

Kingdom of God – Part 10
Key of Faith and the Key of Grace

1. Comments on Treasure Hunting
2. Review
 - a. The Kingdom of Heaven/Kingdom of God – the gospel or good news of the kingdom (not the good news of how to get to heaven).
 - i. Kingdom – the king’s domain or reign.
 - ii. That is good news because if God is in charge of your life, good things happen. You taste heaven because wherever God is, heaven is.
 - iii. God didn’t make your salvation his “ultimate” goal – It is one of His purposes but His ultimate goal, **God’s ultimate purpose is to fill you with Himself.**
 1. Bowl? The little marks on the lane? You aim at those in order to hit your target. Your being forgiven and made whole is the prerequisite for God to fill you with Himself, with His very glory and Presence so the earth might be filled with Himself.
 - b. Keys – purpose of keys? (ask folks to tell me!)
 - i. Unlock, open, provide access, represent ownership and freedom.
 - ii. How many of us have keys we do not know what to do with? Of course. Last week, I inferred that Declarative Confession is a key to the Kingdom that most of us do not know how to use.
 1. Let me add: A declaration doesn’t cause something to happen – ie., it doesn’t force the sun to shine or cause healing upon command. A declaration is the unlocking or opening of a door (that’s what a key does) so that the thing declared “CAN HAPPEN.”
 - iii. Joe Fuger was sharing with me that with that new fangled key his car has...he really isn’t the one starting the car. The car has been configured to start when everything is in place. The key is simply the tool to unlocking and aligning all those things that will start the car. The key makes it possible to happen...but the battery, gas, coil, injectors...they actually cause the car to start! Take any component out and the key is useless!
 - iv. And sometimes, we find that we must use multiple keys to unlock something in the Kingdom of Heaven.
 1. Not unlike your safety deposit box that requires two keys plus a combination to get into the safe itself, the Kingdom requires multiple keys.
 2. That is why I gave you a formula last week:
 3. **Supernatural Reality=A(F+C) Authority times (faith and confession)***
 - a. Confession opens the door, faith walks through it, and authority...well it is what ACTIVATES our faith.
 - b.
3. Today, I want to address the key of faith and how it works to unlock the kingdom of God.
 - a. Faith is a seriously misunderstood concept. There are a lot of misconceptions about faith. You might have some of them.
 - i. I don’t have enough faith.
 - ii. If I believe something strongly enough then it will happen.
 - iii.
 - b. The bible says,
 - i. Heb 11:6 “*it is impossible to please God without faith.*”
 - ii. NAS: Heb 11:1 “*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things unseen.*”
 - iii. NIV “*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*”
 1. How can you be certain of what you cannot see or what you seem not to possess?

- c. Faith is that unique property of the human spirit that reaches out to the unseen God of the Ages and latches on to His promises and Word and holds onto them and acts upon them with the conviction that they are real and that we do in fact possess what we do not seem to have.
 - i. In fact, faith is given to every one of us. It is a gift from God. (Eph 2:8 *“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;”*)
 - ii. The faith we have is the faith of Christ. That is why Jesus said, “that if you only have the faith of a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain be cast into the sea and it will be done for you.”
 - iii. You and I have enough faith for any task God gives us. What we don’t have is a renewed mind.
 - iv. God gives all faith. You want more? Ask for it. But the truth is you and I have all we need of it. Jesus said so. If it is a gift, then how can we say we don’t have enough?
- d. Let me suggest that when you lose “faith” in yourself, you are nearer to the Kingdom of God!
 - i. Faith has nothing to do with feeling confident.
 - ii. Because faith in oneself is useless.
 - iii. Even faith in your faith is useless.
 - iv. Faith is only as good as the object it is placed in. (Example – faulty object).
 - v. It is the trust in God’s ability, willingness and character that gives faith its power.
- e. So what is faith? **Faith is the arm that reaches out to receive what God has promised.**
 - i. *We receive what is promised but we have to go get what is ours? Bill Johnson Quote???*

- 4. Jesus never used healing as a reward for what a person did.
 - a. It is very telling that Jesus never told a person to "get more faith" and they would be healed.
 - b. He never told a person they did not have enough faith.
 - c. The faith Jesus considered "enough" to heal someone was their coming to Him and saying (believing) He was able and willing to do it.

- 5. Faith and Unbelief
 - a. A-pistas – negative faith. It isn’t that you don’t have faith. Everyone has faith in something. It is that your faith is negative, destructive, erosive. You have faith in something other than God which = “negative faith.”
 - b. Fear is a form of apistas. **Fear is faith in the devil’s suggestions.**
 - c. Fear is negative faith. Destructive, denying, canceling faith.

