

## THE GATEWAY

### Scripture:

Ezekiel 47:1-12 *“1Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar. 2He brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gateway that faces east; and there was water, running out on the right side. 3And when the man went out to the east with the line in his hand, he measured one thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the water came up to my ankles. 4Again he measured one thousand and brought me through the waters; the water came up to my knees. Again he measured one thousand and brought me through; the water came up to my waist. 5Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim, a river that could not be crossed. 6He said to me, “Son of man, have you seen this?” Then he brought me and returned me to the bank of the river. 7When I returned, there, along the bank of the river, were very many trees on one side and the other. 8Then he said to me: “This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea. When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed. 9And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes. 10It shall be that fishermen will stand by it from En Gedi to En Eglaim; they will be places for spreading their nets. Their fish will be of the same kinds as the fish of the Great Sea, exceedingly many. 11But its swamps and marshes will not be healed; they will be given over to salt. 12Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine.”*

### Introduction:

Today marks a very special day for Sarnia and the surrounding territory. The people of God are coming together to make a new proclamation concerning the purpose of God for the region. A new name, Gateway Christian Center, begins this proclamation. This body of people declares that a Gateway is now open into the supernatural. A Gateway is open for the distressed, the destitute, the hurting, oppressed and those held in bondage. We don't just dedicate a name, but a people to the purposes of God today. A people that stand at the Gateway to proclaim the promise of Isaiah 55:1-3

Isaiah 55:1-3 *“Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance. <sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you—“*

- I. There is life giving water at the gateway.
  - A. The water to the ankles speaks of the experience of those who have just tasted of the good things of God.
    1. They enjoy salvation. It's a very refreshing experience.
    2. It's good to know your sins are washed away.
  - B. As water reaches our knees, we find ourselves experiencing deeper truth, greater revelation and an increasing awareness of the gifts of the spirit.
  - C. Water to the waist could very easily mean that we have come to the reproductive phase of our Christian experience. We reproduce after our likeness.
  - D. Waters to swim in. Hallelujah, a full measure of the spirit of God. Living in the anointing.
- II. The water that comes from the Gateway gives nourishment to those that come near its flow.
  - A. The trees of righteousness whose roots go down deep byes the flowing river.

- B. This Gateway water goes into the valley to bring life.
    - 1. The valley of despair, the valley of despondency, the valley of decision making.
    - 2. When people are low, they need the refreshing water of God's love and grace.
  - C. As the river continues on its journey, the multitudes of the sea are affected by its life-giving properties.
    - 1. There is yet coming such a move of God that the anointed one will not have to plead with people to get saved.
    - 2. Peter and John at the Beautiful Gateway simply said "rise and walk"  
*Acts 3:6* "Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."
    - 3. God raising up a people that will experience total restoration.
      - a. Not just to the days of the early church, but all the way back to the garden.
      - b. When God made man, He said, "now that's good!"
      - c. They had fellowship in the cool of the day.
- III. Those in the backwater will not be healed.
- A. Only because they would not get in the flow of the river.
  - B. They hang around the move of God, but never really surrender to the flow.
  - C. They hang onto bitterness, anger, resentment and it begins to control their life.
  - D. These people get to the place where they wonder what all the fuss is about. They can't see the life that's in the river.
  - E. What a tragedy. While these are being given over to spiritual death, the river is bringing the greatest expression of life the world has seen since the days of the Garden of Eden.
- IV. All this life is a result of the Gateway.
- A. Let's accept the call of the spirit to prepare a Gateway for the coming revival.  
*Psalms 24:7-10* "Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. <sup>9</sup>Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. <sup>10</sup>Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory."
  - B. Will you be a Gateway people?  
*Isaiah 62:10-12* "Go through, Go through the gates! Prepare the way for the people; Build up, Build up the highway! Take out the stones, Lift up a banner for the peoples! <sup>11</sup>Indeed the LORD has proclaimed To the end of the world: "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Surely your salvation is coming; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him.'" <sup>12</sup>And they shall call them The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; And you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."