

## KEYS TO THE KINGDOM OUTLINE

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# KEYS to the KINGDOM

A Study of the Kingdom of God  
by Franklin

**Matthew 6:33** **Seek\*** (or desire) **first HIS KINGDOM and HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, and all these things will be added to you.**

\* Imperative - a command

I like the translation "desire" it is a legitimate translation. Our Father wants us to "desire" His Kingdom above all else.

"Seek" tends to indicate that the Kingdom is Hidden from us. It is NOT Hidden, **it is in your midst** (Luke 17:21)  
If you Desire it -> you WILL seek it.

- What is it that we are to seek?? What is The Kingdom of God??
- The Answer is found when JESUS told us how to PRAY:

Matthew 6:9-10 **Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your Name. <sup>10</sup> Your Kingdom come.** [How?] **Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

- His Kingdom comes and is -> when HIS WILL IS DONE -> when HE IS OBEYED . . . **as it is in heaven.**
- And when we Believe and Trust Him as Savior & Obey Him as LORD.  
See: 1 John 3:22-23

Luke 12:32 **Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you The Kingdom. IF YOU REALLY WANT IT !**

- He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Hebrews 11:6

It Gives HIM Pleasure to Give You Good Things:

- ❖ Clothes, Food, Shelter, Health
- ❖ BLESSINGS & PROSPERITY
- ❖ FREEDOM & LIBERTY
- ❖ AUTHORITY & POWER
- ❖ JOY & PEACE
- ❖ Also:

**Matthew 16:19** **I will give you the keys** (plural) **of The Kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.**

So, if someone gives you the Keys to a House or a Car and says: "These are yours," WHAT DOES THAT MEAN ?

- FOR YOU TO RECEIVE ANY BENEFIT FROM THE GIFT . . .  
**YOU MUST USE THE KEYS.**

So > the **BLESSINGS & PROSPERITY** of the KINGDOM are:  
In your hands & depend on:

1. Knowing that I have the KEYS
2. Knowing what the KEYS are for
3. Knowing how to use them
4. And then: Using them !

THIS IS OUR STUDY

KEYS OPEN DOORS      Matthew 16:19 . . . **whatever you lock on earth will be locked in heaven, and whatever you open on earth will be opened in heaven.**      NLT

- The following KEYS OPEN THE DOOR to the Kingdom of God for You.

INTRODUCTION to KEY #1

**2 Corinthians 2:14**    But thanks be to God, who always **leads us** (if we will follow) in **triumph** in Christ, and **manifests through us** the sweet aroma of **the knowledge of Him** in every place.

**JESUS' DESIRE FOR YOU:**

- A TRIUMPHANT, VICTORIOUS & ABUNDANT LIFE

**YOUR MINISTRY:**

- DEMONSTRATING AND MAKING KNOWN TO OTHERS THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM in every place.

**Revelation 5:10**    You (Jesus) have **made them** to be a **kingdom** and **priests** to our God; and they will **reign** upon the **earth**.

- Believers, under the LORDSHIP of JESUS CHRIST are the Kingdom.
- This is what the LORD intended from the beginning: Genesis 1:28

**OUR PURPOSE IN LIFE:**

- To REIGN VICTORIOUSLY over SIN and therefore satan.
- Demonstrating HIS LIFE & making Him known.

However, we have a **PROBLEM**

- Our old nature IS SINFUL !
- We often experience defeat & do not show forth JESUS  
PLEASE READ: Romans 7:14-21

THE PROBLEM! John 8:34 Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who **commits sin** is the **slave** of sin.

2 Peter 2:19 promising freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption, **for by what a man is overcome by this he is enslaved.**

→ **SIN** SEVERELY HURTS US:

- Proverb 8:36 he who **sins** against me **injures himself.**

→ **SIN** SEVERELY HINDERS OUR MINISTRY & PURPOSE ON EARTH.

- To Live Victoriously & manifest the knowledge of Him

JESUS CAME TO SET THE CAPTIVES **FREE.** Luke 4:18

FREE TO FOLLOW HIM & LIVE VICTORIOUSLY IN THE KINGDOM of GOD . . .  
which is: "**Righteousness, Peace & Joy in the Holy Spirit.**"

Romans 14:17

The Keys unlock & open to us the POWER & BLESSINGS of the Kingdom.

KEY #1: SAYING **"NO"** to SIN

SIN **IS NOT** THE PROBLEM FOR ETERNAL LIFE. **BELIEF IS**  
(2Cor.5:19 John 3:16)

SIN **IS** THE PROBLEM FOR A BLESSED & VICTORIOUS LIFE !

In Egypt:

- they were under another authority of another king
- a picture of the **Kingdom of Darkness**
- The Lord sent His Deliverer – Moses.

God Redeemed His people by the Blood of the Lamb

- Exodus 12:13 The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you

- Exodus 12:23 and when **He sees the blood** on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and **will not allow the destroyer to come in to your houses to smite you**
  - the destroyer is the "death angel." They had eternal life)

**The Red Sea:** (a type of our water baptism)

- Separated them once and for all from Pharaoh. FREE!
- a picture of satan. No longer under his authority.

**The Wilderness** → was to learn His ways

- Under the Authority of the LORD God – cloud & fire (Ex.13:21)
- Protection – Provision – Direction
- In the world, but not under it's authority.
- Were to be in the Wilderness 2 years only. BUT, continued to disobey so 38 years were added. Most of that generation died in the Wilderness – The LORD's but never possessed the Promised Land.

**The Promised Land** – a type of the Kingdom of God on earth.

- Battles to Fight & Win under a VICTORIOUS LEADER.

**First Battle:** A Walled City-Jericho:

- We all have, or had, Strongholds of Sin in our life that we MUST CONQUER / tear down the walls.
- The Lord told them HOW to win and **the walls fell down.**

After the Battle of Jericho -> Israel was **DEFEATED** at Ai

THE REASON:

1. All of the treasure, "first fruits," of Jericho belonged to The LORD (Joshua 6:17-19 & Exodus 23:19) **Some did not obey.**
2. Joshua 7:11 & 12 **Israel has sinned . . . Therefore the sons of Israel cannot stand before their enemies**

STILL BELONGED TO THE LORD – **BUT LOST THE VICTORY DEFEATED by their enemy.**

YOU CANNOT LIVE VICTORIOUSLY IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD BY THE PRINCIPALS OF the kingdom of DARKNESS.

