



# GATES of GRATITUDE

Week 26 | November 25, 2024

In biblical times, gates had **tremendous significance**. They were where important matters of commerce and *governance* took place and were symbols of influence and authority. Therefore, when the Bible describes entering the **gates of the Lord** it is describing coming into and taking part in the *kingdom of God*, reigning with our sovereign Father as His **holy children**. As we do so, scripture makes it *abundantly clear* the kind of attitude and mindset we are to have. (*Psalm 100:4*)

Without this **proper perspective**, the *power and influence* of God's children will be greatly hindered because when we act outside of God's will, the Christian's ability to produce **spiritual fruit** and see their *prayers answered* is severely limited (*1 Thess. 5:18-19*; *1 John 5:14-15*; *John 15:5*). And so, as we pray for the people of our **families, churches, and communities** we are asking God to instill within us an *attitude of gratitude* over **WHO** He is and for everything that He:

## 1. **HAS DONE** (*Psalm 100:3*; *Psalm 136*)

- a. **NOTE:** God has been **so good** to us. He *created* us, *called* us, and *carried* us out of our old sinful lives—and that's just the beginning. Time and again He has poured out  **blessings** into our lives through various forms of *grace* and *mercy*, yet we are so forgetful. Pray for God to give us **a holy remembrance** of the things He has done in *days gone by*. Even if He never did anything more, what He has already accomplished is worthy of our **eternal worship** and *thanks*. (*Psalm 105:1-2,5*; *Psalm 92:1-4*)
  - i. **For Ex.** “Lord God, thank You for Your **goodness, grace, and mercy**. Thank You for all that You have done *in us, for us, and through us* over the years. I ask, Father, that You would spark within us a holy and uncompromisable memory, that we might not forget **all of the good** You have done. I *plead the blood* of Jesus over our every thought and recollection, asking that You **wash them clean** of all that is *evil, wicked, and sinful*. May we remember *who You are* and **all that You've done**, giving You every bit of the *thanksgiving* and *praise* that You truly deserve.”
    1. **REMEMBER:** *Demonic forgetfulness* causes our memory of **God's goodness** to slip away. (*Judges 8:33-34*)

## 2. **IS DOING** (*Psalm 100:3*; *Psalm 23*)

- a. **NOTE:** God is still **actively moving** all around us. The problem is that we don't *recognize His presence* or His hand at work in our lives. When we **fail to see** His *guidance, influence, and intervention* in our day to day we can quickly become **bitter** and **ungrateful**. Ask God to *open our eyes* to see where He is working so that we can **join Him there** and *give Him thanks* for acting as our shepherd, king, and father. (*John 5:17*; *Colossians 1:17*)

- i. **For Ex.** “Dear God, thank You for remaining **actively at work** in our lives today. Thank You for continuing to *watch over, speak to, and fight for* us each and every day. I ask, Lord, that You would open up our eyes so that we might see the **influence** and **impact** of *Your hand* in our lives. Unstop our ears so that we might **hear** what *You are saying*. Soften our hearts so that we can **respond** in *thanksgiving* and *gratitude* as You reveal Yourself **powerfully** and **personally** to the watching world and to Your *sheep, subjects, and children*.”
  1. **REMEMBER:** Satan strives to **block** our *ability to see God at work in our lives*. (2 Corinthians 4:4)

### 3. **WILL DO** (Psalm 100:5; Psalm 145:10,13)

- a. **NOTE:** Scripture is full of the **amazing promises** of God. Because He is a *man of His word*, and because His character will remain forever unchanged, we can find **solace in** and **express gratitude** for the *goodness that God has guaranteed* even when we haven't seen it yet. Pray for **hope that holds on** to His *assurances* and for faith in His future blessings so that we can **thank Him now** for all He will do later on. (Psalm 105:8; Psalm 107:1; Jeremiah 29:11)
  - i. **For Ex.** “Father God, thank You for giving us a glimpse into what **the future** holds. Thank You for all of the *powerful promises* found in Your word and for the hope and strength that they offer. Give us today **the faith** to *believe* and the **resolve** to *hold on* to what You have said so that we might praise and thank You for Your future **goodness** and **grace here and now**.”
    1. **REMEMBER:** The Enemy's goal is to sow **seeds of doubt** in our hearts about *the validity of God's word*. (Genesis 3:1)

### Questions for Reflection:

- Has your forgetfulness *robbed you* of **gratitude**? What memory has Satan sought to hide?
  - The Evil One **cannot** erase every trace of *God's goodness* in your life. Hold on to what you do remember, and *follow the bread crumbs* to what He seeks to reveal in His timing.
- Do you see *God at work* in your life? Are you **experiencing** His movement daily?
  - Instead of asking Him to **bless what you do**, ask Him to reveal what He is *already blessing*. Then join Him there and reap the **abundant harvest** He has prepared!
- Are you *struggling to believe* God's **promises** for the future?
  - As you learn more about *who God is*, remember that He is **the same** yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Because His nature is unchanging, we know that He *can* and *will* accomplish **all** that He has said He would.