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## **Sermon by Prophet Kobus van Rensburg**

### THE ROCK AND THE GATE

In Exodus 17 the people contended with Moses when they were thirsty and there was no water. God told Moses to smite the rock and water came out.

In I Corinthians 10 Jesus is the Rock.

In Deuteronomy 32 we read more than 5 times that God is the Rock of our salvation.

In the Psalms God is our Rock and our Fortress, our Rock and our Deliverer, our Rock and our Refuge.

According to Romans 9:23 Jesus is the Rock of offense.

Matthew 21 says that Jesus is the Stone that the builders rejected and He became the Chief Cornerstone.

In Matthew 7 when you have founded the house on the rock, the storms come but they cannot blow the house over.

Luke 6:48 says that someone dug deep and built his foundation on the rock and when the storm came, it stood. Jesus is the Rock and a building has to be built on the rock and this is called the Foundation.



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Matthew 16:13-16 (Amplified) Now when Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, Who do people say that the Son of Man is? And they answered, Some says John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets. He said to them, but WHO DO YOU [yourselves] SAY THAT I AM? Simon Peter replied: "YOU ARE THE CHRIST, the Son of the living God."

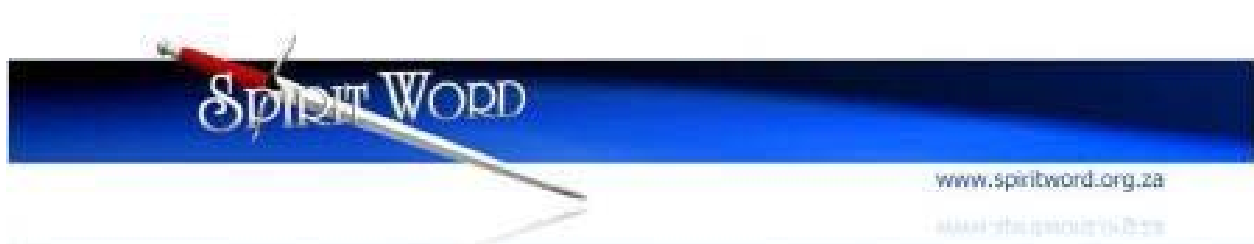
When Jesus asked the disciples who they thought that He is, Peter told Him that He is the Christ.

Matthew 16:17-19 (Amplified) Then Jesus answered him, Blessed (happy, fortunate, and to be envied) are you, Simon Bar-Jonah. For flesh and blood [men] have not revealed this to you, but My Father, Who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter [Greek, Petros-a large piece of ROCK], and on this rock [Greek, petra-a huge rock like Gibraltar] I will BUILD MY CHURCH and the GATES OF HADES (the powers of the infernal region) shall NOT OVERPOWER IT [or be strong to its detriment or hold out against it]. I will give you the KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN; and whatever you bind (declare to be improper and unlawful) on earth must be what is already bound in heaven; and whatever you loose (declare lawful) on earth must be what is already loosed in heaven. [Isaiah 22:22].

## OPEN THE GATES

Jesus told Peter that he is a rock, but also that Jesus Himself is a rock too. He told Peter that He is the Rock and the Foundation upon which the church will be build. The church on the Rock, which He build will have an opposing force that will try to prevent and stop people from being built on the Rock and Foundation to truly be the church of Jesus Christ. The resisting force is the gates of hell. There is a Rock of offence, which is the Messiah and the Foundation of the church. The gates resist the church from coming to the front, but it shall not prevail or succeed, but not for all. If you are prepared to stand up and take what God gives and build on the Rock, the gates of hell shall not prevail in withstanding or resisting you. You will come forth as the building.

Many times people stand up and say that the devil has done this or that. They actually say that the gates slapped them through the face; that they were so busy being built and that a gate attacked them during the week. Gates are things that people go through. You open a gate to get somewhere. You open a gate to get through a thing. You open a gate to get on another road. You open a gate to get to a certain place. You open a gate to get onto another's property. A gate can never jump off its hinges and attack you when you climb out of a car to open it.



