

Reach Community

Achieve Vision 401-1

The Church is a spiritual gateway of bringing transformation to people and places.

1. *Gateway to heaven*

The Church is an entry and exit point, or gateway, to the spiritual realm.

As he slept, he dreamed of a stairway that reached from earth to heaven. And he saw the angels of God going up and down on it. ... He was afraid and said, "What an awesome place this is! It is none other than the house of God—the gateway to heaven!" (Genesis 28:12, 17 NLT).

- When God's presence manifests there is a gateway to the heavenly realm with a two-way angelic traffic bringing in God's intervention. The 'gateway to heaven' is also the 'house of God' where God's kingly presence stays.
- When Christ was on earth, He had 'angels of God going up and down upon Him' (see John 1:51). The fullness of God was in Him and there was an open heaven above Him. With Christ in our life, we have become the House of God. From the newest Christians to the most mature each of us is part of the temple or house of the Holy Spirit (see 1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 6:16b). As we abide in Christ, staying connected to Him, an open heaven which is the manifestation of God's kingly presence is over us (see John 14:21, 23).
- 'Gateway' is a place of access. Our belief that Christ is the Son of God puts us on the offensive against 'the gates of Hades'. Demons shall not prevail against us, the Church (see Matthew 16:17-19). We have the authority to stop on earth what is not permitted in heaven and to allow on earth what is free to operate in heaven.

And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake (Revelation 8:4-5 NKJV).

- Our guarding angels will ascend to carry our worship and prayers to God, 'fill them with fire from the heavenly altar', and descend to bring God's rule on the needs and situations we pray for.

You are like a building that was built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Christ Jesus himself is the most important stone in that building, and that whole building is joined together in Christ. He makes it grow and become a holy temple in the Lord (Ephesians 2:20-21 NCV).

- At where we are operating various spiritual gifts, there is the house or temple of God where His kingly presence stays. His 'kingdom' or 'kingly authority' comes to rule on the earth and His will is done on the earth as it is in heaven (see also Matthew 6:10).

2. *Gateway to spiritual victory*

The spiritual gateway is where demons try to stop your crossing over to revival.

He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places (Ephesians 1:20b NKJV).

- Being seated at God's right hand with Christ, we share His authority.
For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12 NKJV).
- In Christ, you are given a spiritual position far higher than the highest of all four ranks of demons. 'Spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places' are top ranking demons operating from the spiritual world. 'Hosts' means army. These are warrior demons in Satan's army, assigned to invade the world to promote 'wickedness' and evil.
- Such territorial demons desire to dominate places, craving for influence on the human activities and worldly events. 'The spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia' was a demon promoting wickedness over Persia (see Daniel 10:12-13 NLT).

He begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of that area (Mark 5:10 NCV).

- The demon 'Legion' ('He'; A unit of the Roman army comprising 6,000 soldiers) did not want Jesus to send him and his 6,000 lower demons ('them') out of the locality.
- Demons or 'spirit princes' gang up to give evil influence to people to keep them eternally lost. We must intercede for the people in authority to cover them from demonic influence that hinders godliness and peace (see 1 Timothy 2:1-8).
- Doing God's work will confront territorial demons. As Daniel was seeking God's revelations in fasting and prayer, he had initiated a warfare in the spiritual realm and defeated a territorial demon (see Daniel 10:12-13, 20). The preaching and mentoring of Paul had defeated a territorial demon and had released a revival in Ephesus and Asia Minor (see Acts 19:10, 26, 35).

3. *Gateway to transformation*

We can defeat territorial demon to cause transformation to a community.

Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land (2 Chronicles 7:14 NLT).

- As the covenant people of God, we can represent the community to seek God's face to obtain forgiveness, and to ask Him to heal the lives and activities in the community.
- 120 days of mourning and repentance on behalf of Israel had moved the 'good hand of God' to anoint Nehemiah to repair the wall around Jerusalem in just fifty-two days, to reorganize the nation of Israel, and to restore spiritual worship (see Nehemiah 1:4-9; 2:8, 18).

Survey the community to find out the demonic influences on the people.

- The findings should include: how spiritual practices had come in; the prevailing bad activities; disturbing behavioral trends; reoccurrence of problems; and the development of social evils.
- Identify spiritual attacks on the churches. Current problems facing the churches like division, opposition, and immorality are actually spiritual attacks.

There are four stages in reaching community transformation.

- When you persist in united prayer for community transformation, the evidence of people responding to the gospel shows a spiritual beachhead is secured. It is time to intensify evangelistic assaults at the enemy strongholds and to build a culture of evangelism in your church to reach the community.
- Breakthrough begins when social evils and demonic activities are breaking down. When people start streaming into your church, keep on evangelizing to reach a massive repentance from sins and breaking away from demons. An evangelistic breakthrough will spread across geographic and social boundaries. Establish a boundless network to capture the revival by training every Christian to pour his life on twelve disciples to repeat the process of multiplication.
- Spiritual breakthrough will lead to a season of dramatic renewal in the society. When transformation is taking place, there is an environment of spiritual liberty prevailing in the community. Values and beliefs of people are changed. God's kingdom affects virtually every aspect of endeavor in the community. Raise a standard of practicing God's word to replace what the former demonic influence had on the people (see Ephesians 6:12-19).
- Preserve the hard-won victory by practicing the things that had attracted God's presence (see Revelation 2:5). Practice spiritual worship for a strong habitation of God's presence (see James 4:8). Practice evangelism for Christ to manifest His presence always (see Matthew 28:20). Practice loving fellowship for Christ's presence to move among believers (see Matthew 18:20). Practice discipleship for the continuous presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (see John 14:21, 23). Minister with spiritual gifts for the Holy Spirit to manifest His presence (see 1 Corinthians 12:7).