Gatekeepers! Watchmen! You are to speak out (The Lord has called you out to be Bold today)

Ancient Paths May 15

Gatekeepers have three primary roles

- 1. To **protect the Lord's house**. This means they defend the gospel, the truth of the Word and Protect the holiness of God's house. Their hearts are on fire with the Fear of the Lord. They want the Lord's house to be a house of Prayer and they are not content until they see the Lord's will come to place. The gatekeeper protects the House. They know the scriptures well and are full of understanding. They are bold to speak out against the sins of the church- even if it means they will be mocked, hated or even kicked out of the church. They stay close to the House of the Lord
- 2. They keep the Lord's people on the right path, keeping them from drifting from the Lord. As a staff or sheepdog would keep the sheep together from straying, so the role of gatekeeper is the same. He is responsible to oversee the people, gently guide the drifter back and keep those on the threshold of evil paths from taking another step in the wrong direction. They are bold and not afraid to tell the truth of God;s word, knowing full well they are saving many from the fires of eternal hell. They are prayer warriors and intercessors for the people
- 3. **They keep watch for the master's return**; ready to usher in the King of Glory

Who is a gatekeeper?

According to the Old Testament, a gatekeeper was a Levite. Gatekeepers

where also watchmen on the walls. They were ministering priests from the tribe of Levi. Gatekeepers were trusted officials and high priests in the servant role of protecting the Lord's house. They were stationed at all 4 gates (N,S, E, W). They also appointed and taught others around them to guard the gate as well. Their hearts were fully committed to the Lords will. Today's gatekeepers hope and pray for revival and eagerly await the Lord's return. They are always prepared and continually remind others to be ready. Gatekeepers made sure that nothing unholy entered into God's house and nothing was allowed to leave unless it had approval. They were in charge of the Temple items and treasuries of the House of the Lord.

RUNNING AWAY FROM THIS IS NOT AN OPTION (Jonah didn't win) You are commanded to speak out and warn them

Pay attention: (Ez) The Lord's Message came to me: "Son of man, speak to your people. Tell them, 'If I bring war on this land and the people take one of their citizens and make him their watchman, and if the watchman sees war coming and blows the trumpet, warning the people, then if anyone hears the sound of the trumpet and ignores it and war comes and takes him off, it's his own fault. He heard the alarm, he ignored it—it's his own fault. If he had listened, he would have saved his life.

6"'But if the watchman sees war coming and doesn't blow the trumpet, warning the people, and war comes and takes anyone off, I'll hold the watchman responsible for the bloodshed of any unwarned sinner.'

"You, son of man, are the watchman. I've made you a watchman for Israel. The minute you hear a message from me, warn them. If I say to the wicked, 'Wicked man, wicked woman, you're on the fast track to death!' and you don't speak up and warn the wicked to change their ways, the wicked will die unwarned in their sins **and I'll hold you responsible for their bloodshed.** But if you warn the wicked to change

their ways and they don't do it, they'll die in their sins well-warned and at least you will have saved your own life.

"Son of man, I've made you a watchman for the family of Israel.

Whenever you hear me say something, **warn them for me**. If I say to the wicked, 'You are going to die,' and you don't sound the alarm warning them that it's a matter of life or death, they will die and it will be your fault. I'll hold you responsible. But if you warn the wicked and they keep right on sinning anyway, they'll most certainly die for their sin, but you won't die. You'll have saved your life.

"And if the righteous turn back from living righteously and take up with evil when I step in and put them in a hard place, they'll die. If you haven't warned them, they'll die because of their sins, and none of the right things they've done will count for anything—and I'll hold you responsible. But if you warn these righteous people not to sin and they listen to you, they'll live because they took the warning—and again, you'll have saved your life."

"Gatekeepers: gather the drifters and show them the right way"

Gatekeepers role of protecting the people: The gatekeepers of these last days have been commissioned to protect the sheep. You are to devote yourselves to holiness and to protect the sheep from drifting away.

I saw a great crowd of people and no one was going the right way. Great crowds were everywhere. Not one person was facing the same way as another. Everyone was going and looking in different directions, scattering themselves. They weren't concerned with where they were headed and kept walking in whatever direction they turned without any consideration. There was a lot of noise, and as I looked around I heard deep within my heart and all around me "Gatekeepers for the drifting".

This is not a topic I would have written about nor have I ever considered

the term gatekeeper of the drifters. However when I did research I found it quite interesting. If you are reading this, it may be your time to stand up and speak in the righteousness of the Lord- not for our own self-righteousness, but for the Honor of the Lord and for the salvation of those who are about to perish. We can no longer fear what man thinks, what he may say, do, or even notice their countenance – Fear God and what lies ahead for all of us. Take your stand and don't turn to look around to the right or left, who cares what people think- ask yourself this "What does the Lord say?". Will he call you "Good and faithful servant" or an "evil coward". Yikes, I know, that sounds harsh, but that's what the scripture says. Don't we all wish we could be make everyone happy with our words, but that is not our job. Our duty is to speak the truth in Love, snatching up those about to perish. Amen? Amen.

Biblical examples of why some drift or fall away

- 1. envy
- 2. false teachings
- 3. temptation
- 4. wickedness
- 5. laziness
- 6. fear, lack of faith, no fear of the Lord
- 7. love of money
- 8. sitting and standing with the wrong crowd (Ps 1)
- 9. unbelief

How can I help my fallen brother?

- Remind them that we must all repent of our sins <u>Revelation</u>
 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art **fall**en, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.
- Teach them to listen carefully and cling tightly to the Good

News: But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't **drift** away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it. So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may **drift** away from it.

