

THE KEYS TO GOD'S KINGDOM

Numbers 6:24-26 "The Lord bless you and keep you! May the LORD make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! May the Lord turn his face upon you and give you peace!"

Mt 28:18-20 "And Jesus came and spoke to them (at eleven o'clock), saying, 'All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Phil 2:9-11 "Therefore God has lifted him up sovereignly and given him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee in heaven and on earth and under the earth should bow, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father."

The Authority of the Son of Man

Rev 1:17-18 ... I am the first and the last, and the living. I was dead, but behold, I am alive forever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of Hades.

Rev 3:7 "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says the Holy One, the Truthful, the one who has the key of David, the one who opens and no one closes, who closes and no one opens. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one can close...

1 Sa 2:6 The LORD maketh to die, and to live; he makes us descend into hell and makes them rise again.

Only the Lord has authority over death and hell

But what are these keys?

They are resources, potentialities and above all gifts of the Holy Spirit given to the children of God to walk in the supernatural Kingdom of God with authority and with the manifestation of signs and wonders for the salvation, liberation and healing of those who are on the way to salvation; the apostle Paul gives us a demonstration:

2 Corinthians 2:14-15 ... thanks be given to God who always makes us triumph in Christ and who through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of his knowledge. For we are before God the fragrance of Christ among those who are on the way to salvation and among those who are on the way to perdition.

1 Thess 1:5 ... our gospel has not been proclaimed to you only with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 "My word and my preaching were not persuasive speeches of human wisdom, but a demonstration of the Spirit and power, so that your faith might be founded, not on human wisdom, but on the power of God.

2 Corinthians 12:12 "Surely the signs of the apostle have been performed among you in patience to the test, in miracles, wonders, and mighty works.

The keys to the Kingdom of God through the life of the Apostle Peter

First Key - Your Own Call

Jn 21:20-22 Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved coming after him, the same one who was leaning over Jesus' bosom during the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that betrays you?" When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what will become of him? Jesus answered him, "If I want him to stay until I come, what does it matter to you? You, follow

me."

For each of us God has already established a purpose, a calling, and a path, so we are asked to discover and fulfill it, without looking at the service or ministry of others.

Second Key - The Testimony of the Son of God Jesus Christ

Mt 17:1 And six days afterwards Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as the light. And Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. And Peter began to say to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here; if you wish, I will make three tents here; one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces to the ground and were seized with great fear. But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, do not be afraid." And they lifted up their eyes and saw no one but Jesus all alone. Then, as they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus gave them this command: "Do not tell anyone about this vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead."

Peter along with the other two apostles witnessed the true divine nature of God's Son, and Jesus commanded that this truth be witnessed after his resurrection, and they did so by spreading the good news world wide.

Third key - The renunciation of oneself, one's own will, one's own desires and one's own possessions in order to follow Jesus and do His will

Lk 5:4-8,10-11 "When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep, and let down your nets to catch.' Simon answered him, "Master, we have been toiling all night, and we have caught nothing; but,

according to your word, I will let down the nets." And when they did so, they caught such a quantity of fish, that the nets were broken. Then they made a sign to their companions in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats, so that they sank. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' feet, saying, "Lord, depart from me, for I am a sinner." ... Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be a fisher of men." And they took the boats ashore, and left everything and followed him.

Mt 19:25-30 When his disciples heard this, they were astonished, and said, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "This is impossible for men; but with God all things are possible." Then Peter replied to him, "Behold, we have left all things and followed you; What shall we have then? Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, in the new creation, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you also who have followed me will be seated on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And whoever leaves houses, or brothers, or sisters, or father, or mother, or children, or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundred-fold, and will inherit eternal life. But many first will be last and many last, first.

Fourth key - Denying confidence in oneself, in one's own abilities and in one's own discernment

Mt 26:33-35 Peter answered and said to him, "Even if you are an opportunity for everyone to fall, you will never be an opportunity for me to fall." Jesus said to him, "Truly, I say to you, this very night, before the crows, you will deny me three times." And Peter said to him, "Even if I should die with you, I will not deny you." And all the disciples said the same.

Pr 3:5-7 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. Acknowledge him in all your ways, and he will direct your paths. Do not think yourself wise; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.

Only God is Omniscient and knows our lives and our future, so we must always depend on His discernment, on the guidance of the Holy Spirit for everything, always consulting Him before making a choice, making an important decision, and for anything.

Fifth Key - **Vigilance and Prayer in Agreement** Not to Fall into Temptation and Sin

Mt 26:36-38,40-41 Then **Jesus** went with them to a place called Gethsemane and **said to the disciples**, "Sit here until I have gone there and prayed." And he took Peter and Zebedee's two sons with him, and began to be sad and distressed. Then he said to them, "My soul is oppressed with mortal sorrow; **stay here and watch with me.**" Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. And he said to Peter, "So you were not able to watch with me for one hour? **Watch and pray, that you may not fall into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.**"

To resist temptations, the first thing to do is to be vigilant, that is, to be on guard against the snares of the enemy, so that the moment they arise, we can use the Word of God (first we must know it) to reject them as Jesus did "it is written" and turn away as Joseph Jacob's son did when they recur (**Ge 39:7-12**) without contemplating them, but in order to overcome them, preparation with prayer, fasting and the help of the Holy Spirit is first necessary.

