

## Jeremiah 6:27 (NLT)

“Jeremiah, I have made you a tester of metals, that you may determine the quality of my people.



### Communion

✝ The Body of Jesus Christ  
Matthew 27:50-53 (NIV)

**50** And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

**51** At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split

**52** and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.

**53** They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

✝ The Blood of Jesus Christ  
Hebrews 10:19-21 (MSG)

**19-21** So, friends, we can now—without hesitation—walk right up to God, into “the Holy Place.” Jesus has cleared the way by the blood of his sacrifice, acting as our priest before God. The “curtain” into God’s presence is his body.

## CONFRONTING THE STRONGMAN/STRONGHOLD AT THE GATES OF WORSHIP

✚ Mark 1:12 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> Immediately the Spirit **drove** Him into the wilderness.

<sup>13</sup> And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.

(Jesus Christ is portrayed as a Servant Leader in the Book of Mark)

Greek

ekballo: I throw, cast, put out, banish, bring forth, produce

usage: sent him out

✚ Recordings of Jesus' temptations  
Matthew 4:1-11 (emphasis on vs 1, 8-10)

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.

<sup>9</sup> "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and **worship me.**"

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: **'Worship** the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" (Deut. 6:13)

Luke 4:1-13 (emphasis on vs 1-2a, 5-7)

<sup>1</sup> Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

<sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.

<sup>5</sup> The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.

<sup>6</sup> And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to.

<sup>7</sup> If you **worship me**, it will all be yours."

<sup>8</sup> Jesus answered, "it is written, **worship** the Lord your God and serve Him only". (Deut. 6:13)

## Talking Points

- Jesus was "sent out" by the Holy Spirit to go and address 3 ancient gates, head-on. (Genesis 3:6; 1 John 2:16; Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13)
  - i) Lust of the flesh
  - ii) Lust of the eyes
  - iii) The pride of life
- He was not given the opportunity to wait for situations from any of these gates to arise, first. No! He had to confront and conquer them by the leadership and empowerment of the Spirit of God.
- Jesus Christ provided for us strategies on how to conquer at these gates. Anyone in ministry **MUST** encounter these gates; however, remember that Jesus Christ won the victory.  
Therefore, when we confront these gates with this mindset and apply the same strategies as Christ did, we will overcome.

Note: Ministry is anything we do for Christ; as unto him and for His glory.

## THE OUTGIVERS MINISTRIES

- Jesus came to that gate (called the pride of life) and decided to pass through and get to the other side (the presence of God), then, the alarm went off (got the devil's attention). The devil demanded dues to be paid. But Jesus turned down his request.
- Notice that Jesus Christ was not afraid to **CONFRONT** the devil. That is what we have come to do tonight.

Purposefully IDENTIFY and CONFRONT

-the obstacles that stand in our way of total surrender in worship (e.g. pride, ego, flesh (carnality), self).

- the high places (lifestyles) that the enemy has set us upon and promised us rewards.
- the areas (weaknesses) of our life that we fear to address (those are hindrances at the gate of worship).
- the limitations that we feel uncomfortable exposing and consciously working on.
- the insecurities that stagnate us.

What will it take?

Proactivity by the Spirit of God, not passivity.

Jesus Christ was proactive, therefore, we ought to be proactive.



✚ Vs 1-2 (NIV)

**1** This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:

**2** “Stand at the gate of the LORD’s house and there proclaim this message: “Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah who come through these gates to worship the LORD

Surrender your baggage at the door so that you can then enter his presence – baggage free. Otherwise, face the consequences.

Prayer Point – James 5:4 (NIV)

**7** Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

## Romans 12:1 (TPT)

Beloved friends, what should be our proper response to God's marvelous mercies? To surrender yourselves to God to be his sacred, living sacrifices. And live-in holiness, experiencing all that delights his heart. For this becomes your genuine expression of worship.

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### ✚ Vs 3-7 (MSG)

<sup>3-7</sup> "Clean up your act—the way you live, the things you do—so I can make my home with you in this place. Don't for a minute believe the lies being spoken here—"This is GOD's Temple, GOD's Temple, GOD's Temple!" Total nonsense! Only if you clean up your act (the way you live, the things you do), only if you do a total spring cleaning on the way you live and treat your neighbors, only if you quit exploiting the street people and orphans and widows, no longer taking advantage of innocent people on this very site and no longer destroying your souls by using this Temple as a front for other gods—only then will I move into your neighborhood. Only then will this country I gave your ancestors be my permanent home, my Temple.

### Prayer Point – Romans 12:2 (TPT)

<sup>2</sup> Stop imitating the ideals and opinions of the culture around you, but be inwardly transformed by the Holy Spirit through a total reformation of how you think. This will empower you to discern God's will as you live a beautiful life, satisfying and perfect in his eyes.

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### ✚ Vs 8-11 (MSG)

<sup>8</sup> But look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless.

