

# Keys to the Kingdom

Matthew 16:13-19, "When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, **"Who do people say the Son of Man is?"**

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

"But what about you?" he asked. **"Who do you say I am?"**

Simon Peter answered, **"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."**

Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. <sup>19</sup> **I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."**

Here on earth people are bound in many different ways.  
Some are bound to alcohol and cannot be loosed or delivered  
Some are bound to smoking and are unable to stop.  
Others are bound to fear and have no joy in the heart.  
Some are bound to stress and frustration and need to be set free.  
Others are bound to pornography and other sex related obsession.  
Still others are bound to hatred, and bitterness unable to forgive and forget.

Let us consider 8 keys which God has provided and given to us to unlock the door of Salvation and bring deliverance from addiction, condemnation, fear, stress, guilt, bitterness and sin.

## **Key No. 1 The Key of CONFESSION.**

In Romans 10:9 we read, "That if you **confess** with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."  
Confession with our mouth and belief in our heart brings salvation to all people. Both Faith and Confession are required for any one to be saved from condemnation and obtain eternal salvation in heaven for ever and ever. We hear with our ears, agree with the message with our mind and then the message of salvation must go to our heart. For with our heart we believe. But that is not enough. We also must confess with our mouth. This is a public confession to our family members and friends. It is easy to believe in your heart but it is more difficult to confess with our mouth. Faith without works is dead. Confession is putting our faith to action.  
The Lord Jesus asked His disciples "Who do you say I am?" Then Peter confessed with his mouth and answered "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God".

## **Key No. 2 The Key of RELATIONSHIP.**

In John 1:12, the Lord Jesus explained, "Yet to all who received Him (Jesus) to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God." By receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord we become the children of God. Jesus Christ wants to have a relationship with the believers. We may receive Him as personal Savior into our lives and hearts.

When we receive Jesus Christ into our heart we become the children of God. This is relationship. We may call God our Father. God cares for His children. He has promised to meet all their needs. As children we have access to our heavenly Father. We may come to Him day and night, 24 hours per day. God never sleeps or slumbers, always ready to listen to your prayers.

### **Key No.3 The Key of FELLOWSHIP.**

In 1 John 1:3 God's Word tells us, "... and our Fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ." God desires that you and I have fellowship with Him. Fellowship means friendship, companionship, oneness. Many people in this world are lonely and have few or no true friends. Many people take advantage of each other and try to get all they can. The Bible informs us that we as believers are one with God the Father and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. When we have a relationship with God we may also have fellowship with Him. This is a marvelous privilege to have fellowship with almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. He is all-powerful and all-wise God. He is in charge, the King of kings.

### **Key No. 4 The Key of FORGIVENESS.**

In Psalm 103:2-3 God's Word says, "Praise the Lord O my soul and forget not all His benefits -- who forgives all your sins". And in Micah 7:18 God says, "Who is a God like you who pardons sin and forgives the transgressions..." Only God has the authority and the power to forgive sins. All people stand condemned before God. The Bible teaches that all people are sinners and there is not even one person who is righteous or sinless. Only Jesus Christ is the sinless prophet. He is perfect and without sin. In 1 John 1:9 God's Word teaches that if we confess our sins to God then He will forgive us of all unrighteousness. The first key is Confession and Confession provides us with the 4<sup>th</sup> key of Forgiveness. This key opens the door to heaven. Sin can never enter heaven. Sin must be forgiven. Jesus Christ died on the cross and God's Word teaches us the blood of Christ cleans us from sin and brings forgiveness so that we may spend all eternity in heaven.

### **Key No. 5 The Key of ACCEPTANCE.**

In Romans 15:7 the Bible says, "Accept one another, then, just as Christ **accepted** you, in order to bring praise to God." God has accepted us as His children, cleansed and forgiven. We have been accepted because of what Christ has done for us. We are accepted as we are. God does not discriminate against any one. He treats all people the same. He does not have any favorites. Any one who has accepted Jesus Christ into his or her life has been accepted by God into His kingdom. Therefore we also must accept each other as brother and sister being the children of one father. In Christ there is no rich or poor, no black or white, no male or female, no young or old. All believers are now accepted into God's big family. We must serve each other and always remember that we now have the key of acceptance. No one is rejected and all are accepted regardless of religious affiliation. If we accept Christ as Savior then and then alone are we also accepted. We should never feel rejected because we are all accepted in Christ. The main question is "Have you accepted Jesus Christ?"

### **Key No. 6 The Key to FORGIVE OTHERS.**

In Mark 11:25 we read, "And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." It is important to remember that if we are not willing to forgive others this also prevents God's forgiveness in our own lives. Our own forgiveness is related to our willingness to forgive those who have done wrong to us. We should not hold bitterness against any one, no matter what they have done to us. We have been forgiven so we must quickly forgive those who have wronged us. We must be free from the bondage of bitterness and hatred to each other. It is a big relief when we forgive others

and then experience God's forgiveness. We must never hold a grudge against any one. This key sets us free from the bondage of bitterness and hatred. May God help us to forgive all our friends.

### **Key No.7 The Key of MIRACLES.**

In Psalm 77:14 we read, "You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples." When we use the 6 keys then we will experience the Miracles of God. So here we have the 7<sup>th</sup> key to experience the Miracle of Salvation, Miracle of Forgiveness, Miracle of Healing, Miracle of Provision. Often we hear the question, are miracles still relevant today?. We do not read anything in the Bible that says that the Miracles stop. Miracles may stop because there is no faith. In Hebrews 11:6 we read that without faith it is impossible to please God. Miracles stop when God is not pleased. God is not pleased when we do not believe and have no faith in miracles. The Bible teaches that by faith we can remove mountains. What mountain is there in your life? Is it the mountain of unbelief? Is it the mountain of unthankfulness? Is it the mountain of unfaithfulness?

### **Key No. 8 The Key of VICTORY.**

In 1 Corinthians 15:7 we read, "But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. By using these 8 keys which God has committed to us, our life will be a life of victory, released from bondage and fear. A life released from stress, frustration and disappointment. Our victory is in Christ. He is the Victor. He is never defeated, always victorious. God has given us the Key of Victory. Victory belongs to Christ and in Christ to the believers here on earth. We may have victory over feelings of defeat and feelings of discouragement. The life of the believer is a life of victory. When we experience victory, there is joy and peace and release from all bondage. These are the keys God has given us. It is up to use them and not put them away. If you have a car you have keys to start the car and enjoy the ride to work. However you can also choose not to use the keys and walk to work. The decision of using or not using these 8 keys is entirely our decision. No one will force you to use these keys. But if you use the keys God has provide then your life will be a life of miracles, a life of victory, a life of joy and peace.

**Take the keys and use them.**