**1 Timothy 6:9** But those who want to get rich **fall into temptation** and a **SNARE** and MANY FOOLISH AND HARMFUL **DESIRES** which plunge men into **RUIN** and **DESTRUCTION**.

### The BAIT satan uses:

James 1:14-15 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by **his own lust** (STRONG DESIRES). **LUST** gives birth to **SIN & SIN** when **full grown** or **accomplished** brings **DEATH** (separation).

See also: Isaiah 59:2; Romans 6:20-23

- If you do not conquer LUST – it will lead you to DESTRUCTION.  
Lust → Sin → Death = LSD → it will destroy you.

**Galatians 5:19-21** **When you follow the DESIRES** of your sinful nature, **your lives will produce these evil results**: sexual immorality, impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, idolatry, participation in demonic activities, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, divisions, the feeling that everyone is wrong except those in your own little group, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other kinds of sin. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life **WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD.** NLT

We Are To Pray: **Your Kingdom come, Your will be done ON EARTH as it is in Heaven.** Matthew 6:10

- Matthew 6:10 **is** talking about POSSESSING THE KINGDOM **HERE AND NOW** → NOT ETERNALLY !
- **If** Galatians 5:21 means Possessing the Kingdom Eternally, then it is saying that the BLOOD of JESUS is NOT ENOUGH to forgive your sins and that YOUR WORKS, YOUR EFFORTS, MUST BE ADDED, and **you** are to **save yourself**.

The Scriptures are clear → It is HIS BLOOD ALONE for Eternal Salvation!

- Ephesians 2:8-10 "For by Grace . . . not as a result of works"
- Hebrews 9:12, 26; 10:11-14

The **magnetism** of the Kingdom of God is **LOVE**.  
What begins with **Love** ends with **Life** (John 3:16)

The **magnetism** of the kingdom of darkness is **LUST**.  
What begins with **lust** ends with **sin** and **damaged relationships**, and if continued - **death**.

(James 1:15)

## We must ask ourselves: "What controls / drives me?"

The Operating Principle of the K. of God is **LOVE**.  
The Operating Principle of the K. Darkness is **LUST**.

(sexual immorality, impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure)

The Blessed & Victorious life in the Kingdom of God is **FOR TODAY**  
To Live in the Kingdom Today **WE MUST** say **NO!** to the LUSTFUL  
demands of THE FLESH & **NO!** to SIN!

(see the notes: Defeating The Dragon at [www.treasurehisword.com](http://www.treasurehisword.com))

HOW???

**#1** 1 Corinthians 9:25-26 All athletes practice strict **self-control**. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. So **run straight** to the goal **with purpose** in every step. **Discipline your body** like an athlete, **training it to do what it should**. Otherwise, I fear that . . . I might be disqualified.

- You have to work and train hard to be on the team or you sit on the sidelines and only watch others.
- The Army and Marines teach & demand strict discipline
- **Self-Control** → instant obedience to the initial promptings of the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 2:19b -26 Let everyone who names the name of Christ **depart from wickedness**. <sup>21</sup>If anyone **cleanses himself**, he will be a vessel for **honor, sanctified** and **useful** for the Master, **prepared** for every good work. <sup>22</sup>**Flee also youthful lusts**; but **pursue** righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a **pure heart**. <sup>26</sup>and may escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.

**#2** Matthew 26:41 Keep **watching** and **praying** that you **may not enter** into temptation; **the spirit is willing**, but **the flesh is weak**.

- **Watching** for satan's traps baited with something we lust after.
- **Praying** for discernment. Ephesians 6:18
- The flesh is **WEAK** toward OBEYING JESUS. BUT **STRONG** toward pursuing lustful pleasures.

## SAY "NO"!

That's all Adam & Eve had to do – **Obey** and say "**NO**." They had no experience with the consequences of sin -> **we do**.

**1 Corinthians 10:13** No **temptation** has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who **will not allow** you to be **tempted** beyond what you are able, but with **the temptation** **will provide** the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

## JUST SAY "NO"!

Example: Joseph when tempted by his boss's wife said "NO" and RAN.  
(Genesis 39:5-12)

## BUT, IF ONE PROCEEDS AND STEPS IN THE TRAP OF SIN:

2 Timothy 2:25-26 With gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance **leading to the knowledge of the truth**, and they may **come to their senses** and **escape from the snare of the devil**, having been **held captive by him TO DO HIS WILL**.

➤ Are There Areas in YOUR LIFE HELD CAPTIVE by satan ???

For us to Walk in the Kingdom of God on earth Today and in FELLOWSHIP with Him -> We MUST: SAY "NO" TO SIN

And if we **DO SIN** - TURN from it & CONFESS it. If not: **we Step INTO the Kingdom of Darkness** & OUT of Fellowship with HIM.

1 John 1:6 If we say that we have **fellowship with Him** and yet **walk in the darkness**, **we lie** and do not practice **the truth**;

## SIN CRIPPLES YOU!

**1 Peter 5:8** Be **alert**, be **watchful**, your adversary, the devil, **prowls** around like a roaring lion, **seeking someone to devour**.

With SIN in your life you are like a crippled gazelle in lion infested Africa.

- WHAT DO LIONS EAT? Answer: FLESH !
- SEEKING SOMEONE WHO HAS STEPPED INTO HIS TERRITORY.

## WHEN WE SIN > WE GIVE satan an OPPORTUNITY

(2Cor.2:11: Eph.4:27)

Galatians 5:16-17 I advise you to live according to your **NEW LIFE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**. Then you **WILL NOT** be doing **what your sinful nature craves**. The old sinful nature loves to do evil, which is just opposite from what the Holy Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are opposite from what the sinful nature desires. **These two forces are constantly fighting each other**, and your **choices** are never free from this conflict. (example: good & bad dog)

Galatians 5:19-21 When you follow the **desires of your SINFUL NATURE**, your lives will produce these evil results: [1]sexual immorality, [2] impure thoughts, [3]eagerness for lustful pleasure, [4] idolatry, [5] participation in demonic activities, [6]hostility, [7] quarreling, [8] jealousy, [9] outbursts of anger, [10]selfish ambition, [11]divisions, [12] heretical or false doctrines, [13]envy, [14]drunkenness, [15]wild parties, and [16]other kinds of sin. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that **anyone living that sort of life WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD**.

