

## Topic One

### Gates and Wells

About fourteen years ago, I had a divine encounter with an angel on top of a mountain that stamped a *mark* on my heart and altered the course of my destiny and calling. To recount the episode, I need to rewind that glorious incident a few months before the encounter when I received a prophecy that I would climb a mountain to meet with God as Moses did at Sinai. That prophecy was a confirmation of two other similar prophecies I had received at different times but with the same mandate, ‘*climb a mountain to meet God.*’

I am a person who treasures the prophetic and I tarried with it in prayer and anticipation; about a week later, I was *feasting* my daily *bread* in the Word at home when I heard the audible voice of God thundering in my living room, “*Come up here!*” Though I was awestruck at that sudden summon, my initial response was, “*Come up where?*” and then, the more subtle inner voice of the Spirit said, “*The Mountain*” and immediately, it resonated in me that I was about to fulfill the prophetic word on climbing a mountain.

The question was which mountain? I was a missionary living on faith at that time and I knew Moses climbed Sinai, but I couldn’t afford to travel there. As I pondered, I remembered some friends who told me they encountered angelic manifestation while climbing Mount Murud, a 7,949-foot-high mountain in Borneo. Murud is known to the locals as the ‘Fire Mountain’ due to a great revival in that vicinity in the 1980s’ where many villagers saw the fire of God resting at the peak of that mountain just like Mt. Sinai.

I booked myself a one-way flight to Ba’Kelalan, a village town by the foot of that mountain, not knowing if I would return home alive. No one in their right mind would climb a mountain in the tick virgin jungle of Borneo on their own without expertise. There were no tracks or navigation as only the locals knew how to get up to the peak but by faith, I set my heart on a pilgrimage on a quest to meet God. Little did I know then that God has a greater plan for me to learn about the spiritual portals of ancient gates and re-digging the wells of revival.

To tell the narrative of my entire adventure would demand a book of its own, hence I will share a summary and recount a few miracles along that journey. First, I wasn’t physically fit to climb an almost eight-thousand feet mountain as I have a metal plate in my right ankle due to an accident and my ankle gets painfully swollen when exerted. I remember the doctor who did the surgery on my ankle said I could never walk normally again but I bargained with the Lord that I would climb mountains for Him if He healed me. I didn’t know then that I was prophesying years into the future.

Now, the head villager told me it was suicidal for me to climb the mountain on my own, so he persuaded me to hire a local guide to navigate the way. When we reached the foot of Murud at dawn, at the beginning of an eighteen-hour climb, a dog mysteriously appeared from nowhere and followed us all the way to the peak. Many times, that dog would run ahead and

bark at *thin air*, and I realized later it was chasing all the poisonous snakes away. As bizarre as it is, God sent His *dog* to save us!

Five times when we had a *pit stop*, (meal and water break), I had to pull my pants up and pluck thick-fat blood-soaked leeches from my feet while eating a sandwich with blood-stained fingers. I cried silently and wished I could run back home to Mama, but the Lord renewed my zeal to press on, and I was instantly strengthened, both emotionally and physically each time I prayed.

We were greeted at the peak almost midnight by a heavy thunderstorm and torrential rain. My guide told me that if the rain had poured an hour earlier, we would not have made it up the steep slippery slope. I believed the Lord held an *invisible umbrella* over the sky until we made it to an abandoned shelter (a wooden sanctuary built during the heights of that revival).

It was freezing cold (two degrees Celsius), my guide and the *super-dog* were fast asleep, but I couldn't as I was still plucking leeches from my feet when a bright light illuminated the night and a nine-foot-tall angel of the Lord, glowing in glory, appeared and addressed me in a stoic voice.

Some people queried the validity of my encounter, and I can only say what the Bible says - *He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him* (Hebrews 11:6). I was so hungry and crazy to meet with God, and He kind of rewarded my zeal with the *seal* of His approval, He sent His messenger. What the angel said to me is the reason why I am writing this book...great mighty revivals are coming!

Mount Murud was a portal, a gate to open heaven; every revival that happened in history was a gate to open heaven where the King of Glory came in His might and power to dethrone darkness and be enthroned in His glory - *Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle* – Psalm 24:7-8.

Gates in biblical times were strategic and specific places. They are the place of resources; wells that supplied water for an entire city were dug at the vicinity of the gate where the women from every household would draw water from twice a day. The men, both the locals and the traveling merchants, would convene at the gates to trade, while the city elders would make public decrees and plans of governing the city at the gate.

This brings to light why Jesus said He would build His church and the gates of Hades (hell) could not prevail against it - *And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it* – Matthew 16:18.

Prior to that statement, Peter had a revelation that Jesus was the Son of God, and he got his name changed. Names are associated with identities hence Peter's identity was changed from Simon – *a hollow reed* (shrub) to Peter, a *substantial piece of rock*. Revelations can change our identity, and both compel and propel us to our destiny.

