

WINNING YOUR EVERYDAY SPIRITUAL BATTLES

SESSION 3

REMINDER: **Winning our everyday spiritual battles happens as we learn to...**

- **recognize the strategies of the devil,**
- **refuse to cooperate with the strategies of the devil, and**
- **aggressively cut off the strategies of the devil in the name of Jesus.**

THE GATES

Matthew 16:18-19 (NLT)¹ - *Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the **powers** of hell will not conquer it. ¹⁹And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven."*

The Greek word for "powers" is actually the word "gates."

- More literal translations will use the word "gates," but the NLT is trying to help us to understand the concept as opposed to the literal word.

Gates and Doors

John 10:9 - Yes, ***I am the gate.*** *Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures.*

Revelation 3:20 - *"Look! I stand at the **door** and knock. If you hear my voice and open the **door**, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.*

Psalms 24:9 - *Open up, **ancient gates!** Open up, **ancient doors,** and let the King of glory enter.*

Genesis 22:17 - *I will certainly bless you. I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will conquer the **cities of their enemies.***

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- Literally “shall possess the gate of his enemies”

In the Bible, gates were the places where decisions were made.

- Gates are an access point - the way in and the way out.

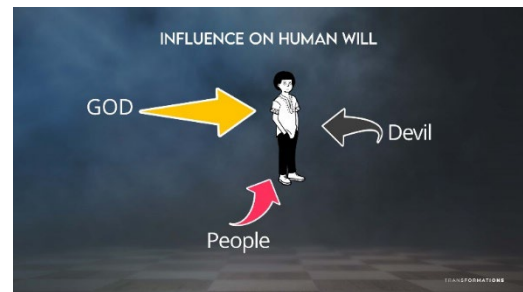
For us, that access point is the human choice

- The devil gets access through human choice.
 - A person’s will = the gates
- The devil has as much power as people allow him.
- When my will is turned over to ungodliness/unrighteousness, it becomes a gate of hell.
 - This is true both individually and corporately
 - We can see it in individuals (how they have allowed their choices to become a conduit for the enemy) but we also see it in cultures, societies, and even churches.

Human Will

Three influences on human will – God, the devil, other humans

- **God’s Influence**
 - Convict, Reveal
- **The devil’s Influence**
 - Tempt, deceive, bind, confuse
- **The Church’s Influence**
 - Pray, bind, preach, love neighbor



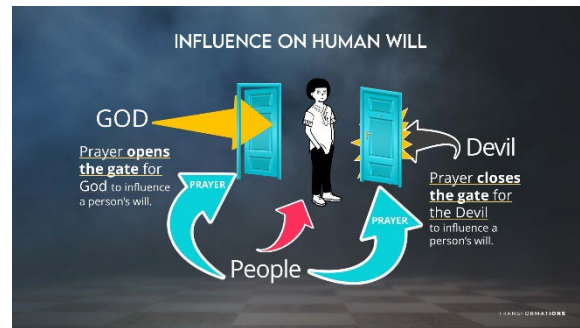
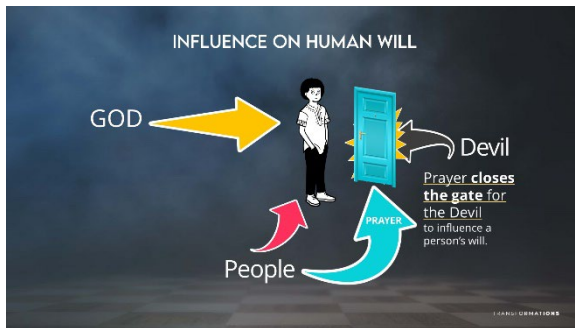
The whole focus of God, the devil and other humans is to influence the will of society.

- If I tell you that Jesus loves you and has a plan for your life, I am appealing to your will.
- When I pray for God to work in your life, I’m praying that God will influence your will.
- When I bind the work the enemy is doing, I am praying to influence your will.

Gate Access (Human Choice)

Two things we can do with gates: shut and open.

Shut	Open
Defensive Concerned with you Stand firm Goalie Ephesians 6:13 - <i>Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.</i>	Offensive Concerned with others Go into all the world Stand Against Ephesians 6:11 - <i>Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.</i>



Spiritual warfare is also taking aggressive offensive postures.

Every Christian should be involved with both.

Unfortunately, most Christians just focus on defense.

Mark 16:15 - *And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone."*

Matthew 28:19 - *Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

- Go
- Preach the Gospel to individuals
- Heal
- Drive out demons

ACTIVATION — ASK GOD: "What are some of the things that are exerting influence on my will?" (both good and bad) and listen to what He has to say.

SHUTTING GATES

Thought Life

Thoughts (head problems) which affect every Christian:

- Inferiority, discontent, condemnation.
- Thought life issues are not just lust, so many more things – pride, unbelief, criticism, etc.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 - *We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. ⁴ We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. ⁵ We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.*

Make your mind agree with truth, the Word of God and God's opinion.

Heart (Attitude and Emotions)

Proverbs 4:23 - *Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.*

Matthew 15:19 - *For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander.*

Ephesians 4:26-27 - *And "don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ for anger gives a foothold to the devil.*

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 - *When you forgive this man, I forgive him, too. And when I forgive whatever needs to be forgiven, I do so with Christ's authority for your benefit, ¹¹ so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes.*

- Your enemy is the devil

1 Peter 5:6-9 - *So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. ⁷ Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. ⁸ Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.*

Make your decisions on the Word of God, not on feelings alone.



Words of the Mouth

Through the mouth comes: Human Spirit, Holy Spirit, Evil Spirit

James 3:10 - *And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!*

- You can aid the attack of the enemy on someone by your mouth.
- You also have the power to release blessing.

Matthew 16:15-19 - *Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?"* ¹⁶ *Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."* ¹⁷ *Jesus replied, "You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being."* ¹⁸ *Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.* ¹⁹ *And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven."*

- **Forbid** – Greek word is bind, tie, lock
- **Permit** – Greek word is loose, break, destroy, put off, open

Psalm 141:3 - *Take control of what I say, O Lord, and guard my lips.*

Relationships

Matthew 18:15-22 - *If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back.* ¹⁶ *But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses.* ¹⁷ *If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.* ¹⁸ *I tell you the truth, whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.* ¹⁹ *I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you.* ²⁰ *For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.*

Same Greek words here – but this time tied to right relationships.

- Forgiving each other.
- Agreeing with one another
- In communion with one another

Relationships are important in our ability to bind and loose in the heavenlies.

- If you forgive, you bind, you cut off the enemy.
- If you're in unforgiveness, you're allowing the work of the enemy.

ACTIVATION — CLOSING GATES

Do you have some gates open to the enemy that need to be closed?

e.g. unforgiveness, thought life, insecurity, etc.

Verbally process these with God.

e.g. ask God to forgive, change thoughts, reveal Himself, etc