c. Prayer and watchfulness are vital to the success of the task.

Neh 4:9 *Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them. Note: The enemy DID NOT LEAVE after prayer.*

2. The Fountain of Life can be Refused

This fountain (Gihon Spring) represents the source of life, God Himself.

Psalm 36:9 For with You *is* the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.

Isaiah 8:6-7 Inasmuch as these people refused the waters of Shiloah that flow softly, And rejoice in Rezin and in Remaliah's son (Pekah); Now therefore, behold, the Lord brings up over them the waters of the River, strong and mighty—The king of Assyria and all his glory; Background: Isaiah is showing the rulers of Judah (Southern Kingdom) their mistake by trusting Assyria instead of trusting the LORD.

1. Israelites were angry that the Assyrians were dominating the kingdom of Israel.
2. Pekah (King of Israel) and Rezin (King of Aram) formed an alliance to attack Jerusalem and try to force Ahaz, King of Judah, to join their alliance against Assyria.
3. Ahaz, King of Judah, turned to Assyria for help. Faction of Judah > Pro-Assyrian
4. Judah had been warned to make no alliances. Their trust and strength was in the LORD. They thought an alliance with Assyria was the safest course to follow for their protection.
5. Judah KNEW the Assyrians were invading Israel and took many as captives.
6. Instead of trusting the LORD ("the waters of Shiloah, that go softly,") they trusted the great river of Assyria.
7. What they didn't realize: This river would become a flood when Assyria would come and destroy Israel and devastate Judah.

8. God offered His people PEACE, but in unbelief they opted for war. (Sight > Not faith)  
The waters that flowed out from the upper pool of the Gihon through that deep and secure conduit were those spoken of in Isaiah 8:6 as "the waters of Shiloah that go softly". This gently flowing current of the channel brook ran from the Gihon spring all the way down the eastern side of the City of David, where it debouched (emerge from a narrow or confined space into a wide, open area). into frequent pools of water through a number of openings that would have been cut in the channel's eastern side. It was the very slight fall between the Gihon and the southern end of the city that gave the stream its gently flowing nature. Their smooth, peaceful flow was typical of the silent and unseen working of God. Yet they refused to hear, and remained blind to the all-wise and all-powerful Creator who had chosen them to be His Own special nation. Instead they sought alliance with the great world-power of Assyria which, like its own mighty river, would one day overflow into their land with waves of death and destruction.

Truth The enemy's goal is to choke out the Spirit-filled Life in me.

Questions: Am I indifferent to the call of God to be conformed to the image of His Son? Am I neglecting the power of the Holy Spirit who lives in me? Have I considered the consequences if I refuse to allow the Holy Spirit to fill and control me?

### 3. The Fountain of Life can be Forsaken

Before Israel had been led off into captivity, Jeremiah had prophesied:

Jer. 2:11-13 But My people have changed their *Glory* for *what* does not profit.

Be astonished, O heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid; Be very desolate," says the LORD."My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water"

Israel had committed many sins before God's judgment began to fall but of all the sins that brought them down, these two sins were singled out by God as the most severe.

These two sins remain the most severe in the Church and lives of believers too:

- a. Forsaking the spring of living water - leaving Jesus to chase after the things of the world believing that things have the power to make us fulfilled.
- b. Building broken cisterns - we build ourselves great empires, well-planned lives, and provisions for retirement, but we forsake the things that really matter for eternity.

A cistern was like a well, built into the ground, but had no independent source of water. Water was brought from another source to the cistern, through different types of conduits, such as ditches, pipes or aqueducts. It was stored for future use. The Lord likens those who trust in their own resources to those who build broken cisterns - their lives leak joy, peace, faith and strength. The conduits that connect them to the source of life, Jesus Christ, have been broken, cut off and destroyed.

Israel forsook the true God for false gods. This is like abandoning a spring of fresh, flowing water for a cracked, muddy cistern that cannot hold water. What a foolish thing to do!

Question: Will I exchange my future glory that will reap profit for what will bring no future glory or profit?

Frustration: How To Live a life Pleasing to God

Romans 7 is the picture of the carnal Christian who is trying to live the life in the strength of his flesh. In 10 verses, "the Law" is mentioned 21 x;

"I" or "Me" is used 40 times and the Holy Spirit is not mentioned.

