

Let's Get Connected

1 John 1:1-4 (VOICE)

We want to tell you about the One who was from the beginning. ... We have seen Him with our own eyes, ... heard Him with our own ears, ... and touched Him with our own hands. ... This One is the manifestation of the life-giving Voice, ... 2 and He showed us real life, eternal life. ... We have seen it all, and **we can't keep what we witnessed quiet - we have to share it with you.** ... We are inviting you to experience eternal life through the One who was with the Father and came down to us. ... 3 **What we saw and heard we pass on to you ... so that you, too, will be connected with us intimately and become family.** ... Our family is united by our connection with the Father and His Son Jesus, the Anointed One; ... 4 and we write all this because retelling this story fulfills our joy.

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Let's Get Connected to the God-Head

Connecting with the Son - Lordship

John 15:1-8 (TPT)

"I am a true sprouting vine, and the Farmer who tends the vine is my Father. ... 2 He cares for the branches connected to Me by lifting and propping up the fruitless branches and pruning every fruitful branch to yield a greater harvest. ... 3 The words I have spoken over you have already cleansed you. ... 4 **So you must remain in life-union with Me,** ... for I remain in life-union with you. ... **For as a branch severed from the vine will not bear fruit, ... so your life will be fruitless ... unless you live your life intimately joined to mine.** ... 5 "I am the sprouting vine and you're My branches. ... **As you live in union with Me as your source, ... fruitfulness will stream from within you ... but when you live separated from Me ... you are powerless.** ... 6 **If a person is separated from me, ... he is discarded; ... such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire to be burned.** ... 7 **But if you live in life-union with Me and if My words {rhema} live powerfully within you (revelation of the rhema) ... then you can ask whatever you desire**

and it will be done. *(Simply having information without any personal revelation will never cause anything to change in your life)* ... 8 When your lives bear abundant fruit, you demonstrate that you are My mature disciples who glorify my Father!

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Abiding in the Vine through a Life-union is a Daily Choice

Revelation 3:20 (TPT)

Behold, I'm standing at the door, knocking. ... If your heart is open to hear My voice ... and you open the door within, ... I will come in to you and feast with you, ... and you will feast with Me.

Practical Principles for Connecting with the Son

Understanding the Significance of The Door / Gates in biblical times

First, a door or gate is a means of protection ... It is a barrier to keep out what you don't want on the inside ... Cities had gate-keepers and watchmen keeping an eye out for the enemy ... The city gate was also a place where all kinds of important community activities took place ...

Legal business and transactions were conducted

In Ruth 4:1-11, Boaz officially claimed the position of kinsman-redeemer by meeting with the city elders at the gate of Bethlehem. There, the legal matters related to his marriage to Ruth were settled.

Judicial business was conducted

According to the Law of Moses, parents of a rebellious son were told to bring him to the city gate, where the elders would examine the evidence and pass judgment (Deuteronomy 21:18-21).

Proclamations / Announcements were made

When David was King of Israel, he would stand at the city gate and give his troops instructions (2 Samuel 18:1-5)

Jesus' made a Powerful Declaration

Matthew 16:18 (NKJV)

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock, ... I will build My Ekklesia, ... and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Place of Spiritual Activity

The first mention of the city gate is found in

Genesis 19:1 (NKJV)

Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, ... and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. ... When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground.

So, we see the city gates / door were more than a simply entrance point ... They were the very center of city life ... It was the spot where legal, political, judicial, spiritual and economic activity took place. ... It was the foundation on which community was built - at the city gate

Proverbs 4:23 (TPT)

23 So above all, ... **guard the affections of your heart**, (*heart gate*) *{It includes our thoughts, our will, our discernment, and our affections}* ... for they affect all that you are. ... **Pay attention to the welfare of your innermost being**, (*the gates where spiritual activity takes place*) ... for from there flows the wellspring of life.

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Who is Sitting in the Love Gate of your Heart?

Revelation 2:4-5 (TPT)

But I have this against you: ... you have abandoned the passionate love you had for Me at the beginning. ... 5 Think about how far you have fallen! ... Repent {The Greek word for “repent” is ‘metanoia’ and means more than simply changing one’s mind. ... It means “to take another mind.” ... Every believer needs to turn from his or her error and take “another mind,” the mind of Christ.} ... and do the works of love you did at first. ... I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place of influence ... if you do not repent.

Activation Exercise - We must actively practice

Prayer

I would like you to look at the slide on the screen as I pray this prayer

Lord Jesus / Yeshua, forgive me for my lack of intimacy with You ... Forgive me for each time I have separated myself from the life-giving vine by choosing to do things my own way ... I don’t want to be a fruitless branch ... One that is cut off ... Prune by the Father and thrown into the fire ... Lord, I ask you to forgive me for not opening the door of my heart each time You have knocked ... I have allowed my life’s experiences along with guilt and shame to keep You out ... I have projected my struggles, hurts and pain onto You which has kept You on the outside ... For this I ask forgiveness.

Yeshua, I open the door and invite You to come into my entire being ... I ask You to take Your rightful place and sit in the gate of my heart ... I ask You to once again be my all and all ... My first love ... Lord, I know life has damaged my gates ... Will You help me to repair the gate of my heart ... As my gates get repaired, I ask You to administer all the activity at my heart gate from this day forward ... I once again make You and only You the Lord over all my life ...

Thank You Lord

Meditation - Paint a picture

Now, lets engage the Lord Yeshua ... Close your eyes ... Picture in your mind’s eye or imagination Jesus knocking on the door of your heart ... See yourself walking over to the door and opening it wide ... See Jesus standing there in the doorway ... Look into His eyes ... Notice His smile ... Feel the warmth and compassion radiating from His presence ... Now,

invite Him into your heart gate ... As we usually do when we invite an unexpected guest into our home we say “forgive the mess” ... But instead of saying that to Jesus ... I want you to say to Him - “Lord, will you help me clean up this mess? ... Will you help me to remove the idols, and meaning less things that clutter up my life? ... Will You heal the hurts and scars that life has left upon me because I chose to do things my own way?” ... Notice, as He begins to roll up His sleeves and says ... I have been waiting for you to ask Me that for a long time ... OK, let’s get to it.