- WILL NOT POSSESS and ENJOY THEIR INHERITANCE HERE AND NOW.
- It is definitely talking about inheriting the Kingdom on earth, **here and now**, as the "old sinful nature" will be left with our body here on earth and will not go to heaven. Only the "new man born of God" which is "righteousness and holy" will be taken to heaven.

1 Cor. 15:50 **flesh and blood cannot inherit the KINGDOM OF GOD**

ONLY YOUR NEW NATURE WHICH IS RIGHTEOUS AND HOLY IS THE HEIR.

- ➔ Every Born Again Person HAS ETERNAL LIFE AS THE "NEW NATURE" IS IN THEM because of the New Covenant in HIS BLOOD. 2 Cor. 5:19
- ➔ Eternal Life is not the Question in these passages.

The Question is:

- ➔ TODAY WHICH KINGDOM ARE YOU LIVING IN?
- ➔ Are you living as an heir to the KINGDOM OF DARKNESS?  
Or THE KINGDOM OF GOD?
- ➔ TODAY are you inheriting / receiving the BLESSINGS of the Kingdom of God or the CURSES of the kingdom of darkness !?!?!?

Galatians 5:22 **But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives** HE will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control

To Live Daily in the Kingdom of God, the issue is → who do you give control of your life to? The Flesh? or the Holy Spirit?

We are either:

CONTROLLED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT → the K. of God Romans 14:17

- or -

CONTROLLED BY THE FLESH ! → the kingdom of darkness

Galatians 5:24-25 Those who belong to Christ Jesus **have nailed** the **passions** and **desires** of their **sinful nature** to **His Cross** and **crucified them** there. **If** we are living now **by the Holy Spirit**, let us follow the Holy Spirit's leading in **every part of our lives**. NLT

Galatians 2:20 **I have been crucified with Christ**; and it is **no longer I who live**, but **Christ lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

- Have you ever seen a dead man sin???
- Everyone Should Memorize Galatians 2:20 and LIVE IT !

Galatians 5:25 **If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.**

**Romans 6:12-23** (written to believers)

Therefore **do not let sin reign in your mortal body** so that you obey its lusts, and **do not** go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; **but present yourselves to God** as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For **sin shall not be master over you**, for you are not under law but under grace. Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey

**Proverb 3:7-8** Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and **turn away from evil**. It will be **healing** to your body and refreshment to your bones.

**Proverb 8:36** he who sins against me injures himself.

**Proverb 13:21** Trouble chases sinners, blessings chase the righteous NLT

**Proverb 22:5** The deceitful walk a thorny, treacherous road; whoever values life will stay away. NLT

The Healing at the Pool of Bethesda **take up your pallet and walk**

**John 5:14** Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, **do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you**

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We must not do what the Apostles did → draw the wrong conclusion.

**John 9:1-3** As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. (2) And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" (3) Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him."

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**1 John 2:1** My little children, I am writing these things to you **SO THAT YOU MAY NOT SIN**. And if anyone sins, We have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

**1 Peter 2:21-24** For **you have been called for this purpose**, since Christ also suffered FOR YOU, leaving you an example FOR YOU to **follow in His steps, who committed no sin**, nor was any deceit found in his mouth; and while being reviled, **He did not revile in return**; while suffering, **He uttered no threats**, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that **we might die to sin and live to righteousness**; for by His wounds you were healed.

WE ARE TO → COMMIT NO SIN ! -> SAY NO TO SIN !

CAN YOU DO THAT?????

Philippians 4:13 **I CAN DO all things through Him who strengthens me.**

**I can say "No!"**

WHO IS IN YOU?? The "**HOLY**" Spirit ! of JESUS CHRIST!

Romans 14:17 The Kingdom of God is . . . **righteousness** and **peace** and **joy** IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.

WE ARE TO BE HIS **kingdom** and HIS **priests** and **reign** upon the **earth**.

AS HE **leads us in triumph** and **manifests through us** the sweet aroma of **the knowledge of Him** in every place.

2 Corinthians 2:14

Make a DECISION Today:

Joshua 24:15 Choose Today who you will serve.

- to SAY "NO" to Sin
- To Begin a FIGHT, a BATTLE to exercise Self-Control
- to Walk in the Liberty of which Christ has set you FREE
- to "seek FIRST the Kingdom of God and His Right."

You Have the KEY in your hands → **USE IT !!**

JESUS CAME TO SET THE CAPTIVES FREE.

## INTRODUCTION to KEY #2

Your life is the result of the DECISIONS & CHOICES you make every day. And those decisions are determined by your PRIORITIES - what you consider important and worthy of pursuing with your time and money.

- Your FUTURE is determined by the DECISIONS you make today.
- Your DECISIONS today OPEN or CLOSE doors for your tomorrows.
- You hold the KEYS in your hands.
- Your life today is the sum total of your past DECISIONS.
- Your life tomorrow is determined by the choices you are making today.
- Your life is a demonstration of your PRIORITIES – what you seek and place value on.

The **Greatest** & Most **Important Decision** You ever made was to believe and receive Jesus Christ as your SAVIOR.

The Second and **Equally Important Decision** is to make JESUS LORD of your life.

Why do you call Me, Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?

Luke 6:46

You need to answer this Question

If Jesus is Lord: One of the first things HE tells us is:

- **SEEK FIRST** (1) **His Kingdom** and (2) **His Righteousness**, and all these things will be added to you. Matthew 6:33

### So, If Jesus is Lord:

The #1 PRIORITY in your life is: **THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

A Blessed and successful life is based upon -> pursuing the priorities set forth by our Creator, Savior and LORD.

#1 "SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM." What is a Kingdom?

- In a Kingdom there is **a King**. You are JESUS ?  
 1 Timothy 6:15 He who is the blessed and **only** Sovereign, the **KING** of kings and **LORD** of lords  
 Revelation 17:14 He is **LORD** of lords and **KING** of kings  
 Revelation 19:16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "**KING** of kings, and **LORD** of lords.
- The KING is the ultimate and supreme source of **AUTHORITY**.
  - So the **Kingdom of God** = the **Government of God**.
  - To seek His Kingdom is to seek His Government in your life.
- The King's **Word** is final and His **will is carried out**. It is not open to debate, discussion, challenge or amendment.  
 Thy Kingdom come, **THY WILL be done**, on earth as it is in heaven.
- A righteous and benevolent King does not amass **wealth** for Himself but for the welfare of His citizens -> **YOU**. Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, **and all these things will be given to you**.
- A King is also LORD or OWNER of His domain – EVERYTHING is HIS.
  - **Psalm 24:1** The **earth** is the LORD'S, and **all it contains**, the **world**, and **those** who dwell in it.
  - **1 Corinthians 6:19** YOU are not your own? For **you have been bought** with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

- In the Kingdom of God there is no such thing as private property ownership. We are STEWARDS of what He gives us and NOT owners.

