

## Kingdom of God Part Nine

### Keys to the Kingdom (Confession)

#### 1. Review:

- a. The gospel of the Kingdom of God (or Heaven) – is what Jesus told His disciples to preach, is what Peter, Paul and the rest of the apostles preached. They did not preach “the gospel of how to get to heaven when you die” but rather “the good news of eternal God’s reign and rule in our lives as a result of the sacrificial death of Jesus upon the cross and His resurrection.”
- b. Two weeks ago, we talked about Peter’s revelation that Jesus was the Messiah, and Jesus decided that Peter (and later the disciples) were ready to be given the “keys to the kingdom.”
  - i. Keys **Plural**.
  - ii. These are Keys **not to heaven** but to the Kingdom of Heaven.
- c. What do keys do?
  - i. Keys open doors that are locked
  - ii. They activate function (start a car)
  - iii. Keys provide access to secure areas.
  - iv. Keys represent ownership & control.
  - v. Keys represent freedom.
- d. So what was Jesus giving Peter, the disciples and ultimately you and I? He was giving us what we need to access, function, and live fully in the Kingdom He brought to earth.

#### 2. Jesus gave us (and we spoke about last week)

- a. **Key of divine authority.**
  - i. I underemphasized authority last week. We have been given authority over sickness and death and all the power of the enemy. Yet most of us, including me, operate far below that authority. We live as if we don’t have a key on our key ring. It is there. God gave it to us. But we act as if it isn’t ours to use.
    1. Imagine being given the key to a vault where the cure to every disease existed. Yet, you didn’t use that key because...
      - a. ...you felt you weren’t worthy.
      - b. ...you thought that maybe Jesus only meant it for 1<sup>st</sup> century Christians.
      - c. ...you felt like you didn’t have enough faith.
      - d. ...weren’t sure that Jesus meant “you.”
    2. When Jesus sent out the 12 and then the 72 and commanded them to “heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, and cast out demons”, none of them questioned Jesus on what would happen, or ask “what if” questions. They simply acted in the authority they were given. (Mt 10:5-8)
    3. Sometimes I think we are a bit like someone who has a key ring full of keys that they don’t know what they are for. You know, you don’t throw the key away, but for the life of you, you can’t figure out what it is to. So you put it on a ring with all the other “unknown” keys.
    4. I think that the Key of Authority is one of those “unknown” keys.
    5. Matthew 10:1 *“Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.”*
      - a. What do you do with a passage like that? Do you say what the liberals say when they find a passage they don’t agree with “ah, that was only for that time.”
    6. I must admit working below the authority level God has given me, b/c I have been taught to think and act that below the authority of a disciple. I learned to only to pray for the sick instead of “heal the sick.”

- a. Did you know that during the time of Azusa Street Revival that local officials arrested Christian preachers who were healing the sick and charged them with “practicing medicine without a license?”
  - b. Oh that the church today would have such a reputation!
  - c. In Spokane where one such evangelist ministered, a local physician called it called "the healthiest city in the world" as a result of what God was doing.
  - d. Are you working below the authority level you have? I think the answer is yes for us all. We will pursue this more in the weeks to come.
- ii. **Key of kingdom opportunity.** God opens doors “in heaven” for us to enter earthly opportunities. Last week we looked at how in the book of Revelation 4, “a door was standing open in heaven.” This was preceded by Revelation 3 that said that “Jesus will open doors no one can shut, and shut doors that no one can open.”
    1. Doors in heaven are unlocked and lead to open doors of opportunity for us to advance the Kingdom of God.
    2. Doors like those at Sahara and Western Reserve Mobile home parks. A door must open in heaven first.
  - iii. **Key of supernatural revelation.** God speaks us to us. He is always communicating but we aren’t always listening. We need to learn to pay attention.
    1. An example of listening – after VBS last week, I heard from a number of our leaders saying that they felt spiritually vulnerable. Through that and the observation of some of the attacks we were under, Joe Fuger and I called a prayer meeting for our leaders Tuesday night. As 14 of us gathered to intercede for one another and our church, we collectively knew we were gathered in prayer as a direct result of God’s invitation. It was a sweet time of prayer and encouragement that happened because we were listening.