Now, the Lord said the gates of hell cannot prevail against what He builds. Hell doesn't have gates and even if it does, gates do not go on the offensive but rather defensive to defend

its fortress. Thus, the gate of hell pertains to demonic decrees and the wiles of the devil to steal, kill, and destroy. It is a place where evil schemes and strategies are conceived and carried out as the demonic realm operates in hierarchal ranks and dispositions.

This is why after Abraham was tested for his obedience and willingness to offer His *joy and laughter*, Isaac, the Lord promised him multiplication and blessings...and possessing the gates of his enemies - *blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies* – Genesis 22:17.

To possess means we are to subdue, overcome, take over, and occupy hence we, the spiritual seeds and descendants of the Abrahamic covenant (Galatians 3:14,29) are fulfilling Jesus' statement that the gates of hell cannot prevail against us because we could subdue and overcome all the wiles and schemes of hell and possess it so that we regain enemies territories and enlarge kingdom's territories - *the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force* – Matthew 11:12.

On the other hand, gates are also heavenly portals to the glory realm where the King and His kingdom come. Ironically, just as we are to possess the gates of the enemy, we are to allow the gates of heaven to *possess* us! That is to submit and subject ourselves to heaven's law, decrees, strategies, and rulership.

The psalmist says we are to lift up our heads - *Lift up your heads, O you gates!* – Psalm 24:7. Gates don't have heads; hence we are the gates, and we are to lift up our lives in praises, prayers, decrees, and willful surrender, and anticipate Jesus, the King to come gloriously. When the King comes, He comes as the Lord of Host (Psalm 24:10), the Commander of Heaven's Army to fight and dispel darkness and usher in His glory, that is revival.

Besides, we are called to watch daily at His gates so we may find wholesome, abundant spiritual life and obtain favor - *Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoever finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the LORD* – Proverbs 8:34-35.

I had a supernatural encounter some years ago about gates. I was invited to minister in a camp and when I arrived at the location it was raining heavily. There was a huge cast-iron gate at the entrance, and I was reluctant to go out from my car in the rain to slide it open else I would be drenched. As I waited, the gate slid fifteen feet and opened by itself as though someone pushed it but there was no one.

Later on, the Lord told me His angel opened the gate for me as a sign that my gate should never be closed but be continuously open, and He affirmed that in the Word - *Therefore your gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day or night* – Isaiah 60:11. May we possess the gates and open the gates!

Wells are located at city gates, there is a spiritual relation between opening a gate and digging or drawing water from a well. When an army lays siege to a city, they attack the well either by contaminating it or by filling it with earth and rocks.

The Philistines stopped the wells that Abraham dug, and they continued to do so every time Isaac dug a well - *Now the Philistines had stopped up all the wells which his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father, and they had filled them with earth* – Genesis 26:15. See also Genesis 26:18-26.

Wells in a spiritual context, speaks of our worship-life, our Word-life, our wealth (resources), and our well-being. Jesus told the woman at another well that whoever drinks from Him, the Wellspring of Life, a similar well or fountain will *bubble up* in them - *whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life* – John 4:14.

The Philistine, whose name means ‘*one who rolls in the mud*’ wants us to roll in the muddy clay of life and fill our wells with earth which represents all kinds of *earthly* things and worldly compromises. The devil has stopped the wells of past revivals by infiltrating them with division, offenses, envy, and discontentment. Many places that had experienced great revivals have become places of vices and sin today, Azusa in Los Angeles is one such example, a city of saints has become a city of sinners.

When we revisit the portals of past revivals, we need to re-dig the wells too. Since spiritual wells represent the worship altars, the Word foundation, the spiritual wealth, and the wellbeing of the people or place, we need to re-dig or remove every form of *earth*, the sabotage of the enemy, from these wells. On the other hand, when we open a new portal, a gate to open heaven, we need to dig wells where all the spiritual elements of the well will flourish, and many will come and drink from it.

I was ministering in a church when I called out to someone to stand and receive a prophecy. That person was pastoring a church in a different town where there was a well in front of his church. I prophesied that the pastor is to go back and dig that well that was first dug by the late evangelist John Sung about eighty years ago so that revival will happen again.

Hence, let us be well-diggers to unearth the elements that stop its waters and dig the wells of revival, and let us be both the gates and gatekeepers of the Lord that the King of Glory may come. Lift your heads, you gate...and dig your wells, you catalysts and let revival come!

## Prayer and Application

- 1) List down the earthly things that stopped your well from being filled with living waters; confront and renounce them.
- 2) Are you prepared to be a gate for the Lord, to open portals of heaven and let the King come and reign?