- 6. Faith and Authority
 - a. **Jesus said the “greatest” faith was in understanding authority.**
 - b. Luke 7:2-10 *“There a centurion’s servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, “This man deserves to have you do this, because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue.” So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: “Lord, don’t trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.” Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.”*
 - c. What did this Centurion, a Gentile and leader of an occupational army know about faith? If we look at it from his perspective, though he was a benefactor to the Jews, and even may have been a “God fearer” (a term given to Gentiles who believed in the God of the Jews) – we have to believe that he probably only understood that Jesus had the authority to do what he was doing

and that everything under heaven and earth was submitting to it. That is how he could ask Jesus to simply “give the order” and his servant would be healed.

- i. The Centurion “understood” and believed Jesus had all authority over sickness.
 1. And this is why we need renewed minds!
 2. A renewed mind thinks like God thinks.
 3. You know, God wrote the church out an awful lot of blank checks “whatsoever you ask for in prayer...” “two or more agree on anything it shall be yours.” How is it that we can claim those checks? By getting our mind renewed so we understand how to use them!
 4. We will know our mind is renewed when the impossible looks possible!
- ii. Mark 9:17-18, "And one of the crowd answered Him, "*Teacher, I brought You my son, possessed with a spirit which makes him mute; and whenever it seizes him, it slams him to the ground and he foams at the mouth, and grinds his teeth and stiffens out. I told Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not do it.*"."
- iii. Now Jesus had given His disciples authority over all powers of the enemy, so they clearly did not lack authority to drive out that unclean spirit:
- iv. Luke 10:19, "*Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*"
 1. Why couldn't they do it? So what did these disciples lack? Clearly they didn't lack authority! *What they lacked was faith in their authority:*
- v. I have a question for you today. If you could choose between being in a storm sent by God or in a storm sent by the devil, which would you choose? Think carefully before you answer, because you only have AUTHORITY over one.
 1. The storm sent by God can only be judgment. You don't want to be in that one!
 2. But if you have all authority over the enemy (which you do) then you can be in a storm sent by the enemy and calm it!
- d. Know and understand your authority and you will walk in the greatest faith.
 - i. Don't even give a thought to faith or how much you have.
 - ii. Just exercise divine dominion and authority.
- e. Authority:
 - i. *In ancient times, a mantle was an outer cloak worn over other clothing. While used primarily as a means to keep warm, it also served, for some people, as a symbol of authority. The English word mantle is used to translate 3 different Hebrew words of the Scriptures. One of these, (pronounced) add-deh-reth also means an outer garment, but is from a root word meaning power; it's used in the Scriptures to refer to the mantle of Eljiah.*
 - ii. *Elijah passed his mantle to Elisha. Literally, he gave Elisha, his successor, the same authority that he himself had as a prophet or spokesperson or representative of God. But Elisha had to “pick up” the mantle. (more on this another time!).*
- f. What possesses ultimate authority for the Christian? Obviously God, Christ and the Word of God.
 - i. Romans 10:17, "*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*" (hearing is present tense, not PAST tense).
 - ii. For example, how can you have faith to pray for a healing, believing that He will heal you, if you didn't know it was God's will for your healing? This is why Satan works so hard to tell the church today that it may not be God's will for them to be healed! Why? Because it casts doubt, the opposite of faith, upon the hearts of God's children! How can you lay hold of the promises of God, if you don't know what they are? We must first know the truth, then believe it. That's Biblical faith!
 - iii.

- g. Let me tell you what I believe the bible says. I believe what the early church believed and that only in the 20th century and latter part of the 19th century did the church stop believing it. That is that Jesus purchased 3 things for us in the atonement:
 - i. Forgiveness of our Sins (Salvation)
 - ii. Healing
 - iii. Deliverance.
 - h. We have tossed aside the other 2 in favor of psychiatrists and doctors while holding onto the first. But when Jesus paid for something, he cannot “unpay” for it. It was paid for.
 - i. When you and I pray for healing, deliverance, or forgiveness for someone, we are “giving Jesus what He paid for!”
 - ii. Amen?
7. Jesus paid for your mistakes, your sins, your faults, all the bad stuff you ever did or will do. He paid the price that God’s justice demanded, which was the death of one who had the sin upon him. He took your place and mine. He also took all of our sicknesses, diseases, and sorrows. He bore it all so you don’t have to. If you are carrying them still, won’t you lay them down?