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## JESUS GIVES US THE KEYS

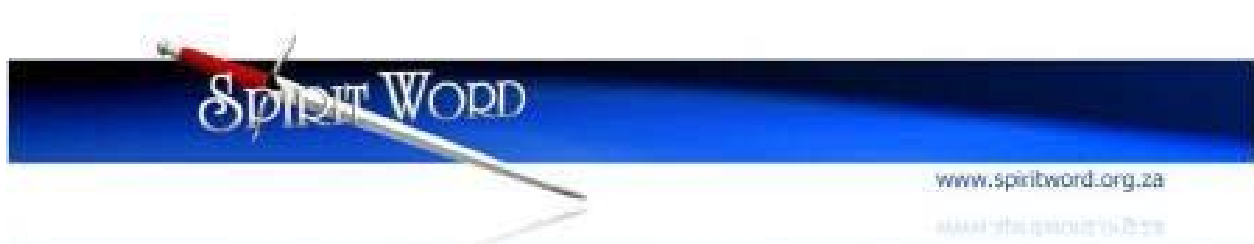
Jesus wants to build the most powerful thing on the earth. God wants the most powerful people on the earth and He wants them build on the Rock. No matter what storms come, it will do nothing to them because they will be founded on the Rock. If they are founded on the Rock and they are serious about being built into this dwelling place of God, there will be gates. When you press in to get a revelation, there will be a gate of hell resisting you. If you go for the next one, there will be a gate of hell resisting you. If you want to take it, that gate of hell will not prevail and it will not succeed. Jesus told Peter that the gates would not prevail, because God gives us the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. When you've got the keys, you just open the gates and go through. Use the keys of the Kingdom - understand the Kingdom principals.

## WE ARE BUILT INTO A DWELLING PLACE FOR GOD

Ephesians 2:20-22 (Amplified) You are BUILT upon the FOUNDATION of the apostles and prophets with CHRIST JESUS HIMSELF THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE. In Him the whole structure is JOINED (BOUND, WELDED) together harmoniously, and it continues to rise (grow, increase) into a HOLY TEMPLE in the Lord [a sanctuary dedicated, consecrated, and sacred to the presence of the Lord]. In Him [and in fellowship with one another] YOU yourselves also ARE BEING BUILT UP [into this structure] with the rest, to form a fixed abode (DWELLING PLACE) OF GOD in (by, through) the Spirit.

The Phillips translation says that you are a fixed abode for the LORD in the Spirit. If you want to take what He says and be built on the Rock or Foundation, you will be a sanctuary, a dwelling place, a habitation. You will be a consecrated people for God's presence. This building called the church is not something built with hands, because God does not dwell in temples made with hands (Acts 7:45-49). You are the temple of the Holy Ghost and are becoming a sanctuary or a sacred place where God dwells. A habitation is a place where someone will stay permanently.

Jesus is the Lion of Judah, but He is also the Lamb that was slain. It is two total different things. How can the two lie together, but yet the Word says that there will come a time where the two will lie down together. Jesus Christ is the Sun of Righteousness, but He is also the Cloud of Glory. You can't define Him and says that it is how it works. The church is a building and it is many faceted building where we are also being built up as living stones (1 Peter 2). The church is also a sanctuary. The word there means that it is a very small thing that contains God. This building is a thing that happens in the spirit world. We must realize Who the Rock is and Who Christ is and how we are being built. We



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must realize that while we are being built into the place where Christ will find total dwelling in us, we will be opposed by a resisting force called the gates of hell.

Most people, when coming to a gate or a revelation, say that it was good while it lasted, but let's go to church next week to see if there is another revelation. When they accept the revelation and are opposed, they just back off and say that it doesn't work. They are actually refusing to use the keys that God gave them to open the gates. They forget that Jesus said that the gates shall not prevail. It will not prevail or succeed for the person that attacks it. Use the keys of the Kingdom! It is a Holy Ghost thing; it does not come from another religion, but from the Highest, Living God and it is a truth that sets free. It helps you to become more like Christ and become a sanctuary where God can live in. When you will come to a gate, you must remember what you've learnt, use the keys and know that the gates shall not prevail because you are being built on a Rock.

#### BUILD YOUR CHARACTER

The building of the church is a big thing, but it is corporately as well as individually. (I Corinthians 3,6; II Corinthians 3-6; I Peter 1-2) You are the dwelling place individually, but so are all the believers corporately. When Peter walked down the streets, his shadows healed the sick and there was not a whole church accompanying him. When Paul's cloths were taken to the sick and the demon possessed people were set free, it was only his cloths and his hands that were laid on it and not all of the apostles who laid their hands on the cloths. On the Isle of Patmos it was only John who was there and saw the visions.