### TODAY’S KEY TO THE KINGDOM

3. **Key of Confession** (declaration). “whatever you bind/loose”
  - a. **What do you think this means?** Catholics think it means the Pope’s authority to make doctrine, or for priests to forgive sin. Protestants think it means that you and I are to be the entry point to heaven with the gospel.
  - b. **I believe that it is deeper than that.** I believe that it reveals the incredibly eternally lasting, creative power of words that tie authority, faith and action together.
  - c. Matthew 18:18- 20 *"Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven. "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."*
    - i. First thing you should notice is the fact that the tense quoted in this translation is the accurate tense that is in the Greek. You and I cannot change what exists in heaven. But we are called, according to the Lord’s Prayer, to bring what exists in heaven down to earth. (*Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*’’)
      - ii. This wonderful gift of “the keys to the kingdom” unlocks heavenly miracles and realities in our earthly realm.
        1. It unleashes the will of God in heaven upon the earth.
        2. It opens doors on earth that are linked to doors in heaven.
        3. Example: The pattern of the tabernacle on earth in Moses’ time was modeled upon the heavenly. (Don’t believe me? Look at Acts 7:44, Hebrews 8:5)
        4. Folks, we aren’t playing church anymore.

- a. I am not going to preach stuff to make you feel good about yourself or bad about yourself so you can go home and make no difference in your world.
- b. We need to learn to understand how the Kingdom of God works and functions and then operate in it at our full potential so that we can bring the love and rule of God to every person on earth!
- c. There are principles to the operation of God's Kingdom. It is vital that you and I learn to walk "in the Spirit" – literally "stay in step with the Spirit."

**4. Let's look at some of the Power words have:**

- a. John 15:7 "*If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*"
  - b. God created the heavens and the earth with a spoken word.
  - c. Matthew 12:36-37 says, "*But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.*"
    - i. To get a complete understanding we need to define what "idle/careless" means. The word "idle" means inactive, unemployed, barren, useless, lazy, and slow. That means every word that we speak that is unproductive, unfruitful, and unspiritual, we must give an account of it.
  - d. Proverbs 18:21 "*The tongue has the power of life and death*" (steam engine, tons of steel propelled by steam harnessed.).
  - e. The bible says amazing things about words and their power. And it is far more than can be expressed in here in a single sermon. But because "confession/declaration" is a Key to the Kingdom, we need to understand that words form our confession or declaration.
    - i. I could talk about how words destroy people because that is one of the horrendous effects of words.
    - ii. I could talk about how they form vows that we unconsciously obey.
    - iii. I could talk about how words curse and bless, and pollute.
    - iv. But today I am only going to focus upon **their power to invade the spiritual world when combined with authority and faith.**
5. Mark 11:12-24 "*The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it." (V20) When evening came, they went out of the city. In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!" "Have faith in God," Jesus said, "For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and cast into the sea' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says." (Mark 11:23).*
- a. Did you notice, Jesus did not speak AT the tree, He spoke TO the tree. Jesus didn't pray to the Father and "ask" for the tree to be dried up. He spoke with authority to the tree and literally **COMMANDED** it to dry up. What is with that?
    - i. Rom 10:9 *That if you confess (declare the same thing that is in your heart) with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* (NIV)
  - b. What is the value of the spoken word? Why not the "thinking word or the written word?"
    - i. I believe that there is a reaction when faith and confession collide.
    - ii. **Supernatural Reality=A(F+C)      Authority times (faith and confession)\***

