



THE VALLEY GATE (The Gate of Humility)

Nehemiah 3:13 (KJV) The valley gate repaired Hanun, and the inhabitants of Zanoah; they built it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof, and a thousand cubits on the wall unto the dung gate.

Up to this point we have covered the Sheep gate, which is the gate of Salvation, the Fish gate, the gate of Evangelism and the Old gate which is the gate of Teaching. The next gate that I want to discuss is the Valley gate which is the gate of Humility. We are all familiar with valleys. In the natural a valley is a depression between two hills or two mountains. In the spirit realm a valley is a low point in life, a low point in a situation, that is filled with fear, every one of us at some point have had a valley experience. We have all had low points that made us feel like we were going to die. The truth is valleys are not designed to kill you; valleys are designed to grow you. Valleys are designed to be a blessing to you. Many times, God wants to bless us, but he must first break our will. When we set our will, and make up our mind about a thing, we are telling God that we refuse to allow him to break us. There are things that God desperately wants to do in our life, but he will not force his will on us.

God wants you to willingly allow him to work in you and through you. Once your will is set, your only real option is to allow yourself to be broken. If there is anything that will break you down it is being in the valley, if there is anything that will humble you it is being in the valley, because the valley is the place of humility and brokenness. The greatest horses in the world had to be broken, and the greatness of the horse did not come forth until the brokenness occurred. Every time you hear of a horse being a Triple Crown winner, like the horse secretariat who won her owners millions, upon millions of dollars the greatness did not start until the brokenness had taken place. When God breaks your will, it will open doors that could not be open by foolish pride. Before the horse was broken, it could not be ridden, and the real potential of the horse could be seen. Being broken as painful as it may be is always necessary. Nothing hurts God more than to see you broken but it is needed to push you in the right direction. In order to break a horse, trainers would put bits in their mouth. When they pulled on the reins the bit would tear of the inside of the horse's mouth. The more resistance the horse gives, the more the bit in his mouth would tear against his jaw. After a while, the horse gets tired of bucking or tired of the bit being pulled in his mouth and he's forced to make a decision either he humbles himself or he allows his jaw to be torn up. I believe some of us are just like that horse. Our will is set to the point that we are bucking against God. No matter what he wants us to do we buck. God is saying listen every time I try to do something different in your life, you are always fighting me, you're always bucking me, you need to be broken, your will needs to be broken and your spirit needs to be broken.

Psalms 51:17 (KJV) The sacrifices of God [are] a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

We must understand that humility is the key to being promoted. Being high and mighty, knowing it all, unable to take direction, and instructions. This will not get you anywhere in life. One way that God teaches us to be humble is through our valley experience, the valley experience would do the trick every time. Everyone wants to be on the mountain but very few things grow there, real growth happens in the valley. We must learn that not only is God the God of the mountain top, but He is also God of the valley. Rivers form in valleys, streams form in valleys, water hits the top

of the mountain but settles in the valley causing greenery.

1 Kings 20:28 (KJV) And there came a man of God, and spake unto the king of Israel, and said, thus saith the LORD, Because the Syrians have said, The LORD [is] God of the hills, but he [is] not God of the valleys, therefore will I deliver all this great multitude into thine hand, and ye shall know that I [am] the LORD.

In the natural it takes two mountains to make a Valley and spiritually it takes two circumstances to create a Valley. On the mountain things are going well, but all of the sudden you find yourself off the mountain and in the valley. You were not looking for it, you were not expecting it, you were going about your business and something happened that you had not planned for and you ended up in the valley. The valley is not a respecter of persons. The valley does not care where you live, who you work for or even who you know. The valley is nothing more than the circumstances in our lives that have created Valley experiences. Most of the time we do not enjoy being in the valley. I can assure you of this, whenever God allows you to go through a valley it means he is working on you. He is perfecting something in you. He is developing something in you.

Remember the valley is not designed to kill you, the valley is designed to help you. The valley is not designed to take away from you, the valley is designed to give to you. Each of must be humbled every now and then because it's dangerous for a person to think of him or herself more highly than they ought too. We must grow to a point that whenever we find ourselves in a valley, we know it's not the end of the road. I know about valleys from personal experience. Some valleys I created because I did not want to hear God. Other valleys I ended up in because I did not want anyone to tell me anything. I would not listen to anyone. There are many holes I dug for myself. However, there are other valleys that God directed me to in order to grow me up.

Aren't you glad that God is faithful? Even when you create your own valleys. Aren't you glad that God is faithful, his arms are still long enough to reach you where you are, his ears can still hear you when you cry and he's always willing to pick you up when you fall.

Isaiah 59:1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

God allow valleys in our lives for his own reasons, but it is frequently our own ignorance, that puts us there, because we ignore the signs along the highway. The fact of the matter is whether God allowed it or whether you caused it, you are there. And the question is since you are there, what is it that you need to do and what is it that you need to learn while you are there in the valley. The valley is a process. It is not killing you; it is simply making you, developing you, purging you, and perfecting you. Most of us when we are in the valley are tempted to say I want out now, God, get me out. But God replies, not now, you have not learned everything that I need you to learn. You have not embraced everything I need you to embrace, you must stay in the valley for a little while longer. Shame on those of you who in the valley complain saying things like; God does not love me. He walked off and left me here in the valley. Don't you remember the words of Psalms 23:4

Psalms 23:4 (KJV) Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou [art] with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

If you are in the valley, you want to be saying; God what do I need to be learning? What is it that I need to know? What is it that you are trying to show me?