I Corinthians 3:10-12 (Amplified) According to the grace (the special endowment for my task) of God bestowed on me, like a skillful architect and master builder I laid [the] foundation, and now another [man] is building upon it. But let each [man] be careful how he builds upon it, for no other FOUNDATION can anyone lay than that which is [already] laid, which is JESUS CHRIST (the Messiah, the Anointed One). But if anyone builds upon the Foundation, whether it be with GOLD, SILVER, PRECIOUS STONES, WOOD, HAY, STRAW...

The church is built on the Foundation and for every revelation there is a gate that will oppose you. If you'll just realize that you have the keys of the kingdom, the gates shall not succeed. Christ intended it for all and not just for some. We must therefore watch out how we build. We must build with gold, silver and precious stones but some builds with hay, wood or straw. It is not just how you build, but who is being built. Ephesians 2 says that it is you that are being built and you must watch how you are being built. There are spiritual materials that cause you to become the sanctuary, the

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dwelling place or the habitation. Moses built the tabernacle and all the objects in the Most Holy Place had to be gold. Everything had to be of solid, beaten gold. Watch out how you build as well as how you are being built, because you have to be the dwelling place and the temple.

I Corinthians 3:13-16 (Amplified) The work of each [one] will become [plainly, openly] known (shown for what it is); for the day [of Christ] will disclose and declare it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test and critically appraise the character and worth of the work each person has done. If the work which any person has BUILT ON THIS FOUNDATION [any product of his efforts whatever] SURVIVES [this test], he will get his REWARD. But if any person's work is BURNED UP [under the test], he will SUFFER THE LOSS [of it all, losing his reward], though HE himself WILL BE SAVED, but only as [one who has passed] through fire. [Job 23:10]. Do you not discern and understand that YOU [the whole church at Corinthians] ARE GOD'S TEMPLE (His sanctuary), and that GOD'S SPIRIT has His permanent DWELLING IN YOU [to be at home in you, COLLECTIVELY as a church and also INDIVIDUALLY]?

What is being built is your character or your person or your personality, because God wants you to be a sanctuary, a dwelling place and a habitation. God wants you to be holy and consecrated for His presence. When you walk and talk, it will be Christ that you'll see and hear. 1 Peter 4:10-11 say that when any man speaks let it be the words of God and when you minister, may it be the power that God provides. We must not run around with stinking flesh, but be what God intended us to be. When the work of any man that is built on the Foundation of Christ survives the test, he will get the reward, but if it is burnt up, he will suffer the loss. He will still be saved as one that passed through the fire.

The church is being built, but in this study, God is building you, individually to be a dwelling place for God. God has a plan for you to look like Christ. John 14:12 says that the work that Jesus did, you will also do and even greater works. II Corinthians 3:18 says that as we behold His Face, we are being changed into the same image from glory to glory into the image of the Son. At the end of the day we must be the dwelling place.

## CHRIST IN US

Galatians 1:15, 16(a), 24 (Amplified) But when He, Who had CHOSEN and set me apart [even] before I was born and had called me by His grace (His undeserved favor and blessing), saw fit and was pleased [Isaiah 49:1; Jeremiah 1:5]. TO REVEAL (UNVEIL, disclose) HIS SON WITHIN ME so that I might proclaim Him among the Gentiles.

And they glorified GOD [as the Author and Source of what had taken place] IN ME.

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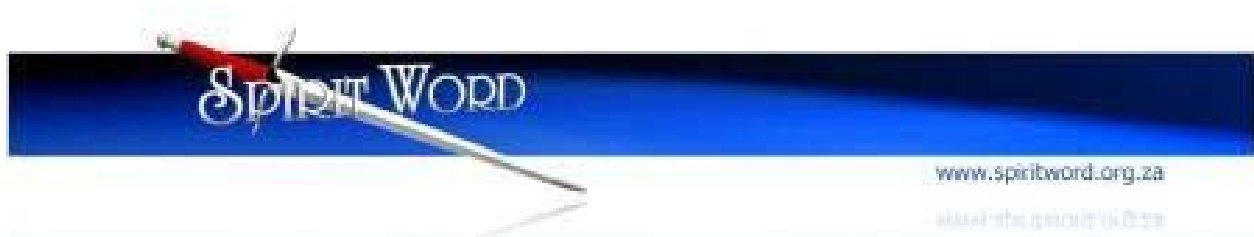
Galatians 4:19 (Amplified) My little children, for whom I am again suffering birth pangs until CHRIST is completely and permanently FORMED (molded) WITHIN YOU...

