



THE VALLEY GATE Pt. 2 (The Gate of Humility)

GATES OF SPIRITUAL PROGRESSION
BIBLE STUDY SERIES
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The distance between the old gate and the Valley gate was a long distance. Maybe it symbolizes the trouble-free period that we all go through in life. That time when nothing is bothering you and everything seems to go right, but little do you know that every step you take brings you closer to the Valley gate which is the gate of humility and brokenness.

When people arrive at the Valley gate, they are often angry because they have the misconception that everything was always going to be good. The truth is if you walk with God any length of time you are going to come to the valley gate. If you stay with God sooner or later, you will have a valley experience.

I call the distance between the old gate and the valley gate the ***honeymoon period***. That period when everything works fine, you love God so much and He is so good and things are trouble and worry free, but when you hit the valley gate it seems like the honeymoon is over.

You begin to act like God has forgotten you, your countenance falls, you stop praying, you stop coming to church, you stop believing, you stop reading your Bible, you stop studying God's word and you began to think that God is not a God of the valley.

But let me tell you that my valley has done more for me than my mountains. When I go to the valley it reveals what I am made of. The valley is how God can tell who the real you. It's one thing for you to jump up and down on Sundays but it's another thing if you can't handle the valley on Monday. God wants to know if the same person who jumped up on Sunday is the same person, he hears cussing on Monday.

I believe that God is looking for a church and people that can go into the valley and say God we still love you, we still praise you, we still magnify your name. Even though we are in the valley we know that you were with us. In the valley is when you tell God, that we're going to hold on because we know you will never leave or for sake us. We must tell God that we understand that the God of the mountain is also the God of the valley.

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.

Understand that the valley is going to find you whether you are looking for it or not because life goes in seasons, even your spiritual life. Enjoy the mountain while you are on it. Praise God for the honeymoon period in your life. Just remember that even though

you go through the valley you do not have to lose faith. Even though you go to the valley your leaves do not have to wither.

Psalms 1:3 (KJV) And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

The river in the text is in the valley and the man who finds himself planted by that river will always produce fruit in his season and his leaves never wither, because every season is his season. You can go to a valley experience and still grow; you can go to the valley experience and still prosper. You can go to the valley experience and still praise him, bless him, and lift him up. You can go through the valley and steal magnify him exalt him and bless his name. All of this is possible once you believe that the valley is not trying to kill you, but it is just trying to grow you.

Nehemiah 2:13 (KJV) And I went out by night by the gate of the valley, even before the dragon well, and to the dung port, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem, which were broken down, and the gates thereof were consumed with fire.

Before Nehemiah began rebuilding the walls and gates of Jerusalem, he wanted to see what the city looked like. Nehemiah did not go to the mountaintop to see the city. Nehemiah went into the valley to see what things looked like. Nehemiah needed to see what he really dealing with, not from the mountain top but from the valley.

Nehemiah needed to get an accurate picture of the city, but he did not choose to go on the mountain top, instead he said, where is it, that I can get the best look of the city? And it was in fact in the valley. You must ask God the question, God where is it that I can get the best view of myself in order to know and to see who I really am.

Contrary to popular opinion, the best view of yourself is not on the mountain top where everything is good but, it is in the valley and it's seeing how you respond to what you're going through. Most people want to see themselves on the mountain, but that is not an accurate view of who you really are. Who are you in times of trouble and adversity?

Anyone looks good on the mountain top. But your valley shows your mistakes. Your valley shows what you really do not want to see about yourself. Your valley shows your vulnerabilities and short comings. If you want to know what you really are instead of who people think you are take a look at yourself from the valley.

When you are in the valley you stand before God naked and unashamed. If you want to see the **YOU**, that nobody else knows, the one you keep covered up, not the one everyone sees on Sunday morning on the mountain top but who you really are when you are in the valley. Take a moment and say God take me to the valley that I might know who I really am.