



Series: Open The Gates (Part 4)

Speaker: Rhordan Wicks

INTRODUCTION

Imagine walking past a house that holds everything you've ever longed for—peace, joy, purpose, and power—yet its doors remain locked. You search for a way in, only to discover that the key has been in your hand all along.

Many of us live this way spiritually. The fullness of God's promises—His presence, power, and purpose—lies within reach, yet often remains unopened. In Part 4 of this series, Open the Gates, we explore what it might look like to access the fullness of all that is available to us in Christ.

The key is to open ourselves to the Holy Spirit, inviting Him to be with us, in us, and upon us. Too often, we reduce the Spirit to a mere force or influence. But the Holy Spirit is a Person to be known—a living, relational presence who invites us into intimacy with God. When we know Him personally, we begin to experience His presence, His transforming work, and His empowering gifts in their fullness.

DISCUSSION

1. Read Acts 8:26-40.
 - a. What did the Holy Spirit do here? From the passage, how would you describe Him?

- b. How aware are you of the Holy Spirit as He presents Himself in this passage? What rhythms or practices might help you be aware of this dimension of Himself?
 - c. Think of a moment when you realised the Holy Spirit was already at work—in your life or someone else’s—before you even acted. What does this reveal about the Holy Spirit, and God?
2. Read John 3:1-10 and Ephesians 1:13-14.
- a. What does the Holy Spirit do here? From the passages, how would you describe Him?
 - b. How aware are you of the Holy Spirit as He presents Himself in these passages? Which spiritual disciplines have most awakened your awareness of His inner work?
 - c. If your identity is now defined not by sin but by your adoption as a child of God, how does this reshape the way you view yourself and your purpose? In what areas of your life do you sense the Spirit inviting deeper surrender so He can transform you more fully?
3. Read John 16:7-11.
- a. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit came *upon* select individuals for specific purposes. How does He, poured out on all believers through Jesus, act similarly today?
 - b. What is the power the Holy Spirit grants the church? How is it revealed in your life?
4. Jesus declared in Luke 11:13: “If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”
- a. What does it practically look like for you to “open the gates” of your life to the Holy Spirit?
 - b. If you were to fully welcome His presence, how might your decision-making, relationships, and daily habits change?

WHAT WILL YOU DO

The Holy Spirit is not a distant force to be occasionally accessed, but a divine Person to be intimately known. He is with us—guiding, comforting, and drawing hearts to the Father. He is in us—transforming our character, renewing our minds, and affirming our identity as beloved children of God. He is upon us—empowering us for mission, witness, and service that reveal Christ to the world.

To walk in step with the Spirit requires intentionality: silence to hear His voice, Scripture to discern His truth, prayer to deepen communion, and obedience to follow His lead. The question is not whether the Spirit is present—but whether we are *present to Him*.

He is already at work—in your conversations, your waiting, your struggles, and your worship. The invitation is to open the gates of your heart and allow His presence to shape every thought, response, and action.

MEMORY VERSE

“... for He lives with you and will be in you” John 14:17b NIV

“... But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you” Acts 1:8a NIV

AN E1R1 REFLECTION

(drawn from John 15:9-17)

In this passage, Jesus commands His followers to “remain in My love” and to “love one another as I have loved you.” Our message about Christ must flow from a life rooted in His love—one that demonstrates sacrificial care, joy, and genuine friendship.

When people encounter Christ’s love through us, they become open to the message of the gospel. Evangelism, then, is not only about words—it’s about relationships marked by grace, patience, and service. We should cultivate intimacy with Jesus daily so His love overflows naturally into your interactions and practice intentional acts of kindness and friendship, especially toward those far from faith.