1 Corinthians 4:1-3 Let a man regard us in this manner, as **servants** of Christ and **stewards** of the mysteries of God. In this case, moreover, it is required of **stewards** that one be found trustworthy.

1 Peter 4:8-11 Above all, keep fervent in your **love for one another**, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be **hospitable to one another** without complaint. As each one has received a special gift, employ it in **serving one another** as **good stewards** of the manifold grace of God.

## #2 Seek first HIS Kingdom AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS

Romans 14:17 **The kingdom of God is** not eating and drinking, but **righteousness** and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

**Righteousness** - morally upright, without guilt or sin.  
The Result of doing what is Right.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD and RIGHTEOUSNESS will always go together.

- You cannot have one without the other.
- If you are seeking His Kingdom, you are seeking His Government, and therefore **you will live a Righteous life**. In **Right Relationship** with the **KING** and in Right Relationship with **others**, as the governing principal is **LOVE**.

1 John 3:22-24 and whatever **we ask** we **receive** from Him, **because** [1] we keep His **commandments** and [2] **do** the things that are **pleasing in His sight**. **This is His commandment**, that (a) we **believe** in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and (b) **love** one another, just as He commanded us.

And we will live in His **Kingdom . . . and all these things will be given to you**.

- Our entry into the **future** coming Kingdom of God, **is guaranteed** by the BLOOD of JESUS and the GIFT of HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS given to everyone that believes (Romans 3:22 **the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ is for all those who believe**). Then and there, **in heaven, free** of this body of sin – we WILL live a righteous life.
- **However**, to live & walk in the Kingdom of God **TODAY** -> we **MUST**
  - **seek first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness**
  - **HOW?** By Saying . . .

“NO” to sin and “YES” to Jesus.

## KEY #2 SAY “YES” to JESUS

Luke 6:46-49 **Why** do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and **do not do what I say?** (47) Everyone who comes to Me and **HEARS** My words and **OBEYS** them, I will show you whom he is like: (48) he is like a man building a house, who laid the foundation on the rock; and when a flood came, it burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been built on the rock. (49) But the one who has heard and **has not obeyed**, is like a man who built a house on the sand without any foundation; and the flood burst against it and immediately **IT COLLAPSED**, and the **RUIN** of that house was great.

Disobedience is Costly and leads to the collapsing and ruin of what you are trying to build.

That is all Adam & Eve had to do –

SAY “**NO**” TO Sin & satan and “**YES**” TO the LORD.

They would have had **righteousness, peace and joy** in the garden with everything they needed made available. And, a Very Intimate relationship with the Lord.

Their **DECISION** put them **OUT** and they had to provide for themselves

The Kingdom of God & the Garden of Eden are similar:

Seek / Desire first His kingdom & His righteousness and **ALL THESE THINGS WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU.**

- It was all provided in the Garden!
- The KING will take care of you.
- But to DISOBEY is to put yourself out of His Kingdom.

Example: Man Walking a cable between two buildings.

He did all kinds of stunts. Then brought out a cart and asked “who thinks I can take this cart to the other side? Many raised their hands. He said “then come get in the cart. Hands went down.

Those that raise their hands:

1. Truly Believe > Eternal Life > SAVIOR

Those who get into his cart: (cart = K of G)

2. Commitment > Prosperous Life > LORD

To get into His cart means:

- To leave your pressing agenda & put HIS FIRST.
- To leave your way of life and doing things your way
- To change your priorities
- To accept His value system
- It requires FAITH to "give up" and "give in" to Him
- A struggle begins in your mind

Matthew 7:13-14 **Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction** [those walking the sidewalk], **and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow** [the cable] **that leads to life, and there are few who find it.**

**Luke 9:59-62** And He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, permit me **first** to go and bury my father." (60) But He said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the **kingdom of God.**" (61) Another also said, "I will follow You, **Lord**; **but first** permit me to say good-bye to those at home." (62) Jesus said to him, "NO ONE, AFTER PUTTING HIS HAND TO THE PLOW AND LOOKING BACK, IS FIT FOR THE **KINGDOM OF GOD.**"

- If JESUS is LORD, He **MUST** receive **FIRST PRIORITY** in your life.
  - He **MUST** be above every other love / every other loyalty / every goal / every ambition / every dream.
  - He **MUST** be FIRST in everything.
  - Otherwise, He is not truly LORD of your life, regardless of what you say.
- Luke 6:46 **Why do you call Me, Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?**

Examples:

- Noah – was righteous (Genesis 6:8-9) Obeyed & saved his family.  
Hebrews 11:7
- Moses – Told to speak to the rock. Disobeyed & struck it. (Num.20:8-12)

He was not allowed into the Promised Land a type of The Kingdom

**This was to teach us a lesson!** 1Corinthians 10: 1-13

- Lot – chose to live in Sodom – his Decision / his Priority ->Destroyed his family. (2 Peter 2: 7-8)
- Abraham – conceived Ishmael outside of marriage. (Genesis 16: 2-4)  
His decision has greatly hurt his family to this day.
- Saul – his disobedience and rebellion cost him and his family  
(1 Samuel 15: 22-23)

• **Peter Luke 5:1-11**

(1) Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing around Him to hear the word of God.

(2) He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake and the fishermen close by washing their nets.

- I would suppose that Simon and team were observing this preacher as they washed their nets.
- And then - at least with great concern - they saw this preacher - with crowd following - walk toward their boats.

(3) And JESUS got into one of the boats, which was **Simon's**, and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And He sat down and began teaching the people from the boat.

- Now Simon was very tired, dirty, hungry and at least frustrated that they had not caught any fish and this preacher, sitting in his boat, was asking him to serve Him. Simon had a decision to make.
- And now he had more work to keep the boat positioned while this preacher spoke to the crowd. Thirty minutes, an hour, two hours?
- He probably felt he had little choice with all these people watching and anxious to hear Jesus teach. This was Simon's first act of ministry even though his attitude was probably not good. He heard the Word.
- Do you remember when Jesus first came walking into your life?