Romans 8 is the picture of the spiritual Christian. "I" is used only 2 times; Holy Spirit 18x

Truth: The New Will is a permanent gift and part of our new nature. The Power "to do" is NOT a permanent gift. The "doing" is received moment by moment from the Holy Spirit. ONLY by the power of the Holy Spirit can I live a holy life and manifest the fruit of the Spirit.

Consider: If a person receives eternal salvation and the fullness of the indwelling Holy Spirit by trusting in the crucified Christ, WHY in the world would he trade SUPERNATURAL POWER for human effort?

The Holy Spirit, our power source, is Christ's gift to every believer.

Jesus told His disciples before His ascension:

1. He will live in them as an abiding spiritual Presence.
2. There would be a divine inflow of Life supernatural in quality and a divine outflow of Life supernatural in power.
3. The Disciples are to live as He lived and work as He worked.
4. To provide the POWER for this Life, He promised them "another Comforter" would come to take up His permanent abode in them.
5. Christ fulfilled this promise on the Day of Pentecost.
6. Every believer receives the Holy Spirit when he receives Jesus as His Savior.

It is impossible to accept Jesus and to refuse the Spirit.

The Spirit-Filled Life 1. We have eternal life through Jesus Christ the Son.

2. We have Abundant Life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Eph. 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the POWER THAT WORKS IN US...

3. Through the Son the sinner leaves the sphere of the natural and enters the sphere of the spiritual.

4. Through the Holy Spirit, the believer is lifted to the highest heights of life on the spiritual plane.

5. It is God's purpose that EVERY BELIEVER should live a life of deep, maturing and growing spirituality.

6. The Holy Spirit lives within us to accomplish this in 3 ways:

- a. He reveals through the Word the fullness available in the glorified Christ.
- b. He creates in our heart a desire for His fullness.
- c. He acts as the channel for its transmission from Him to us.

Truth: The fullness of life in Christ indicates continuing advancement in our relationship with the Holy Spirit. The highest point the believer can reach in relationship to the Holy Spirit is found the command in Eph. 5:18 - BE FILLED (Continuously) WITH THE SPIRIT.

This is every Christian's need, command, prerogative and responsibility.

Truth: Refusal of the abundant life through the Holy Spirit is the greatest sin of the believer.

Joshua 18:3 "How long will you neglect to go and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers has given you?"

Truth: The fullness of the Holy Spirit is not optional but obligatory.

Acts 4:31 "They were ALL filled with the Holy Spirit."

My Birthright as a Born-again Believer > The fullness of the Holy Spirit and His imparting to me the Abundant Life

A. OUR BIRTHRIGHT as Born-Again Believers also includes:

1. Heirs according to the promise made to Abraham - Galatians 3:29
2. Joint-heirs with Christ - Romans 8:16-17
  - a. Heirs according to the hope of eternal life - Titus 3:7
  - b. Heirs of the kingdom which He has promised - James 2:5; II Peter 1:11
3. In Him, all things are ours - I Corinthians 3:21-23; Revelation 21:7
4. Inheritance is incorruptible, undefiled, doesn't fade away, reserved in heaven - I Peter 1:4
5. Not just limited to things in the hereafter! - Mark 10:28-30

Question: What value do I place on my inheritance?

A. Am I SELLING My BIRTHRIGHT?

Gen. 25:31-34 But Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright as of this day." Esau said, "Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?" Then Jacob said, "Swear to me as of this day." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way.

Esau forfeited his birthright to his younger brother, Jacob, to satisfy a fleshly gratification, a single meal. In Genesis 25:34 we read that Esau "*despised his birthright.*" The Greek word in the Septuagint version of the Old Testament translated "despised" implies that Esau regarded the birthright as a paltry, a mere trifle. It was only later, at a time when it was too late, that Esau realized the value of that which he had sold.

Truth: Our most precious inheritances have come to us by grace and yet from time to time we exchange them for a miserable bowl of lentils.

What is my bowl of lentils today? It is anything that comes ahead of seeking God's will and walking with Him. Our behavior reveals our values. Have you exchanged something in your life for something far less worthy? Satan can rob a child of God of his birthright through uncontrollable desires because he tempts us at the point of our needs. One of the blessings or strengths we have in the Lord is the enablement of the Spirit to control our appetites and desires.

Do I truly desire the Spirit-Filled Life?