- c. I believe that things obey words spoken in faith and authority. However, there is a line that you can cross that you must pay attention to.
    - i. Any attempt to “manipulate” people or objects for your own designs is called “witchcraft” by the bible.
    - ii. These statements of Jesus tell us the power of a spoken word, spoken with “faith” (which incidentally arises from the authority you have).
      - 1. So how is it that we can speak with such authority?
      - 2. How come we see abuses of this – Pastor, I don’t want to be classified with the crazies! And what happens if I fail?
      - 3. I have to admit, the people watching the disciples probably thought they were crazy too – going 2x2 into villages, proclaiming the kingdom of God and speaking to sickness and demons and commanding them to leave.
      - 4. Do you want to be “safe” and powerless...or would you prefer to be a part a God sized miracle in someone’s life?
6. I have a short video clip of an interview I did with Pat Bush who has been studying the power of the tongue for some time now.
- a. Words work through your mind.
  - b. Dr. Cho and the neurosurgeon. The neurosurgeon said that the speech nerve center has such power over all the body that simply speaking can give one control over his body to manipulate it in the way he wishes. He said, “if someone keeps on saying, ‘I’m going to become weak,’ then right away, all the nerves receive that message and they say, ‘oh, let’s prepare to become weak, for we have received instructions from our central communication that we should become weak.’ They then in natural sequence adjust their physical attitude to weakness. If someone says, ‘Well, I have no ability – I can’t do this job, then right away all the nerves begin to declare the same thing. ‘Yes, they respond, we received instructions from the central nervous system saying that we have no abilities.
    - i. “If someone keeps saying, ‘I’m very old, I’m so very old and so tired, I can’t do anything,’ then right away the speech central control response begins giving out orders to that effect. The nerves response – ‘yes, we are old. We are ready for the grave. Let’s be ready to disintegrate.’ If someone keeps on saying that he is old, then that person is soon going to die.”
    - ii. That conversation carried great meaning to me. It made an impact on my life. For I could see that one important usage of the spoken word is the creation of a successful personal life. People easily adapt to speaking in an negative way. “Boy am I poor. I don’t even have any money to the Lord.” When an opportunity does come for a job with a good salary, the nervous system responds. “I’m not able to be rich, because I haven’t received that reverse instruction from my nerve center yet. I’m supposed to be poor. So I can’t accept this job. I’m not supposed to have money.”
    - iii. Exactly as the Bible said 2000 years ago, it is so today. Medical science has just recently discovered this principle. This one neurosurgeon said that people should keep saying to themselves, “I am young, I am able, I can do the work of a young person, no matter what my chronological age is.” The nerves of that person will become alive and receive power and strength from the nerve center.
    - iv. The Bible says clearly that whosoever controls the tongue controls the whole body.
      - 1. What you speak, you are going to get. If you keep on saying you are poor, then all your system conditions yourself to attract poverty. You will feel at home in poverty. You would rather be poor and argue with people who aren’t.
      - 2. But if you will keep on saying that you are able – that you can achieve success, then all of your body would be bridled to success. You would be ready to meet

any challenge; ready to conquer it. This is the reason you should never speak in a negative way.

**3. Feed your nervous system with constructive, progressive, productive, victorious words.**

- a. Keep repeating them so that you can have control of your whole body. Then you will become victorious. For you will become completely conditioned to meet your environment and circumstances and achieve complete success.
- b. Why does the bible give us “positive promises?” “I can do ALL THINGS through Christ who strengthens me” “We are more than conquerors.”
- c. Because God knows how He made us. He knows that when we operate according to His blueprint, we will get the results he promised!

7. What God speaks is not based on the circumstances of our life. We say “I am depressed.” Whoa! You want to see your life turn inside out? You can say “I am feeling down” but remember “depression” is an illness, so if you are saying you are depressed, you are declaring yourself to be sick! Your body is all to happy to comply.

- a. What God speaks it is based on the eventuality of our lives...the possibility His children possess.
- b. God doesn't speak of our destitution as much as He speaks of our destiny. That is why He calls us Saints and we call ourselves sinners.
- c. If you call yourself a sinner, you are denying the work of the Cross.
  - i. Your PAST condition was a sinner.
  - ii. Your FUTURE state is a saint.
  - iii. And as far as God is concerned, your PRESENT condition is based upon your relationship with Jesus Christ. So if you have placed your faith in Christ, then your present condition is a saint! God is not concerned with our condition as much as he is concerned about our position.
- d. Can you see what words do?
  - i. You are “IN CHRIST” – begin to believe it! Begin to declare it.

8. So what are you carrying today? Is it a burden too great? Is it an illness you have begged God to release you from? Or perhaps you are hungering for God to use you?