(4) When Jesus had finished speaking, He said to Simon, Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.

- Now Simon was asked to “go the second mile.” Can you imagine the look on his face?
- Simon was a professional fisherman – they worked all night and caught nothing . . . and what did this preacher know about fishing to tell him to go again?
- This was totally against everything Simon’s mind was telling him.
- Has the Holy Spirit ever asked you to do something, & your mind was telling you: “that’s not right - that will not work –there is a better way

(5) Simon answered, **Master**, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, **but at your word I will** do as You say and let down the nets.

- The word “master” is a Greek word meaning “teacher over us.”
- At this time Simon only recognized Jesus as a teacher.
- He MADE A GOOD DECISION however, to OBEY the teacher.
- If JESUS is LORD our answer will always be: “AT YOUR WORD I WILL”  
     Thy Kingdom come . . . HOW? . . . Thy WILL be done
- His motivation could have been because all the people were watching.

(6) When they had done this, they enclosed a **great quantity of fish**, and their nets began to break; (7) so they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and **filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink.**

- Matthew 6:33 **seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.**
- Proverb 10:22 The blessing of the LORD makes a person rich, and he adds no sorrow with it. NLT
- **Great Blessings** come when you **OBEY & Serve the Lord.**

(8) But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me **LORD** for I am a sinful man!"

(9) For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken;

- After seeing this MIRACLE and AUTHORITY, Simon realizes **He is more** than a teacher and now:
  - **Calls Him Lord**
  - And is convicted of his unworthiness and sin.

The Kingdom of God = the Government of God

The realm where the King is Obeyed – even by the fish

When we say **YES** to JESUS & **OBEY HIM**, He is not just our Savior, But Savior **& LORD !**

(10) and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men.

- Simon had been **chosen** and **called** to fish for a much more valuable catch.
- YOU ALSO - YOUR WORK ALSO → has a HIGHER PURPOSE and FAR MORE VALUABLE GOAL → TO LAY UP TREASURE IN HEAVEN.

(11) When they had brought their boats to land, **they left everything and followed Him.**

- Jesus had walked into their life / into their boat - taught the Word – demonstrated His authority – and now they left their boat / occupation and followed Jesus.
- They traded their boat and labors for His "one-wheel cart" and all they had need of, was provided.
- Simon's Priorities & Values had been changed.

The Kingdom of God = the Government of God  
The realm where the King is Obeyed

When we say **YES** to JESUS & **OBEY HIM**, He is not just our Savior, But Savior **& LORD**, or **KING**.

And we Enjoy all the BLESSINGS of THE KINGDOM OF GOD

To Seek First the Kingdom of God – is to say:

## “NO” to SIN and “YES” to JESUS

### IT’S YOUR DECISION

When satan had obtained a crucifixion verdict against Jesus

- I would think that he jumped and squealed for joy.
- And as the soldiers began to apply the flogging, he put it in them to become possessed with ultimate, increasing cruelty, blow-by-merciless-blow.
- An opportunity for revenge that satan had been waiting on for many centuries.
- Finally he had obtained victory over his arch rival. Satan through his weapon of sin, had seemingly triumphed.

However the resurrection totally reversed everything and through death JESUS triumphed victorious over satan, sin and death

- Hebrews 2:14 through **death** He rendered **powerless** him who had the power of death, that is, the devil
- When you “take up your cross” -> Death to self, You also render the devil POWERLESS!

And Jesus has given that victory to us!

- Romans 16:20 **And the God of peace will soon crush satan under your feet.**

But for one of us to now turn from this victory

- by saying “No” to Jesus and “Yes to sin”
- and step out of the Kingdom of God
- and step back into the kingdom of darkness

satan squeals again as another person follows him, empowers him, and allows him to steal & destroy from another child of God.

Sweet revenge for the “evil one.”

The Decision is yours:

- Blessings or Destruction ?
- Victorious Life or Defeated Life ?
- The evil one cannot touch you – or, he has an open door
- Righteousness, Peace & Joy – or, The Absence of all

The Decision is yours  
Say “Yes” to Jesus & “No” to sin

Choose for yourselves today whom you will serve . . .  
As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Joshua 24:15

PART 2 OF OBEYING THE LORD

### LIVING IN THE LION’S DEN

PETER SHARES WITH US WHAT HE LEARNED: 1 Peter 5:8 **Be on the alert! Watch out! Your adversary THE DEVIL PROWLs AROUND LIKE A ROARING LION, seeking someone to devour.**

ON THE PROWL - WATCHING - WAITING - SEEKING - SOMEONE

THIS WORLD IS THE DEVIL’S DEN:

➤ 1 John 5:19 **the whole world lies in the power of the evil one**

➤ The Devil is called “THE RULER OF THIS WORLD” in:

John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 2Cor.4:4; Eph.2:2; 6:12

Living in this world – with satan and his demons - is like living in lion-infested Africa.

➤ KEEP AWAY from Every Kind of Evil. 1 Thessalonians 5:22

➤ **The thief comes ONLY to steal, kill and destroy** John 10:10

### Ephesians 4:17-5:2

Verse 27: We are warned – **“do not give the devil an opportunity.”**

Vs. 17 **DO NOT WALK** (Live) **LIKE THE GENTILES** (unbelievers) **in the futility of their minds**

- DO NOT FOLLOW THE CROWD - DON'T BE LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE!

Vs. 19 They don't care anymore about right and wrong, and **they have given themselves over** to immoral ways. Their lives are filled with all kinds of impurity and greed. They stop at nothing, being driven with a continual lust for more. (NLT, NIV, TLB) Pornography // Adultery // Drugs // ? // ?

