10 Gates to Spiritual Progress

Nehemiah 3
Jerusalem (444 BC)
“Nehemiah”
Gate / Gates shows up in the Bible... 419 times
• City business was conducted at Gates

• Town leaders would meet at Gates

• Everyone going in or coming out of Jerusalem went through a Gate.
• Gates are a city’s most vulnerable places. This is where the enemy seeks entrance.

• Gates are strategic.
Nehemiah rebuild the Walls and Gates.
10 Gates that will help us in our Spiritual Progress
1. The SHEEP GATE
“Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests went to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate …

Nehemiah 3:1
… They dedicated it and set its doors in place, building as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and as far as the Tower of Hananel.”
Through the SHEEP gate of Jerusalem the shepherds brought their flocks to the safety of the folds within the city’s walls.
The only way to God is through sacrifice.

This gate reminds us of Jesus Christ.
John 1:29

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”
This is the gate through which every sinner must enter.

There are not many paths to God, only one.

Jesus is the only way.
2. The FISH GATE
Nehemiah 3:3

“The Fish Gate was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid its beams and put its doors and bolts and bars in place.”
‘Fish’ are a provision of food for we certainly need to grow.

‘Fish’ also symbolizes a people with a special calling who will be involved in feeding the hungry.
Merchants used this gate when they brought fish from the Mediterranean Sea.

This gate speaks of service for the people.
“Then He said to them, Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men. They immediately left their nets and followed Him.”

Matthew 4:18-20
Salvation must come before service.
3. The OLD GATE
“The Jeshanah Gate (Old Gate) was repaired by Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah …

Nehemiah 3:6
… They laid its beams and put its doors with their bolts and bars in place.”
‘Old’ speaks of that which is past.

It also speaks of that which is solid and unchangeable like a foundation.
“Thus says the Lord: Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls.”

Jeremiah 6:16
People are always looking for something new, when what is needed is the old ways that work.
4.
The VALLEY GATE
Nehemiah 3:13

“The Valley Gate was repaired by Hanun and the residents of Zanoah. They rebuilt it and put its doors with their bolts and bars...
... in place. They also repaired a thousand cubits of the wall as far as the Dung Gate.”
Every Christian needs a valley gate, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.
1 Peter 5:5-6

Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.
Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.
Every believer needs to continually humble themselves before God.
5. The DUNG GATE
“The Dung Gate was repaired by Malkijah son of Rekab, ruler of the district of Beth Hakkerem. He rebuilt it and put its doors with their bolts and bars in place.”

Nehemiah 3:14
‘Dung’ is all that is left over from yesterday’s manna!

It reminds us that, like the city, each of us individually must get rid of whatever defiles us, or it may destroy us.
“Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

2 Corinthians 7:1
6. The FOUNDATION GATE
“The Fountain Gate was repaired by Shallun son of Kol-Hozeh, ruler of the district of Mizpah. He rebuilt it, roofing it over and putting its doors...”
... and bolts and bars in place. He also repaired the wall of the Pool of Siloam, by the King’s Garden, as far as the steps going down from the City of David.”
A FOUNTAIN speaks of water under some pressure to be seen ... thus this gate speaks of the moving of the Spirit of God on a person to reveal Himself to them.
This gate checks up on your full surrender to the Lordship of Christ within.
“On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink …

John 7:37-39
… He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”
7. The WATER GATE
Nehemiah 3:26

“And the temple servants living on the hill of Ophel made repairs up to a point opposite the Water Gate toward the east and the projecting tower.”
Water starts with a well and gets released to form a river then rivers!

Water primarily speaks of the living word.
“Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.”

Psalm 119:89
8.
The HORSE GATE
“Above the Horse Gate, the priests made repairs, each in front of his own house.”

Nehemiah 3:28
The word ‘horse’ always speaks of discipline, strength, endurance and speed.

The horse that is not ‘broken’ is not of too much use!
“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might …”

Ephesians 6:10-12
9.
The EAST GATE
“Next to them, Zadok son of Immer made repairs opposite his house. Next to him, Shemaiah son of Shekaniah, the guard at the East Gate, made repairs.

Nehemiah 3:29
‘East’ speaks of where a new day begins for us.

It speaks of yesterday being gone and God’s new purposes coming forth.
Looking east carries with it an expectation of something new.
1 John 2:28

“And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.”
10.
The MIPHKAD GATE
“Next to him, Malkijah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs as far as the house of the temple servants ...
... and the merchants, opposite the Inspection Gate, and as far as the room above the corner.”
God has an assignment ... His will ... for each — we are appointed to a position and it is up to us to open up and walk in it.
The Hebrew word has a military connotation and refers to the mustering of the troops for numbering and inspection.
As I live, says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God. So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

Romans 14:10-12
CONCLUSION

Will you enter through each of these gates of spiritual growth?

Will you press on to maturity in the Christian life?