

Understanding Spirit Warfare from God's Perspective

Lesson 11 – “Casting Out Demons New Testament Style” Part 2 & 3

1 - The Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven

Matt. 16:18-19 Jesus gave the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven to His church. “Now I say to you that you are Peter [which means Rock] and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. And I will give you the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you **forbid** [bind] on earth, will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you **permit** [loosed] on earth, will be permitted in heaven.”

This scripture has been mis-quoted and used by many suggesting that Christians can bind Satan and his powers of darkness on earth.

The KJV has used the words in v. 19 – “Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

In Hebrew – Binding is to disallow or forbid, and Loosing is to allow or permit.

The more correct wording is to use is **Forbidding** and **Permitting** rather than binding or loosing.

Here is a question?

Who are the keys of heaven, not what!

All believers in Christ are the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Jesus was the Master Key of the Kingdom of Heaven and He made all of His born again followers to become duplicate keys of the Kingdom of Heaven.

The key of the Kingdom of Heaven can only be used to permit others into the Kingdom. That's the only door that key fits.

We don't use the Key of the Kingdom of Heaven to bind or permit the enemy to return to heaven, he will never be allowed to enter there again.

If we try to bind Satan, we would have to have the key to the bottomless pit, which God will give to an angel at the appropriate time. [remember last week's study of Rev. 20:1-3, Rev. 20:10]

The key of the Kingdom of Heaven can only be used to allow someone to heaven.

We, as believers are the ones who know the way into the Kingdom of Heaven, so we are the key to help others enter through the door – Jesus Christ.

The Missions of the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven

- As born again believers, we are all called to do God’s mission work on earth!

1. **Preach** the salvation plan of God to the lost:

The plan of Matt. 10:7 “And as you go [daily, wherever], preach, saying, the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

- Jesus came as God’s Lamb to take away the sin of the world – John 1:29.
- The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus – Rom. 6:23.
- Only believers in Christ can open the door to the Kingdom of Heaven to the lost souls by preaching the salvation plan of God as Rom. 10:13-15 outline:
“For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: How beautiful are the fee of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things.”

The most important work – calling of every born again believer as a key of the Kingdom of Heaven, is to do all we can to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost in our own household, neighborhood, city, state, nation and sphere of influence we live in.

God promises His presence and power to go with us if we fully obey His commandments.

2. **Demonstrate** the Kingdom Plan of God:

Once the Resurrected Lord Jesus comes to live in the life of the believer, HE releases His Kingdom authority to minister in signs, wonders, and miracles and miracles are to set people free from bondages of evil. Acts 1:8

Matt. 28:18 “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

Acts 1:8 “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Jesus has restored God's Kingdom authority and power back to God's born again sons and daughters so we can move in His Kingdom plan to destroy the works of the devil and expand His Kingdom to the end of the earth to every Unreached People Group in the world.

God has called us to not only preach the gospel message, but to also demonstrate the Kingdom plan of God according to Matt. 10:7-8 "And as you go, preach saying; the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."

- As His redeemed and empowered sons and daughters, we are to demonstrate with action so unbelievers will see/witness the signs, wonders, and miracles and believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior.
- We are to learn to live victoriously through every trial and attack from the enemy of our own flesh because: "Greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world." 1John 4:4.
- The same power that brought us out of our sin can empower us to overcome the enemy on an everyday basis on our lives.

3. Destroy the works of the devil:

Gen. 1:26 tells us that initially, God gave Adam the authority to rule over every living thing on the earth.

"Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over ...all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Jesus, the last Adam came to take back the authority man had relinquished to satan. The earth, while under satans rule has released all sorts of sins, sicknesses, diseases and curses and the fear of death to every living soul on the planet.

Jesus declared in John 12:31 "Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."

John 14:30 "I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me."

John 16:11 "... of judgement, because the ruler of the world is judged."

Jesus came to destroy the works of satan on the earth until his time of judgment comes and he's cast into the lake of fire.

1John 3:8b “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”

For this to happen, we, as God’s Kingdom keys must manifest the presence of God wherever we go and set people free from the works of the devil.

The same works Jesus did, we are to do:

Matt. 11:5-6 “The blind see and the lame walk; lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed he who is not offended because of Me.”

The normal Christian life is not to just attend church services, enjoy social fellowships and home groups – but as sons and daughters of the Resurrected Lord and Savior go in His name daily to find those who need to be delivered, saved, rescued.

Jesus Christ came to seek and to save, not to destroy.
He came to cast out demons, restore people.

We must not be afraid of the devil or demons, but fear/reverence the Lord and fulfill His call upon our lives to be used as Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven to unlock Heaven’s doors so they can come in.

This is the first key of the Kingdom of Heaven we are given as believers in Jesus Christ.