Vs. 22 and that **YOU PUT OFF THE OLD SELF** - That part of you that:

- Was Before You were a Believer
- FOLLOWS THE CROWD and "is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit" Deceived

Vs. 23 **and be renewed in the spirit of your mind**

- YOU MUST CHANGE YOUR THINKING.
- REALIZE THE CONSEQUENCES
- MAKE A DECISION

Vs. 24 And **PUT ON THE NEW SELF** – That part of you that:

- was "Born Again" Born of the Holy Spirit **which in the likeness of GOD has been created in righteousness and holiness of the Truth.**
- Follows after the Lord Jesus and His Ways
- Walks in Righteousness and Holiness

Vs. 25 Therefore, **put away lying, speak truth**

- NEW SELF – Speaks the TRUTH OLD SELF – Speaks lies

Vs. 26 **In your anger do not sin.**

- OLD SELF – Cannot control ANGER

Ephesians 2:1-7 Once you were **DEAD**, doomed forever **because** of your **many sins**. (2) YOU USED TO LIVE JUST LIKE THE REST OF THE WORLD, FULL OF SIN, OBEYING SATAN, the mighty prince of the power of the air. He is **the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God**. (3) **All of us used to live that way, FOLLOWING THE PASSIONS AND DESIRES OF OUR EVIL NATURE.** We were born with an evil nature, and we were under

God's anger just like everyone else. (4) But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so very much, (5) that even while we were dead because of our sins, **HE gave us life** when he raised Christ from the dead. It is only by God's special favor that you have been saved! (6) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ, and we are seated with him in the heavenly realms (it is a finished work) all because of (The Blood of) CHRIST JESUS. (7) And so God can always point to us as examples of the incredible wealth of his favor and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us through Christ Jesus. NLT

2 Cor 6:17 **Therefore, come out from them and separate yourselves from them, says the Lord. Don't be involved in their evil.** NLT

Ephesians 5:1-2 **Therefore be imitators of GOD** as beloved children and **walk in love** just as Christ loved you . . .

- DON'T IMITATE WORDLY UNBELIEVERS
- IMITATE JESUS, WALK IN LOVE

What happens when we give the devil an opportunity.

- WHAT DO LIONS EAT? FLESH!
- Walking in the flesh is like a crippled gazelle in lion-infested Africa.
- DO NOT GIVE HIM AN OPPORTUNITY - He is VERY Fast

EXAMPLE: DANIEL IN THE LIONS DEN Daniel 6

Daniel 6:3-4 Daniel distinguished himself among the governors . . . and the king planned to appoint him over the entire kingdom. Then the governors began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel.

(7) "All the governors and high officials consulted together that the king should enforce a statute that **anyone who makes a petition** to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, shall be cast into the lions' den.

(10) Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed . . .

WHAT DID HE DO??? FOLLOW THE CROWD INSTEAD OF THE LORD??

**NO !** he entered his house with windows opened toward Jerusalem, and he **continued kneeling** on his knees **three times a day, praying** and **giving thanks** before his God, **as he had been doing previously.**

- Not because of a law, but because he loved the LORD and . . . He **desired** and **sought first** and foremost **the kingdom of God** before the kingdom of Babylon.

Matthew 6:33 **But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**

### **When YOU DO NOT follow the crowd:**

- ▶ Your righteousness – doing what is right – will convict others, some will follow you, some will not, and others will turn on you.
- ▶ Of those that turn away, some will try every way they can to force you to join them.
- ▶ 1 Peter 4:4 **Of course, your former friends** are very surprised when you no longer join them in the wicked things they do, and they say evil things about you.

Daniel 6:16 Then the king gave orders, and Daniel was brought in and **cast into the lions' den.**

Daniel 6:19-20 Then the king arose at dawn, at the break of day, and went in haste to the lions' den. He cried out with a troubled voice, "Daniel, **SERVANT** of the living God, has your God, whom you **CONSTANTLY** serve, been able to deliver you from the lions?"

Daniel 6:21 Then Daniel spoke to the king, "O king, live forever! (22) My God sent his angel to **shut the lions' mouths** so that they would not hurt me,

**AND THE LORD WILL DO THE SAME FOR YOU !**

Why did the Lord shut the lions' mouths?

**#1.** (vs.22) for I have been found **INNOCENT** in **HIS** sight.

**DANIEL HAD NOT GIVEN THE DEVIL AN OPPORTUNITY !**

Matthew 10:16 I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and **INNOCENT** as doves.

Romans 16:19 I want you to be wise in what is good and **INNOCENT** in what is evil.

Philippians 2:15 prove yourselves to be **BLAMELESS** and **INNOCENT**, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,

1 John 5:18 We know that anyone born of God **does not continue to sin**; the "ONE" who was Born of GOD **keeps him safe**, and the **evil one cannot harm him**.

**"AND THE EVIL ONE CANNOT TOUCH HIM."** 1 John 5:18

The Question is – WHO DO I WANT TO PLEASE? . . . to accept me?

- Galatians 1:10 For am I now SEEKING THE FAVOR OF MEN, OR OF GOD? OR AM I STRIVING **TO PLEASE MEN?** If I were still trying to please men, I **would not** be a bond-servant of Christ.
- Colossians 1:10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, **to please Him** in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
  - DO NOT FOLLOW THE CROWD
  - DO NOT FOLLOW THE WAYS OF THE WORLD
  - DO NOT BE PEOPLE PLEASERS
  - DO NOT GIVE THE DEVIL AN OPPORTUNITY

**AND THE LORD WILL SHUT THE LION'S MOUTH**

**#2. And I HAVE NOT WRONGED YOU**, Your Majesty. (Daniel 6:22)

- Had Always Obeyed and Served his Boss
- DOING WHATEVER WOULD PROFIT HIS BOSS.
- Do employees today do this????

Colossians 3:22-23 **in all things obey** those who are your masters on earth, not to please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

Romans 13:1-2 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities.

**#3.** Daniel 6:3(a) Daniel distinguished himself among the governors because **HE POSSESSED AN EXTRAORDINARY SPIRIT,**

- DIFFERENT FROM THE REST
- DID NOT FOLLOW THE CROWD OR THE WAYS OF THE WORLD
- A SERVANT TO THOSE OVER HIM
- TRUSTWORTHY
- DILIGENT – working to make OTHERS SUCCESSFUL not himself
- NEVER MUMURED OR COMPLAINED

Daniel 6:3(b) **AND THE KING PLANNED TO APPOINT HIM OVER THE ENTIRE KINGDOM.**

- Psalm 5:12 For it is You who BLESSES the **RIGHTEOUS** MAN, O LORD, **You surround him** with favor as with a shield.

**"AND THE EVIL ONE CANNOT TOUCH HIM"** 1 John 5:18

**#4.** Daniel 6:4-5 Then the governors began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel; **but they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him.** (5) Then these men said, "We will not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find it against him with regard to the law of his God."

