



# NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

## Are You a Gatekeeper or Porter?

*In high school, I ran sound for the school jazz band. In my senior year, we planned a week's tour in Canada. When we arrived at the border, we were stopped by the border guards. They asked us where we were born. Our bass player was born in Europe. He was not a US citizen. He was not permitted to enter Canada, and he was sent home.*

*I was recently studying I Chronicles chapter 23-26. In chapter 23 King David assigned over four thousand Levites to be porters of the temple. In chapter 26, these Levites cast lots for certain gates. In the King James Bible, the word porter is used 39 times. Some translations use guards, or gatekeepers instead of porters. As gatekeepers, they were like border guards or bouncers, who did not allow those without proper credentials to enter or to remove those causing problems. Temple guards were incorrectly used outside the Temple to arrest Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.*

*"Divisions of the gatekeepers in the Bible: These had the responsibility for security, both in a practical and spiritual sense. They made sure that only those who were ready to serve and worship God could come to the temple and its associated building. Their work had to be organized and arranged just as much as the work of the priests who officiated at the sacrifices. Essentially their duty was to make ordinary people aware of the practical limits of holiness, for anyone entering the sanctuary unlawfully did so on penalty of death."<sup>1</sup>*

*In too many churches today, we are like gatekeepers or border guards. Our doors may say Welcome, but it really means well, come once - but to continue you must meet our criteria. Once you fall or are not faithful in service or attendance, then sorry you are forgotten.*

*A porter, today, is one that carries your personal bags within a hotel or airport. They help you get to your destination properly, with welcome arms. They are on call if you need them. If my classmate had someone like a porter, to help get him the proper permissions to enter Canada, he would have been allowed to go with us.*

*As porters, we must make our visitors feel loved. We must try to personally put them under our wings. Also, with our relatives, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and even strangers, we need to establish a porter or Christ loving relationship. "When Christians befriend others and develop a trusting relationship with them, they earn the right to be listened to. Inviting others to come to church or attend Bible studies in the homes of other Christians is a good way to share the Gospel."<sup>2</sup>*



*Charles L Stambaugh*


*Mt Wolf, PA*

*"Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers." III John 1:5*

*"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:35*



<sup>1</sup> [enduringword.com/bible-commentary/1-chronicles-26/](http://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/1-chronicles-26/) <sup>2</sup> [gotquestions.org/door-to-door-evangelism.html](http://gotquestions.org/door-to-door-evangelism.html)

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