

The Keys to the Kingdom

What are the "Keys" to the Kingdom? How does one open the door of heaven? Believing God's Word and obeying it. Faith pleases God.

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Hebrews 11:6

Let's take a look at what really happened with Peter.

"He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? {16} And Simon Peter answered and said Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God,. {17} And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. {18} And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. {19} And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Mat 16:15-19

The "Keys to the Kingdom" is Faith. A man believes by faith. Faith in THE WORD produces obedience to CHRIST. The "Rock" that Jesus is referring to is Peter's statement, the declaration Peter made. *"Thou art the Christ, The Son Of The Living God!"* In other words, Jesus said "I AM this ROCK! The Rock of Salvation! God Almighty! I'm going to build My Church on ME!" Read further and you will also see another statement Jesus makes about how Peter knew that. The Father had revealed it to him. HOW? By the Spirit! The "Keys to heaven" are being given to The Church/The Body of Christ. This dovetails perfectly with the statement made by Jesus:

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:" Mat 28:19 Mat 28:19 Mat 28:19

What faith binds on earth is sealed in Heaven, because God already has spoken it! What faith looses on earth is loosed in heaven because God has already loosed it! Faith is the Divine currency with which we buy from God (see Rev. 3:18) Faith or the lack of it determines a man's destiny for eternity. Faith alone justifies and Faith is the gold of heaven. Stop and think for a minute, prayer is the best demonstration of Faith we have. the "Prayer of Faith... "

"And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." James 5:15 "Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you." James 4: 8

Faith allows me to draw nigh to God, It removes my sin, and imputes the righteousness of Christ to my account. I come boldly to the Throne of "Grace" to find mercy and help in time of need, because I trust God's Word. Faith alone is what justifies me and all else is simply the evidence of that Faith. You cannot separate Faith from Works. You will not find in the Bible any instance of true faith that is not accompanied by works. (Heb. 11) The true measure of a man's faith, is obedience, or lack thereof, to God's Word.

"He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5

Men obey the Word of God because they believe it. Our obedience is proof of our faith. Faith is the key to heaven, because it unlocks God's heart. The Church is the assembly of believers. The "Rock" of our faith is Christ himself. Think about it. Without Christ what do we have?

"Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." Mat 7:20