- No ground of ACCUSATION – no blame / no wrongdoing

**WHAT AN AWESOME TESTIMONY !**

Proverb 11:5 The righteousness of the **blameless** will smooth his way, but the wicked will fall by his own wickedness.

Acts 24:16 In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a **blameless** conscience both before God and before men.

Philippians 2: 14-15 Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be **blameless** and **innocent**, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom **you appear as lights in the world**

2 Peter 3:14 Therefore, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and **blameless**

EXAMPLE of another with an EXTRAORDINARY SPIRIT:

**JOSEPH** – When pursued by his boss’s wife HE RAN from the immoral temptation. THE LORD BLESSED HIM AND PROMOTED HIM TO SECOND IN COMMAND AND WEALTH IN EGYPT.

Proverb 10:22 The blessing of the LORD brings wealth, and he adds no sorrow to it.

## AND THE LORD SHUT THE LION'S MOUTH

AND THE EVIL ONE CANNOT TOUCH YOU !

TRAITS OF A SUCCESSFUL PERSON:

- Not Corrupt – immoral; dishonest; and not a cheater
- Not Negligent – failure to do what you ought to do
- Not Slothful – not willing to exert yourself, lazy
- See something that needs to be done – DO IT!  
Leave everything as you found it, or better
- Diligence – Seeing each task as a special assignment from the Lord and using all my energies to accomplish it.

Colossians 3:23 Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for men. NLT

## AND THE LORD WILL SHUT THE LION'S MOUTH

**Daniel DID NOT / WOULD NOT give the devil an opportunity!**  
(Eph. 4:27)

YOU CAN DO THE SAME !

Philippians 4:13 I CAN DO ALL THINGS . . . .

**VIRTUE** – The Moral Excellence and Purity of Spirit That Radiate From My Life as I say “NO” to sin and “YES” to Jesus.

**INTEGRITY** – Steadfast adherence, regardless of the difficulty, to the highest standard of morality and ethics.

AND THE LORD WILL SHUT THE LION’S MOUTH

AND THE EVIL ONE CANNOT TOUCH YOU

Then you WILL WALK IN and INHERIT the BLESSINGS of the Kingdom of God.

Psalm 15 O LORD, **who** may **abide** in Your tent (Kingdom)? **Who** may **dwell on Your holy hill** (in the Kingdom)?

1. He who walks with **INTEGRITY**, is **BLAMELESS**, and DOES WHAT IS **RIGHT**, speaking the **TRUTH** from sincere hearts.
2. Those who **REFUSE TO SLANDER OTHERS** or **harm** their neighbors or **speak evil** of their friends.
3. Those who **DESPISE PERSISTENT SINNERS**, and **HONOR** the faithful followers of the LORD and **KEEP THEIR PROMISES** even when it hurts.
4. **SUCH PEOPLE WILL STAND FIRM FOREVER.**

THIS PERSON IS A LEADER

THE KIND OF PERSON YOUR NATION NEEDS.

- Your Business Needs
- Your Family Needs
- Your School Needs
- Your Friends Need

WILLING TO STAND ALONE IF NECESSARY AGAINST THE EVIL FORCES OF DARKNESS!

What Powerful Weapons has the Enemy Lined Up AGAINST YOU?

This World Needs Leaders Who **Will SAY "NO" TO SIN**  
Regardless Of The Forces Lined Up Against Them.

Ephesians 6:11-17 **Put on** the **full armor** of God, so that you will be able to **STAND FIRM** against the schemes of the devil. Our struggle is against the world forces of darkness, the spiritual forces of evil. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to **RESIST** (say No) in the evil day. **STAND FIRM** in TRUTH; RIGHTEOUSNESS; THE GOSPEL; the SHIELD OF FAITH to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. Take the helmet of SALVATION, and the SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, which is the WORD OF GOD. **AND STAND FIRM THEREFORE.**

Proverb 2:7 **He grants** a treasure of good sense to the godly. HE IS THEIR SHIELD, PROTECTING THOSE WHO WALK WITH **INTEGRITY.** NLT

**AND THE LORD WILL SHUT THE LION'S MOUTH**

Psalms 84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and **shield**; the LORD gives **grace** and **glory**; no good thing does He withhold from those who **walk uprightly.**

STAND ALONE . . . or . . FOLLOW THE CROWD ?

Proverb 10:9 PEOPLE WITH **INTEGRITY** have a firm footing, but those who follow crooked paths will slip and fall. NLT

Matthew 7:13-14 The gate is **wide** and the way is **broad** that leads to **destruction**, and there are CROWDS of people who go that way. For the gate is **small** and the way is **narrow** that leads to **LIFE**, and there are few who find it.

Proverb 11:3 The **INTEGRITY** of the upright will guide them [AND THE LORD WILL SHUT THE LION'S MOUTH] But the crookedness of the treacherous will destroy them. NASU

## Introduction To Key Number #3

**Your life** is the result of the **DECISIONS & CHOICES** you make every day. And those decisions are determined by your PRIORITIES - what you consider important and worthy of pursuing with your time and money.

We always told our children:

- Your FUTURE is determined by the DECISIONS you make today.
- Your DECISIONS today open or close doors for your tomorrows.
- You hold the KEYS in your hands.
- Your life today is the sum total of your past DECISIONS.
- Your life tomorrow is determined by the choices you are making today.
- Your life is a demonstration of your PRIORITIES – what you seek and place value on.

The **Greatest** & Most **Important Decision** You ever made is to BELIEVE and RECEIVE Jesus Christ.

When you do believe, several things happen:

#1. BORN AGAIN

**1 Peter 1:23** for you have been **BORN AGAIN** not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, by the living and enduring Word of God.

#2. TAKEN OUT of DEATH & PLACED into LIFE

**John 5:24** Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and **believes** Him who sent Me, **has eternal life**, and does not come into judgment, but has **PASSED OUT OF DEATH INTO LIFE**.

#3. Priorities – Thinking – Actions CHANGE

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, **he is A NEW CREATION**; old things have passed away; and new things have come.

#4 RECEIVE A NEW HEART - A NEW NAME – A NEW SPIRIT.

Ezekiel 36:26 I will give you a **new heart** and a **new spirit**

Isaiah 65:15 But My servants will be called by another name.

Revelation 2:17 I will give him a . . . new name . . .

#5. **HE delivered** us from the **domain of darkness**, and **transferred** us into **The Kingdom** of His beloved Son.

