

Keeping Your Gates Shut

Matthew 16:13-19 (ESV)

“Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’

He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

**Gates/doors in Scripture speak of
the authority and access points.**

Revelation 3:20

“Behold I stand at the door and knock if any man will open then I will come in and have fellowship with him.”

Four Gates We Are to Keep Shut

1. Thoughts

Pride

Proverbs 8:13

“I hate pride and arrogance.”

Criticism and judgment

Fear

Unbelief

Strife

Strife

James 3:16 “For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.”

2. Attitudes and Negative Emotions

Proverbs 4:23

“Keep your heart carefully.”

Matthew 23:27

“You look good on the outside but on the inside you are full of dead man’s bones.”

Ephesians 4:26-27

“In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.”

1 Peter 5:6

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

3. Words

James 3:10

“Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.”

4. Relationships

Matthew 5:23

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift."