

**Matthew 16:17-19** And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. [18] And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. [19] I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

**Blessed are you Simon Bar-jonah** flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my father in heaven. Peter who knew so clearly that the Lord had the words of Eternal life. Words that because he knew so clearly, he had to preach how could he be silent after this is revealed to Him. *“this is life eternal, to know the only true God, and him whom he hath sent, Jesus Christ.”*

How blessed to know He is the only true God, how blessed to know Jesus was sent by the Father. This was not spoken to Peter alone, but also to the other disciples and to all that would believe. To show the fathers intent to reveal eternal life to who so ever would believe. This is the highest satisfaction and joy in life is knowing the one and only true God who was sent from heaven to earth. What greater gift could man receive. Eternal salvation, a place forever in Glory which Christ freely gives us as our possession, perfect peace and fullness of Joy.

**In the same way flesh and blood did not reveal salvation to us**, neither was not our intellect that worked it out, it was our Father in heaven who opened our understanding, Our Father who took away the scales from our eyes so we could see what Jesus did on the cross for us. It was not our great faith, it was his saving faith. Faith that was freely given. We too are blessed like Peter to know this eternal treasure. We too know because it has been revealed to us by the Father. *“...Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son will reveal Him.”*

*And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

**The Rock is Christ Himself.** Jesus said I will build my church... not Peters Church. Christ is the Rock Himself. *“Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner Stone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him shall never be ashamed.”* If He had not come and laid down His life, there would be no salvation possible. Thou are the Christ, the Son of the living God, Christ is the foundation of the church. He is the chief cornerstone. He alone is the one who takes our sins away as far as the west is from the east. He is, the only one who suffered and died on Calvary, His cross, to make that substitution and atonement for the sins of all, if Christ had not taken the eternal punishment of our sin in his own body, if he had not done that, there would be no church. So clearly **Christ** is the chief cornerstone. Never as Rome tries to say Upon Peter the

first pope.... That is totally unscriptural. Rather the foundation of the Church was laid upon the written Word of God, Which are the Keys of Christs authority in the church.

**The rock is knowledge that Christ is the saviour.** The mystery of the Gospel revealed from heaven to lost man. It was God that moved Peter to make this profession of Faith - "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

**And the Gates of Hell shall not prevail.** Some think that the church is weak that there are more people out of the church on Sundays than in church, that there is terrible sin and wickedness in the world, wickedness and darkness that has only gotten worse and worse. Such perversion, in the world its reached almost an all time high. So what does it mean that the gates of hell will not prevail against the church, against Gods people? Well Look at the Glory of the Gospel, even in the gross darkness men and women are gloriously rescued and saved. Drug addicts are saved alcoholics are saved. The worst sinners are saved. No matter how dark it is the Light always overcomes. Isn't it amazing that when the Gospel is revealed to a soul, and rescues a soul they gladly leave their old life and desire not to return to it again. Think of a rescue in a lake in a park like Uhuru park, the water is only a few feet deep, but if someone is in trouble and a rescuer wades in to help it's a rescue but much more credit is given when a river is in flood and a rescuer risks his life jumping in to swirling waters to get someone out. Our Lord and saviour can and does save out of the greatest floods, and greatest spiritual decline. The gates of hell cannot prevail against the Gospel.

Some have interpreted rightly, the gates of hell as condemnation wide open for men and women to fall into, and the true believers will never fall into condemnation. The gates of hell will never prevail against those who hear and believe in Jesus Christ sent from heaven. **John 5:24** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. The Born again one the blood bought one the new creation in Christ will never never go thorough those gates.

The truly saved ones are the true church, and the Gates of hell will never swallow the true church.

In Bible days the city had gates and the soldiers would go out through the city gates to wage war on the enemy. Well even if satan launched His mightiest attack against the Lords Redeemed and Elect people. He would not succeed. Think of times past when believers were burnt at the stake. These early believers were given opportunity to recant all they had to do was say we don't believe and they could be freed, yet they would not deny the Lord. evil could not win – the gates of hell did not and will never prevail against the true believers.

We're living in a society where values change every minute, people change their mind and their views constantly, we live in a world where leaders come and go, governments here today

and gone tomorrow. We've seen in a space of a few years, the collapse of communism. A great shaking in the World. Yet there is one thing that is unshakable, the Kingdom of God, its values never change. It is settled for ever in heaven. *let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,* The gates of hell can never stop the advance of Gods Kingdom.

**And I will give the keys of the kingdom of Heaven to you.** What are the keys? Were they only given to Peter? How do I use the Keys?

**Well let's see how Peter used the Keys.** On the day of Pentecost Peter preached the Gospel to 3000 people unlocking heaven for them. Opening the Door that they may enter. **Acts 2:38** Then Peter said to them, Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ to remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **The preaching of the Gospel is the Key.** Lifting up Christ is the Key. **Proclaiming the Mystery of Christ is the Key.** **1Cor 4:1** So let a man think of us as ministers of Christ and stewards of *the* mysteries of God. **Peter opened the door to the Gentiles.** How? What did he do? He preached the gospel of peace to Cornelius and His household. The proclamation of the gospel opens the kingdom of heaven for believers and closes it for unbelievers.

We know with certainty it is not only Peter who was given authority to preach the Gospel, But every believer.

*The same power here given to Peter belongs to every disciple of Jesus in all the ages.*

Do you realise that you can actually be the method, or the instrument that Lord shows His love, light, and life to others? You can be the one that makes it possible for someone else to actually experience Jesus; The Keys in your mouth, that you speak in obedience to God, can bring a touch that heals, a touch that causes one to cry out for that forgives, and cleansing. Christ can make Himself known through your hands, through your words, and through your deeds. **You are a carrier of the Keys that opens the Kingdom.** And you have been authorized by the King to give away to others what you have freely received yourself.

Jesus set clear guidelines in His commissioning us a **carriers of the Keys**. "What you open on earth must already be opened in heaven," In other words, we are to follow God's leading We are stewards of this treasure, we are followers of Jesus Christ and we must do **what Jesus teaches**. **The Lord said**, "I only do those things I see My Father doing."

**So, yes, we have authority, symbolized by holding the Keys;** but we also are charged with the responsibility to only do as the Lord directs.

This means we must always be in relationship and prayer with Him, for that is the only way to handle each and every situation as Carriers of the Keys.

Perhaps we see a boy or girl whose life is snared by some terrible sin which seems impossible for them to get free. By speaking the truth in Love we are enabled to unlock the prison door and loose and set free this young one. Look out for opportunities of Christian service, for the life which is hidden with Christ in constant fellowship and prayer has an extraordinary power in setting lives free which are bound by heavy chains. Above all, we can point the fettered soul to Christ our Lord.

This is what it is to use the Keys you hold.

In certain Christian circles the tradition of “**binding and loosing**” may range all the way from binding ‘a spirit of poverty’ to loosing ‘my perfect job. Or binding a demon, and evil spirit. It’s the belief that the believer has authority to forbid any demon power from operating on a person or in a geographical area. But this is not what is meant at all. Many of us have at one point perhaps believed and even tried to bind but to our amazement there was no success. Besides we are to pray to our father in heaven. When I hear some people pray their prayer is address more to satan, to demons and spirits of darkness, to witchcraft and every dark thing than to the father.

**I’ve heard zealous people binding even the spirit of death.** But we would do well to remember there is only one who has the keys of death and the grave. **Revelation 1:18** *and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.* Only the Lord can open the grave. No man can do that.

**and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven,**

The keys and the power of binding and loosing referred to a common Jewish custom. When a man had passed his examinations for the high position of a doctor of the law, he received as his diploma, a key which was handed to him with the words, "Receive authority to bind and to loose," “**that is to permit or forbid.**”

Having mastered the law, he could say whether some act was lawful or unlawful. This doctor of the law had no power to make any laws, but rather declares that which is law.

As a servant of the Lord in today’s world we have no authority to make any laws rather we do have authority to declare Gods Word, the Truth.

**We declare, what is allowed.**

We exhort people to walk in the Light to walk in the truth. **3 John 1:3** For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified of the truth that is in you, even as you walk in the truth. The truth here is signifying the pure doctrine of Christianity. We preach the pure doctrine. We preach all the word of God and we teach people to walk in it.

Oh But Im not a preacher, well then you walk in such a way, that it provides a pattern that is worthy of following. A pattern that brings glory to the Lord. By doing so you are showing forth the truth. **Holding forth the word of life;** carefully bearing before you, and stedfastly showing, not only by your profession, but conversation. (your whole life)

Just like on a dark night someone would hold a tource that shows the way, We hold forth the Word of Life. Showing the Way. This is the way the Life and the truth, walk in this way. That is using the keys of the Kingdom.

We also declare what is **forbidden**, “night and day, I’ve never stopped warning each of you” Even with tears. Paul told them what was not permitted or forbidden.

**What are some of the warnings the bible gives.**

1. **The danger of drifting like a ship without a rudder (Hebrews 2:1-3).** ‘We ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard.’ The eternal word of God requires that we give our attention to it. ‘Lest at any time we should let them slip’ – the words that we have heard. To slip means to hear and yet not be affected, to hear the words and not be convicted or gripped; to be drawn to some degree, but never to act. To slip means never to mingle faith with the Word we hear. To just drift away from it. To let it just drift past you.
2. **The danger of having an evil heart of unbelief (Hebrews 3:12-19; 4:1-2).** watch out, ‘lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God’, a heart that takes so many benefits from God – salvation and answered prayer and wonderful things – and yet will not trust him and believe that he allows all our circumstances and our trials, and whatever we face we go to him in prayer and faith. Or Hebrews 4:1&2. Let us not come short of entering His rest. This epistle was written to professing believers but it seems as you look at their lives they had come short of this grace. So the ‘rest’ of God is the kingdom of God, where we have fellowship with the Father and we relate to him through the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. It doesn't just refer to eternity. Even now, when we are converted, we come into God's kingdom as a rest. The Father is now devoted to his people, and he is giving us his attention, and we may call upon him and walk with him and he will bless us.

We understand that The Keys and authority to Permit and forbid were soon given to the rest of the disciples in **Matthew 18:18** Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. **Verily I say unto you.** The Lord solemnly bestows the grant made to Peter. To all the disciples. And to the whole church for all ages to come.

The Word **BIND** in the original Greek *deo*, (*deh'-o*), which means also to be in bonds; knit, tie, wind. We exhort and get our hearers to be bound to the truth, The truth to be knit into their lives to be tied to the truth and committed to the truth.

The Word **Loose** “Loose” here referred to is from the Greek word (*luo*,) which also means to break (up), destroy, dissolve, melt, put off. That is what is not permitted and must be put it off. How do we know what needs to be broken up, destroyed, melted broken up? How do we know what is not permitted. Surely, we don't make our own decision! We act only according to the WORD of God.

**The Gates of hell shall not prevail.** The Lord has saved us even in this age. This world couldn't keep us. There is no defeating believers in Jesus Christ, the Church of Christ, that will be finally triumphant in the last day.

So be constantly prayerful remember we pray to the God of all power, remember you are on the side of victory. Ask the Lord, especially for sympathy for the lost.

For those people you know, and in your family, and all around you, the Lost who are hurtling to destruction, who know nothing of the grace of God and the ultimate victory of grace through Christ.

Ask for sympathy, be very prayerful, take every opportunity to witness to use the Keys given to us this is our calling. This is our role, and God will save others through our prayers, and through our testimony.

Live a life that shows clearly what is permitted, that shows clearly what is forbidden.

Remember Because we are Children of God founded and built upon the chief cornerstone. The devil will be cast into the lake of everlasting fire. But Victory belongs to the Lords called out ones. The gates of hell shall not prevail against us.