


# Close the Gate

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One last thought on gate keeping that I learned the hard way. Over the last month or so, during the COVID 19 shut down and sheltering in, I have had the opportunity to spend more time at home and around my place than normal. I found myself spending time doing yard work or garden work or checking on the cows in the pasture (Though I did study the Bible and tried to help Penny some of the time). My yard looks the best it has ever looked and the garden is pretty good too. But would you believe that the cows got out of the pasture twice during the pandemic panic? It's true, and it's even harder to believe that they didn't find a hole in the fence. They walked out the gates. It's hard for me to admit this but I left the gate open. I just forgot to close it, else thought I had shut it. I'm not sure what's worse, having your soul on fire and out of fellowship with God or driving into your driveway and seeing your cows in the garden or in your neighbor's field? Either creates more panic than a pandemic.

 Always remember to close the gate. Don't let your mind wander back into sinful thoughts. Shut the door on doubt. Forgive yourself and others by forgetting about those failures and offenses. Remove the bitterness and resentment that has wedged

the gate from being shut completely. If you give the devil an inch, he will take a mile. Cows will get out if you leave the gate open. I know that for sure. And the gate they so easily walked out of seems to be the very last place they want to go back through. We are a lot like cows sometime in that we forget that we have protection and sustenance within the boundaries of the Almighty's providential hand and care and so when we get out in the world or the world gets in us, we lose all sense of direction. Running cows will make a man forget he is a preacher, just ask my family. I think Christians who don't close their gates grieve their Heavenly Father a lot too.

These gates are grace gates though. Remember the springs that screen doors had on them. When you went outside, the door would shut because of the tension in the spring pulling the door closed. Closing the door helped keep the flies out of the house. In a similar way, God's restraining grace keeps pulling us back to Him. He won't let us go, and He loves us so much he will close a gate if He has to. However, God never closes a gate without opening a window.

Brother Randy