GATEWAYS, FOOTHOLDS AND STRONGHOLDS

WELCOME. On this second part of our series on *demonology*, we dive into an Old Testament account of a man whose pride and desperation made him do something God has expressly forbidden. We will learn how some people unknowingly give the enemy access into their lives, and how we can avoid it. In this passage, we read about a ghostly appearance that scared everyone in the story!

WORSHIP. *Mighty Name of Jesus (Belonging)*

WORD. *Read **1 Samuel 28:3–25***

1. Let's review last Sunday sermon's main points:
   1. The Desperation that led to Descent (1 Samuel 28:4–7)
      A. God's silence is not absence, sometimes it is the fruit of unconfessed, unrepentant rebellion.
      B. Fear makes us irrational. When pressure mounts, we are tempted to abandon steady trust for quick, forbidden fixes.
      C. We cannot hide our spiritual condition from God with pretense.
   2. The Deception that pretended to be a solution (1 Samuel 28:8–14)
      A. Using God's name to perform an act strictly forbidden by God's law (Leviticus 20:27).
      B. The medium attempts her occult practice, and whether through divine intervention or sovereign permission, a real encounter takes place in the form of rebuke.
      C. The spirit of Samuel terrified the medium because she realizes she is dealing with someone far beyond her control.
   3. The Doom that came along (1 Samuel 28:15–25)
      A. Saul wanted answers to soothe his pride-driven despair and got what he asked for.
      B. Seeking a shortcut through wrong means never changes God's truth or alters His moral order.

Conclusion:

Identify the gateways. Genesis 4:7
Refuse to give a foothold. Ephesians 4:27
Learn to demolish strongholds. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

WORK. Apply God's Word:

1. Saul's pride and fear led him to seek answers to soothe his desperation. Has there ever been a time when you tried to seek answers from the wrong places to soothe your distress?
2. For Saul, the gateway left open to the enemy was his pride. What are some of the gateways into our lives that might be left unguarded that can become a foothold?
3. Do you ever read your horoscope? Is that acceptable in God's sight? What other occult things do you play with? Ouija boards? Tarot cards? Mediums? How do such things compare with Deuteronomy 18:10-13?
4. There are areas in our lives that may have already become the enemy's stronghold against us. How can we demolish these strongholds?