Colossians 2:9 says that in Christ the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily. Wherever Christ walked, it was the fullness of the Father, the fullness of the Spirit and the fullness of the Christ. He could say: "Lazarus! Come forth!" and the dead were raised. He could easily command the storms to be still and do all the miracles. Jesus was a perfect Dwelling Place. John 1:14 says that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. God became flesh and we have this fullness in Him (Colossians 2:10). Paul said that God chose him to reveal His Son in him. When he came to the Galatians, they saw God in him. In Galatians 4:14 he said that they received him as an angel from God, as Christ Himself.

The word 'reveal' can be explained with a sculptor working on a sculpture. Every night he puts a cloth over the work, opening it every morning to work on it in private, all alone. He takes the chisels and hammers and with a picture in mind, carves away everything that does not look like the picture. When the sculptor is convinced that the sculpture is ready to be presented, a function is usually organized during which the sculpture is undraped/revealed - opened up for all to see. Michelangelo went up a mountain one day and when he saw a big piece of granite fell down and cried: "The Angel!" Everyone that was with him could not see what he saw. It took them months to take that piece of granite down to his studio where he was doing his work. No one saw the work until the day he was finished and invited the people to come and look. When he undraped it, they were astounded and cried: "The Angel!" His comment when someone asked him how he did it was simply that he chiseled away all that did not look like the angel. God's desire is to reveal/undrape His Son in us.

According to Galatians 1:16 God was saying that He was going to work on Paul until Christ can be seen in him and when He undrapes him and he walks in the midst of the Galatians' church, they'll say: "The Angel!" Some will say that he is Christ, but then they'll realize that it is only Paul. Paul said that he is in travail for the Galatians until Christ is formed in them also.

During this process of being formed into the fixed abode for God, you will be faced with gates. The gates come from the opposing force called hell. When you get a revelation and try to get a breakthrough, you will be opposed. Then you can only stand up with the keys of the Kingdom that God provides and open the gates. Sometimes you've got to pray and put your food aside and stand up, saying that you've got a promise that the gates shall not prevail. The promise is



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that you are going to be built into a sanctuary, a fixed abode, a dwelling place for Christ. Then you can say with Paul that it is no longer you that live, but Christ that lives in you.

#### USE THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Many people when coming to a gate and do not know what to do. They go to other people and ask them what they must do and what actually happened is that they've lost the keys to the gates. How many times have you turned away from a gate that could have opened an opportunity for you of being an anointed man or woman of God? You could have broken through in revelations and visions. You could have spent your time seeing angels all around you. You could have heard the voice of God telling you to go to someone and pray for him. When last did you say that there is a gate, but it shall not prevail? You've got to use the keys of the Kingdom. You can say a negative thing and be in doubt and unbelief. That means that there is a gate in front, but it looks too big for you to face.

God wants us to walk into sonship and the manifested glory of His Presence. God wants us to be holy vessels of honor. He wants us to be a sanctuary committed to His service and presence. He wants us to be a place where His Glory dwells. He is asking of us to open the gates. There will be a resisting force, but we must open the gates. He will give us the keys and He promises us that the gates shall not prevail when we go and open them. It is time that we get away from the fear of gates. The gates are actually smoke screens and lies, because Jesus has already defeated the devil.

#### PURIFIED BY FIRE

In I Corinthians 3 Paul said that for this character to be formed in you, there will be tests and it will come in the form of fire. Fire will burn the wood, the hay and the straw, but it will purify the gold and the silver.

II Timothy 2:19(a) (Amplified) But the FIRM FOUNDATION of (laid by) God stands, SURE AND UNSHAKEN...

Hebrews 12:26-29 (Amplified) Then [at Mount Sinai] His voice shook the earth, but now He has given a promise: Yet once more I will shake and make tremble not only the earth but also the [starry] heavens. [Haggai 2:6]. Now this expression, Yet once more, indicates the final removal and transformation of all [that can be] shaken-that is, of that



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which has been created-in order that what cannot be shaken may remain and continue. [Psalm 102:26]. Let us therefore, RECEIVING A KINGDOM THAT IS FIRM AND STABLE AND CANNOT BE SHAKEN, offer to God pleasing service and acceptable worship, with modesty and pious care and godly fear and awe; for our God [is indeed] A CONSUMING FIRE. [Deuteronomy 4:24].

A shaking in the church is coming and it is going to be through fire and only that which cannot be shaken will remain, because the Kingdom of our LORD cannot be moved.