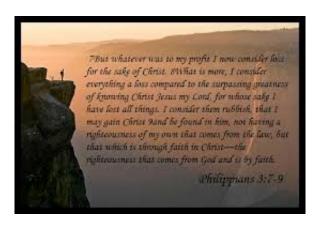
- Warn them of false teachings and doctrines: <u>2 Thessalonians</u>
 <u>2:3</u>Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a **fall**ing **away** first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;
- Tell them they have to choose. Do you belong to the World or to the Lord. Warn them of the dangers of being lukewarm. <u>Luke 8:13</u>They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.
- Continue to minister to them: <u>Colossians 1:23</u>If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not **move**d away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;
- Praying always for believers everywhere, without ceasing

TELL THE PEOPLE: Tell them, 'As sure as I am the living God, I take no pleasure from the death of the wicked. I want the wicked to change their ways and live. Turn your life around! Reverse your evil ways! Why die, Israel?'

TELL THE PEOPLE: There's more, son of man. Tell your people, 'A good person's good life won't save him when he decides to rebel, and a bad person's bad life won't prevent him from repenting of his rebellion. A good person who sins can't expect to live when he chooses to sin. It's true that I tell good people, "Live! Be alive!" But if they trust in their good deeds and turn to evil, that good life won't amount to a hill of beans. They'll die for their evil life.

TELL THE PEOPLE: On the other hand, if I tell a wicked person, "You'll die for your wicked life," and he repents of his sin and starts living a righteous and just life—being generous to the down-and-out, restoring what he had stolen, cultivating life-nourishing ways that don't hurt others—he'll live. He won't die. None of his sins will be kept on the books. He's doing what's right, living a good life. He'll live.

'Your people say, "The Master's way isn't fair." But it's the way they're living that isn't fair. When good people turn back from living good lives and plunge into sin, they'll die for it. And when a wicked person turns away from his wicked life and starts living a just and righteous life, he'll come alive.



Do you ask yourself- Who am I?

He hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light; Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Revelation 5:10 1 Peter 2:9

Revelation 1:6 1 Peter 2:5

A gatekeeper protects the house of the Lord from corruption and worldly

ideas. Stand true to the Word of God and do not waver. Protect the people from following lies, false ideas and wrong doctrine. Protect and cling tightly to the Word of God, protecting the Lord's house and His Ways. You must keep the people from stumbling off the narrow path. Keep the Lord's sheep safe until He comes back again, always staying ready and looking out for your master to return. He has commanded us to watch for His return.

SCRIPTURE TO THINK ABOUT: (proof to back up what I've written above)

Nehemiah 7:3 I said to them, "Do not leave the gates open during the hottest part of the day. And even while the gatekeepers are on duty, have them shut and bar the doors. Appoint the residents of Jerusalem to act as guards, everyone on a regular watch. Some will serve at sentry posts and some in front of their own homes."

Nehemiah 10:39 The people and the Levites must bring these offerings of grain, new wine, and olive oil to the storerooms and place them in the sacred containers near the ministering priests, the gatekeepers, and the singers. "We promise together not to neglect the Temple of our God."

Psalm 84:10 A single day in your courts is better than a thousand

anywhere else! I would rather be a gatekeeper in the house of my God than live the good life in the homes of the wicked.

Mark 13:34"The coming of the Son of Man can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. When he left home, he gave each of his slaves instructions about the work they were to do, and he told the gatekeeper to watch for his return.

John 10:3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

Colossians 1:23 But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the

world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it.

Hebrews 2:1[A Warning against **Drift**ing Away] So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it.

Psalm 141:4 Don't let me drift toward evil or take part in acts of wickedness. Don't let me share in the delicacies of those who do wrong.

Psalm 94:18 When I said, My foot slippeth; thy mercy, O LORD, held me up.

Psalm 18:36 Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip.

Job 12:5 He that is ready to slip with his feet is as a lamp despised in the thought of him that is at ease.

Hebrews 6:6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

2 Thessalonians 2:3Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

<u>Luke 8:13</u>They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

Colossians 1:23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

Acts 20:24

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 17:5

But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set

all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

Acts 7:9 And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him,

Acts 2:25 For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:

Jeremiah 25:16 And they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them.

<u>Proverbs 12:3</u>A man shall not be established by wickedness: but the root of the righteous shall not be moved.

<u>Psalm 121:3</u>He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

<u>Psalm 112:6</u>Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.

<u>Psalm 66:9</u> Which holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved.

<u>Psalm 62:6</u>He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved.

Psalm 62:2He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved.

Psalm 46:5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.

Psalm 30:6 And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved.

Psalm 16:8 have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

1 Chronicles 17:9 Also I will ordain a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, and they shall dwell in their place, and shall be **move**d no more; neither shall the children of wickedness waste them any more, as at the beginning,

Jude 1:24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, 2 Peter 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your

calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: James 5:12But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation. James 1:2My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Hebrews 4:11Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

Do you have something to say? Do you know something is wrong and you haven't sounded the alarm? Be encouraged today. Spend time with the Lord and pray about it. Ask the Lord to search your heart and make sure that pride/ haughtiness hasn't slipped in. Meditate on Ps 131 and speak boldly for the Lord – don't go in seeking great things for yourself, but for the glory of the Lord. Keep your focus.



Don't think this is for you? If you have children- you are the watchmen over them and their hearts. Do you know someone who has drifted from the faith? Then pray for them and speak to them in love warning everyone everyday.

Peace and Shalom. May God have mercy on us.

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