

KEYS

"Pastor, what are the keys of the kingdom and how do I use them?" Immediately after Jesus declared the coming of the church age He handed over the keys of the kingdom. And this is what He said in Matthew 16:19, ***"And I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of the heavens and whoever you might bind upon the earth will be so, having been bound in the heavens, and whatever you might release upon the earth will be so, having been released in the heavens"*** (literal translation from the original Greek). What's interesting to note from the outset is that the condition for binding and loosing is already in force in heaven when it is enforced on earth. "You bind what has already been bound in heaven!" In other words what you bind or loose should express what God has already decreed as bound and released in His heavenly counsels. That is the main function of the keys! But what does 'having possession' of the keys really mean? Here are six things to remember....

1. The keys represent authority.
2. Jesus had the right to hand over a copy of the keys.
3. The keys mean we have rights to the kingdom. Not because we have built the kingdom and earned the rights to it, but because the universal Owner decided to trust us with His kingdom.
4. These rights are exclusive to the church.
5. Having the keys means that is where we live.
6. The keys allow us to freely let ourselves in and lock the gate behind us.
7. With the keys we control who comes in. We can unlock the gate and let in guests or we can lock the gate to keep intruders out.

Notice that the gates of hell cannot stand against the church, yet the keys of the kingdom prevents hell from entering. Hell is no match for heaven! God has given us the authority to open and shut the gates of heaven, but He has also given us the authority to tear down the gates of hell! When Jesus said, ***"ALL AUTHORITY was given to Me in heaven and on earth, go therefore...."*** He was thinking of the very same authority. The authority associated with the keys of the kingdom of heaven. In ancient times a king would keep his most valuable possessions in a fortified storeroom and he would entrust just one servant with the honour of holding the keys. This servant would keep the keys on a chain around his neck at all times. He wore it continually as a sign of the authority given to him by the king. Everyone would know that this man had the keys of the entrance into the palace and into the room that held the treasures of the king. Likewise, the King of Kings has given us the keys of His kingdom, and we have free and unconditional access to all His treasures.

You need to ask yourself two questions... "Are you binding and releasing what is already permitted in heaven?" And, "Have you accessed the treasures made available to you?" The moment you start doing both of these things your life will change dramatically for the better! Bind sickness, poverty and lack – release health, prosperity and abundance! Bind the devil and every evil force that has come against you – release the heavenly host and tear down the gates of hell! Finally, access and enjoy all the treasures contained in God's promises!