#### A VESSEL OF HONOR

II Timothy 2:19(b) (Amplified) ...BEARING THIS SEAL (inscription): The Lord knows those who are His, and, Let everyone who names [himself by] the NAME OF THE LORD GIVES UP all INIQUITY and stands aloof from it. [Numbers 16:5, Isaiah 26:13].

This unshakable Kingdom bears a seal. (II Corinthians 1:22, Ephesians 1:13, 4:30) We have the seal of the Spirit. It is the Anointing and the first down payment of what is to come. On this Foundation that cannot be shaken is a building or sanctuary with a seal on it. On the seal stands the Name of the LORD and all who is called by that Name must give up all iniquity. You must know the Name of the LORD and possess it.

I Timothy 3:15-16 (Amplified) If I am detained, you may know how people ought to conduct themselves in the HOUSEHOLD of God, which is the CHURCH of the living God, the PILLAR and STAY (the prop and support) of the Truth. And great and important and weighty, we confess, is the hidden truth (the mystic secret) of godliness. He [God] was made visible in human flesh, justified and vindicated in the [Holy] Spirit, was seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, [and] taken up in glory.





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II Timothy 2:20-21 (Amplified) But in a great HOUSE there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also [utensils] of wood and earthenware, and some for honorable and noble [use] and some for menial and ignoble [use]. So whoever CLEANSSES HIMSELF [FROM what is IGNOBLE AND UNCLEAN, who SEPARATES HIMSELF from CONTACT WITH CONTAMINATING AND CORRUPTING INFLUENCES] will [then himself] be a VESSEL SET APART and USEFUL for HONORABLE AND NOBLE PURPOSES, CONSECRATED AND PROFITABLE TO THE MASTER, FIT AND READY for ANY GOOD WORK.

The household of God is the church. If the church is a body, but also an individual, then the individual is also a vessel/utensil/object. It is something that is used in the sanctuary; a container. You must watch out how you are being built. In this house there are vessels of gold and silver and they are for honorable use. There are also vessels of wood and earthenware and they are also used, but only for menial use. We sing and ask that God will use us as vessels. Gates challenge us and if you want to be of gold and of silver to do honorable things, you must cleanse yourself. Your gift will make room for you (Proverbs 18:16) and you will stand before kings. You could be standing in front of a gate, because you maybe don't agree with something.

Sometimes you can be challenged because of scriptures that disagree, but the whole scripture is given for inspiration and reproof and correction. The one says that you are being built a holy temple and the other says that you are a vessel in the temple. One says that you are the Holy of Holiest and another says that you contain the Glory. It all means that you are a container of the Glory. You can either be a building or a pot. You are not legalistically built, line upon line and precept upon precept as in Isaiah 28, but it is a building in the Spirit. In the same house there are vessels, some of honor and some of dishonor.

We pray the Our Father prayer and say that His Name must be hallowed. The second time the Israelites wanted water, God told Moses to speak to the rock. He became angry with the people and hit the rock. The first time Moses begged God not destroy the people, but the second time when he was upset with them, God said that His Name is hallowed amongst the people, but it was not hallowed in Moses. After that Moses was taken away and he did not inherit the Promised Land (Numbers 20). Moses did not hallow the Name of God because he smote the rock.

Do you want to be a vessel of honor and for honorable use or for menial use? Some people say that they are Christians and live on the earth, but when they die and go to heaven and God asks them what they have done, they will say that they were faithful. Faithful in what? You want to hear the words: "Well done! Good and faithful servant!" but that is the reward when the test of fire comes. The fire tests to see if you were of gold and silver or earthenware and wood.



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The test comes when you stand in front of a gate. You can either open the gate or turn around and say that you do not have the qualities to open the gate. You can say that you are not called to preach, but you are called!

If you cleanse yourself from contamination, you'll be a vessel of honor for noble uses, profitable for the Master, fit and ready for any good work. Can God press your button any time for honorable work?

#### IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

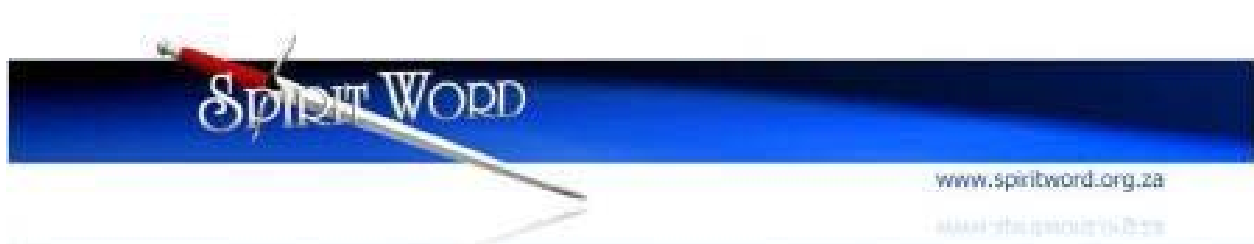
II Corinthians 4:4 (Amplified) For the GOD OF THIS WORLD has BLINDED the UNBELIEVERS' MINDS [that they should NOT DISCERN THE TRUTH], preventing them from seeing the illuminating light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ (the Messiah), Who is the IMAGE and LIKENESS OF GOD.