Sixth Key - **Forgiveness**

Mt 16:19 (Jesus said to Peter) **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.**

Mt 18:21-22 "Then **Peter** came and **said to him**, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother if he sins against me? Up to seven times?' And **Jesus**

said to him: "I do not say to you up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

Through God's Word and testimony we have the authority to make known the reality of sin to the sinner, whether he is a believer or an unbeliever, so that God grants repentance to repent and obtain reconciliation with God or with one's neighbor. But we too, when we are offended, wounded, mistreated, persecuted, slandered, must always forgive from the heart, as Jesus said in the parable of the evil servant who did not want to forgive. Just as he has forgiven us through his sacrifice, so must we do with everyone.

Seventh Key - **A Heart After the Heart of God** to Honor Him, walking in the Spirit and Doing Good to All

Mt 15:15-20 Peter said to him, "Explain the parable to us." And Jesus said, "Are you still incapable of understanding? Don't you understand that everything that enters the mouth goes into the belly and is then expelled into the latrine? But **what** comes out of the mouth **comes from the heart**, and **it is what defiles man**. For out of the heart come **evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witnesses, slanders**. These are the things that defile man... (for those who walk for the flesh)

Pr 4:23 "**Guard your heart above all things, for from it come the springs of life**." (for those who walk in the Spirit)

Lk 6:45 **A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil; for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.**

If we surrender our hearts completely to the Holy Spirit, He will preserve us from all sin, especially willful or covert sin, and will dispose us to always do good to all, even to our enemies.

Key Eighth - Faith in God

Jn 6:67-70 ... Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you not want to go away also? Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; and we have believed and have come to know that you are the Holy One of God."

Mr 11:14,20-24 Jesus said to the fig tree, "Let no one eat fruit from you any more. And his disciples heard. In the morning, as they passed, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. Pietro, remembering, said to him: "Master, you see, the fig tree that you cursed is withered." Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God! Verily I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, "Get out of there and throw yourself into the sea," if he does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, will be done to him. Therefore I say to you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received them, and you will obtain them.

We must live by faith, walk by faith, receive by faith, work by faith through love.

Ninth Key - The Prophecy

Mr13:3-5 And as he was sitting on the Mount of Olives in front of the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him aside, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of the time when all these things are about to be fulfilled? Jesus began to say to them, "See that no one deceives you! (Mr 13:1-37)

Mt 24:25 "Behold, I have foretold it to you.

It is necessary to pray to have the ministry of the prophet in the body of Christ and to receive the gifts of prophecy in order to know the individual or collective spiritual state of the church, to remain faithful to the Lord and to avoid the deceptions and seductions of satan so as not to be led astray from the faith.

Key Tenth - **Revelation** (Word of Wisdom and Knowledge)

Mt 16:15-18 "And he (Jesus) said to them, 'And you, who do you say that I am? Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah, because it is not flesh and blood that have revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not be able to overcome it."

Ps 25:14 The secret of the Lord is revealed to them that fear him...

Those who are in constant communion with the Lord, the gift of revelation is given by the Holy Spirit at particular times, other times when it is asked for something specific.

Eleventh Key - **Discernment**, Recognizing Spirits, and Rejecting the Voice of the Enemy in Our Minds

Mt 16:21-23 "From then on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he was to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests, the scribes, and be killed, and rise again on the third day. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid, Lord! This will never happen to you." But Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get away from me, Satan! You are a scandal to me. You do not have a sense of the things of God, but of the things of men."

Our first fight is in our minds (Eph 6:12) so whether it is the demons who suggest something to us that is contrary to the Word of God or men we must have discernment and cast out these spirits, correct men from error and reject the lie.

Twelfth Key - **Faithfulness to God** and Perseverance in God's Work

Lk 12:41-44 Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us, or for everyone?" The Lord answered, "Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward whom the master will appoint over his servants to give them their portion of food at the proper time? Blessed is the servant whom the master, on his arrival, will find intent on doing so. Truly, I say to you, he will appoint him over all his goods.

Mt 25:21 "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful in a small thing, I will appoint you above many things; enter into the joy of your Lord.'

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 "So let each one consider us servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. After all, what is required of administrators is that each one be found faithful.

Thirteenth Key - Brotherly Love Through Unconditional Service

Jn 13:3-7,12-14 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given everything into his hands and that he had come from God and was returning to God, got up from the table, laid aside his garments, and took a towel and girded it with it. Then he put water in a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to dry them with the towel with which he was girded. So he went up to Simon Peter, who said to him, "You, Lord, wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "You do not know now what I am doing, but you will understand it later." So when he had washed their feet and resumed his garments, he sat down again at table, and said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Master and Lord; and you say well, because I am. If, therefore, I, who am Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you also must wash one another's feet.

Fourteenth Key - Submission and Faith to Walk in God's Supernatural Kingdom

Mt 14:25,28-31 "But on the fourth watch of the night, Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come! And Peter got out of the boat, walked on the water, and went to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was frightened, and as he began to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand, seized him and said to him, "Man of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Through our submission to Him and our faith in Him, we are able to walk supernaturally over every area, activity, difficulty, and circumstance of our lives.

1 Pet 4:10 "As good stewards of the varied grace of God, each one of us, according to the charism he has received, should put it at the service of others.

2 Corinthians 13:13 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." Amen.