<sup>9</sup> "Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known,

<sup>10</sup> and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my Name, and say, "We are safe"—safe to do all these detestable things?

<sup>11</sup> Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching! declares the LORD.

### Prayer Point – 2 Timothy 4:13 (NIV)

<sup>13</sup> For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

### 2 Timothy 3:7 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.

✚ Looking back at [Jeremiah 6:13-14 \(NLT\)](#)

<sup>13</sup> “From the least to the greatest, their lives are ruled by greed. From prophets to priests, they are all frauds.

<sup>14</sup> They offer superficial treatments for my people’s mortal wound. They give assurances of peace when there is no peace.

✚ Other examples of unfaithful priests

### 1 Samuel 2:12-17 (NLT) - Eli’s Wicked Sons

<sup>12</sup> Now the sons of Eli were scoundrels who had no respect for the LORD

<sup>13</sup> or for their duties as priests. Whenever anyone offered a sacrifice, Eli’s sons would send over a servant with a three-pronged fork. While the meat of the sacrificed animal was still boiling,

<sup>14</sup> the servant would stick the fork into the pot and demand that whatever it brought up be given to Eli’s sons. All the Israelites who came **to worship** at Shiloh were treated this way.

<sup>15</sup> Sometimes the servant would come even before the animal’s fat had been burned on the altar. He would demand raw meat before it had been boiled so that it could be used for roasting.

<sup>16</sup> The man offering the sacrifice might reply, “Take as much as you want, but the fat must be burned first.” Then the servant would demand, “No, give it to me now, or I’ll take it by force.”

<sup>17</sup> So the sin of these young men was very serious in the LORD’s sight, for they treated the LORD’s offerings with contempt.

### ✚ Vs 12-15 (NIV)

<sup>12</sup> “Go now to the place in Shiloh where I first made a dwelling for my Name, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of my people Israel.

<sup>13</sup> While you were doing all these things, declares the LORD, I spoke to you again and again, but you did not listen; I called you, but you did not answer.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, what I did to Shiloh I will now do to the house that bears my Name, the temple you trust in, the place I gave to you and your ancestors.

<sup>15</sup> I will thrust you from my presence, just as I did all your fellow Israelites, the people of Ephraim.’

### ✚ Example of what happened at Shiloh

Read 1 Samuel 4:1-11

### ✚ Vs 16-19 (NIV)

#### Consequences

<sup>16</sup> “So do not pray for this people nor offer any plea or petition for them; do not plead with me, for I will not listen to you.

<sup>17</sup> Do you not see what they are doing in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?

<sup>18</sup> The children gather wood, the fathers light the fire, and the women knead the dough and make cakes to offer to the Queen of Heaven. They pour out drink offerings to other gods to arouse my anger.

<sup>19</sup> But am I the one they are provoking? declares the LORD. Are they not rather harming themselves, to their own shame?

#### Lift-up one another in prayer

-That we will not solicit godly counsel for selfish gain.

#### - Hosea 10:12 (NASB)

<sup>12</sup> Sow for yourselves, *with a view* to righteousness; Harvest in accordance with kindness. Break up your uncultivated ground, For it is time to seek the LORD Until He comes and rains righteousness on you.

✚ Vs 20-24

<sup>20</sup> “Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: My anger and my wrath will be poured out on this place—on man and beast, on the trees of the field and on the crops of your land—and it will burn and not be quenched.

<sup>21</sup> “This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Go ahead, add your burnt offerings to your other sacrifices and eat the meat yourselves!

<sup>22</sup> For when I brought your ancestors out of Egypt and spoke to them, I did not just give them commands about burnt offerings and sacrifices,

<sup>23</sup> but I gave them this command: Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in obedience to all I command you, that it may go well with you.

<sup>24</sup> But they did not listen or pay attention; instead, they followed the stubborn inclinations of their evil hearts. They went backward and not forward.

Prayer Points - 1 Samuel 15:22 (NIV)

<sup>22</sup> But Samuel replied: “Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

Prophetically move the people forward

-Exodus 14:15 (KJV)

<sup>15</sup> And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:

-Deuteronomy 1:6-7 (NIV)

<sup>6</sup> The LORD our God said to us at Horeb, “You have stayed long enough at this mountain.

<sup>7</sup> Break camp and advance into the hill country of the Amorites; go to all the neighboring peoples in the Arabah, in the mountains, in the western foothills, in the Negev and along the coast, to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon, as far as the great river, the Euphrates.

✚ Vs 25-28 (NIV)

Remember - There are still genuine leaders in our midst

**25** From the time your ancestors left Egypt until now, day after day, again and again I sent you my servants the prophets.

**26** But they did not listen to me or pay attention. They were stiff-necked and did more evil than their ancestors.'

**27** "When you tell them all this, they will not listen to you; when you call to them, they will not answer.

**28** Therefore say to them, 'This is the nation that has not obeyed the LORD its God or responded to correction. Truth has perished; it has vanished from their lips.