God is building His church and the people must look like Christ. God predestined you to come forth in the Image of Christ, but the god of this world is preventing you. The preventing force is the gates that keep you from becoming and seeing the Image and Likeness of God. II Corinthians 3:18 says that we see the Image and then we become the Image. When we look in the mirror long enough, we become what we behold.

II Corinthians 4:6-8 (Amplified) For God Who said: "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts so as [to beam forth] the Light for the illumination of the knowledge of the majesty and glory of God [as it is manifest in the Person and is revealed] in the face of Jesus Christ (the Messiah). [Genesis 1:3]. However, WE POSSESS THIS PRECIOUS TREASURE [the divine Light of the Gospel] IN [frail, human] VESSELS OF EARTH, that the grandeur and exceeding greatness of the power may be shown to be from God and not from ourselves. We are HEDGED IN (PRESSED) ON EVERY SIDE [troubled and oppressed in every way], but not cramped or crushed; we suffer embarrassments and are perplexed and unable to find a way out, but not driven to despair...

All the troubles are gates that are in front of us.

II Corinthians 4:14,16-18 (Amplified) Assured that He Who raised up the Lord Jesus will raise us up also with Jesus and bring us [along] with you into His presence.



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Therefore we DO NOT BECOME DISCOURAGED (utterly spiritless, exhausted, and wearied out through fear). Though our outer man is [progressively] decaying and wasting away, yet our inner self is being [progressively] renewed day after day. For our light, momentary affliction (this slight distress of the passing hour) is ever more and more abundantly preparing and producing and achieving for us an everlasting weight of glory [beyond all measure, excessively surpassing all comparisons and all calculations, a vast and transcendent glory and blessedness never to cease!]. Since we consider and LOOK NOT to the things that are SEEN but to the things that are UNSEEN. For the things that are visible are temporal (brief and fleeting), but the things that are invisible are deathless and EVERLASTING.

What we see is the gates and what we do not see is the Glory.

II Corinthians 4:1-3 (Amplified) Therefore, since we do hold and engage in this ministry by the mercy of God [granting us favor, benefits, opportunities, and especially salvation], WE DO NOT GET DISCOURAGED (spiritless and despondent with fear) or become faint with weariness and exhaustion. We have RENOUNCED DISGRACEFUL WAYS (secret thoughts, feelings, desires and underhandedness, the methods and arts that men hide through shame); we REFUSE TO DEAL CRAFTILY (to practice trickery and cunning) or to ADULTERATE or handle dishonestly the WORD OF GOD, but WE STATE THE TRUTH OPENLY (clearly and candidly). And so we commend ourselves in the sight and presence of God to every man's conscience. But even if our Gospel (the glad tidings) also be hidden (obscured and covered up with a veil that hinders the knowledge of God), it is hidden [only] to those who are perishing and obscured [only] to those who are spiritually dying and veiled [only] to those who are lost.

The gospel will not be hid for those who will press through the gates.

God says: "Church, who do you say I am?"

"You are the Christ"

"Can you just expand?"

"You are the Rock, our Fortress and our Strong Deliverer."

When God is our Rock, He is also our Foundation. God wants us to build on Him and as we are built, we must be sure that the material is gold and silver. God wants us to be vessels of honor. He wants us to get out of the contaminating things of the world. Darkness and Light do not fellowship with another. The Temple of God does not fellowship with the temple of idols (II Corinthians 6). God is telling us to come out from amongst them and to be separated and serve



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Him. God wants us to commit ourselves, to dedicate ourselves and to consecrate ourselves to Him. Before you know it, every gate will fall, because it shall not prevail. God has given us the promise and the keys. When the promise comes, the opposing force will be the gates of hell, but God has given us the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Let us therefore storm those gates, overcome and when the Sculpture is pleased that we are ready, He will undrape us and we will be revealed in the image of His Son.