

THEME: Entering His Gates

TEXTS: Psalm 24:7 – 10: Lift up your heads, o ye gates...
Psalm 100:4: Enter His Gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!
1 Samuel Chapters 1, 2 & 3: The Birth of Samuel

The Theme was started by Rev. Alex Donkor the previous Sunday and we learnt that if we come into the presence of God we receive forgiveness, favour and fellowship. We now continue the topic to find out why the need to Enter His Gates.

According to the Collins English Dictionary, “Enter” has 13 meanings: - to come or go into a place, house etc; to pierce, introduce, join a party, organization, become involved, take part, record a name, etc. on a list, come into possession, place evidence, a plea before a court of law, occupy land among others.

“Gate”, according to the same dictionary, has 16 meanings: - a movable barrier, usually hinged, for closing an opening in a wall, fence etc; an opening to allow passage into and out of an enclosed place; any means of entrance or access; a gap; the number of people admitted to a sporting event or entertainment, a large airport any of the numbered exits leading to the airfield or aircraft.

Entering His Gates simply means coming into God’s house, which is walled with a gate to secure the enclosed space.

The question now is: Why will somebody think of entering somewhere? Where is that somewhere? What will make somebody enter a gate? What is that gate?

In Matthew 7:13, we are made aware of two gates – “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.” Which one will you enter and why?

Series of such questions keep on baffling your mind and by the time you finish answering them you will know the need for you to Enter God’s Gate and be in His Presence.

Hannah’s position is a perfect example. Year by year, Hannah and husband, Elkanah went to Shiloh to worship the Lord and sacrifice offerings unto Him. She had no child until, her rival, Peninnah provoked her because she had children, then Hannah entered God’s presence, prayed and the Gate of childbirth was opened for her and she gave birth to Samuel...after loaning him to God, she had 3 sons and 2 daughters in addition.

Nobody enters somebody’s gate without a purpose. Before you get up to go, you might have made up your mind already as you know exactly where you are going and the purpose for which you are going.

You are also sure that you will not be disappointed because of the trust and confidence you have in that person. Although we are admonished not to put our trust in man for the arm of flesh will fail us, yet we are adamant as a result of the hope we have in the person.

Why would you even think of entering someone's gate? Because you have a need for something. There is pressure from somewhere or from within.

We live the Word in the World: - We have our morning devotion and pray before we go to bed at night. We go to church, sing, pray and hear the Word of God. We fulfil our obligations in the church by way of paying our tithes, redeeming our pledges and giving seed offerings. Nevertheless, we are still grappling with worldly problems such as we read from Galatians 5:19-21: - "Now the works of the flesh are evident; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

We get up to enter a gate because we realize that there is a MISSING LINK somewhere in our life, which must be filled. What then is that missing link?

You will discover that though you fulfil your obligations and are a regular attendant at church, yet you may not be submissive or obedient to your pastor. This is the missing link. You obey your pastor but do not respect members in the congregation. This is also a missing link. If you are rich and fail to help the poor or visit the sick, it is another missing link. Failing to contribute to church projects or attend church programmes can all be referred to as missing links.

You are in dire need of a life partner or a child and God grants your request and any of them turns to be a stumbling block for you to attend church activities, it is a missing link.

You are in search of a job and you are not getting it, the moment you "consult" or suspect or even murmur, it is a missing link for you have forgotten that 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 tell us to pray without ceasing; and to give thanks in everything. We can go on, and on, and on, and tall the list; but we will never exhaust it.

It is good to acquire money to be rich, but the means of acquisition should be our concern as some people use "dubious" means. We should always remember what Proverbs 28:20 tells us that "A faithful man will abound with blessings, but whoever hastens to be rich will not go unpunished."

As the "missing links" get piled up, it gets to a point whereby we realise that we are hollow for there is a gap in our life. We can see ourselves as the Prodigal or Lost Son in Luke 15:11-32 who in verse 17 came to himself and realised how rich his father was and had everything while he suffered and therefore repented and returned home. In like manner, when we come to ourselves, we must repent and seek the face of God and be in His presence. It is a turning point in our lives.

This is where we deem it necessary to ENTER HIS GATES because we are

E	–	Empty
N	–	Naked
T	–	Tattered
E	–	Exhausted
R	–	Ragged

Surely, we are optimistic that we will

G – Get
A – Anointing
T – To
E – Eschew
S – Sin

The Gates leading to God's presence are many and varied and are safe and secure. The Gates are many and varied because each and everyone has a different need; but all the Gates lead to the same One and Only God of our Hope, and they serve the same purpose. The Gates can be compared to a large airport, with all the numbered exits leading to the aircraft or airfield called Gates.

Let us examine 7 points why we should Enter His Gates.

In the Presence of God we receive:

1. Pardon: Psalm 5:7: - But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy.
2. Power: Matthew 28:18: - All power is given unto me in heaven and on earth.
3. Patience: James 1:3: - Know that the testing of your faith produces patience.
4. Protection: Rom. 8:31, 37-39: If God be for us, who can be against us? ...In all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
5. Promotion: Psalm 75:6: - For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the north, nor from the south; but from the Lord.
6. Prosperity: Psalm 1:3: - And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither; and whatsoever he does shall prosper.
7. Peace: John 14:27: - Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you.

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we all know our hearts; let us find out where we fall short and turn over a new leaf. It is never too late.

We should not forget that Jesus came for those who are sick; not the righteous as found in Matthew 9:12.

Let us therefore come into His Presence, knowing our individual Gates to which we must Enter to get abundant blessings for He is faithful and will always go by His Promises if we also obey His Commandments.

Amen.