Colossians 1:13-14

The **New**, Born Again **person** in us is **TRANSFERRED** into The Kingdom.

- The **new self**, which in the likeness of God has been created in **righteousness** and **holiness** of the **truth**. Eph.4:24)
- The old sinful nature in us CAN NOT enter the Kingdom.

1 Cor 6:8-10 do you not know that the **unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?**

Gal 5:18-24 I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things **will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

- To be led by The Spirit -> is to walk in The Kingdom
- When led by our Flesh -> we walk in the kingdom of this world.
- So it becomes VERY IMPORTANT that we "TAKE UP OUR CROSS and CRUCIFY THE OLD ME.  
If anyone wishes to come after Me, he **MUST** deny himself, **take up his cross** daily and follow Me. Luke 9:23-24

EXAMPLE of Receiving our New Name:

John 1:42 Jesus looked at him and said, **You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas** (Aramaic - which is translated **Peter**) He WAS NOT BORN AGAIN at this time.

**"shall be called"** not now, but in the future. When?

This is When his name is changed -> when he believed:

Matthew 16:13-19 Now Jesus was asking His disciples, **Who do people say that the Son of Man is?** (14) And they said, Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. (15) He said to them, **But who do you say that I am?** (16) Simon Peter answered, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. (17) And Jesus said to him, **Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.** (18) I also say to you that **you ARE Peter**, (Petros) and upon this rock (Petra) I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. (19) **"I will give you the KEYS of the kingdom of heaven;** and whatever you bind (forbid) **on earth** shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose (allow) **on earth** shall have been loosed in heaven. (cp. Mt.18:18)

THE KEYS are for USE ON EARTH ! (Ps.115:16 earth given to man)

**Petros**; a small rock, a stone / **Petra** a massive rock or cliff.

Psalms 95:1 O come, let us sing for joy to the LORD, let us shout joyfully to **the rock of our salvation**. Psalm 89:26 2 Samuel 22:3, 47

JESUS IS > "THE ROCK" > "The Foundation Stone"

1 Corinthians 3:11 For no man can lay a **foundation** other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Mt.7:24 hears & does / built on **the rock**

We Are "Small" Stones: 1 Peter 2:4-8

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation**; old things have passed away; and, **new** things have come."

- A NEW NAME
- A NEW PERSON Ephesians 4:22-24 "new self"

Ephesians 4:22-24 In reference to your former manner of life, **lay aside the old self** (the Simon in you), which is BEING CORRUPTED in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your **mind**, and **PUT ON the new self** (the Peter in you), which in the likeness of God HAS BEEN created in **RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HOLINESS OF THE TRUTH**.

### Key #3 Put On the NEW SELF

The NEW SELF alone CAN ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD as it is created in righteousness & holiness.

After we are Born Again **WE HAVE 2 NATURES** in us, not just one!

- The "**old self**" – the old nature – **SIMON**
  - ✓ lives for self
  - ✓ controlled by the flesh
  - ✓ motivated by lust
  - ✓ says "yes" to sin

- The “**new self**” – the new man – **PETER**
  - ✓ lives for others
  - ✓ controlled by the Spirit
  - ✓ motivated by Love
  - ✓ says “YES” to the LORD

### The Good News is:

SATAN CANNOT TOUCH THE “NEW MAN” / The Peter in us!

- James 4:6-7 God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. **Submit** therefore to God. **Resist** the devil and he will flee from you.
- 1 John 5:18 We know that no one who is born of God (the “new” man) sins; but **HE** who was born of God (either the “new” man or Jesus) keeps him, and **the evil one does not touch him**.
- Proverb 1:33 But **he who listens to ME** shall live **securely** and will be **at ease from the dread of evil**.

### The Bad News is:

SATAN CAN ATTACK THE “OLD SELF” / The SIMON in us!

**Ephesians 4:17-32** Vs.27 **do not give the devil an opportunity**

#### What Are the Sins that give the devil an opportunity?

Ephesians 4 (17) So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that [1] **you walk no longer as the Gentiles walk**, in the **futility of their MIND**, (18) **being darkened in their UNDERSTANDING**, excluded from the life of God because of the **IGNORANCE** that is in them, **BECAUSE OF the HARDNESS OF THEIR HEART**; (19) and they, having become **callous**, have given themselves over to **SENSUALITY** for the PRACTICE of **every kind of IMPURITY** with **greediness**. (20) But you did not learn Christ in this way, (21) if indeed you have heard Him and have been TAUGHT in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, (22) that, in reference to your former manner of life, you **LAY ASIDE THE OLD SELF**, which is BEING **CORRUPTED** in accordance with the **lusts** of deceit, (23) and that you **be renewed** in the spirit of your **MIND**, (24) and **PUT ON THE NEW SELF**, which in the likeness of God has been created in **RIGHTEOUSNESS** and **HOLINESS** of the truth. (25) Therefore, LAYING ASIDE [2] **falsehood**, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. (26) be angry, and yet do not sin; [3] do not

let the sun go down on **your anger**, (28) He who **steals** [4] must **steal no longer**; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need. (29) Let [5] no **unwholesome word** proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for EDIFICATION according to the need of the moment, so that IT WILL GIVE GRACE to those who hear. (30) Do not [6] **grieve** the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (31) Let all [7] **bitterness** and **wrath** and **anger** and **clamor** and **slander** be put away from you, along with **all malice**. (32) Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, FORGIVING each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

**2 Corinthians 2:10-11** But one whom you **FORGIVE** anything, I forgive also; . . . (11) **so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan**, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

- **Unforgiveness** gives satan an advantage, an open door

**Matthew 18:21-35** (32) I **forgave** you all that debt . . . (33) Should you not also . . . (34) And his lord, moved with anger, **handed him over** to the **torturers** until he should repay all that was owed him.

(NIV-jailers to be tortured; NAS-Torturers: KJ-Tormentors)

- 1 Peter 5:8 Be **self-controlled** and **alert**. Your enemy **the devil** prowls around like a roaring lion looking for **someone to devour**.
- ❖ Like being at the Zoo – standing **outside** the cage, **or in it**.
- ❖ In the lion's kingdom or outside protected by the fence.

### Example of being "handed over to torturers

**Luke 22:31-34** Simon, Simon, **Satan has demanded permission to sift** you like wheat; but I have **prayed** for you, that your faith may not fail; and **when you have turned again** [repentance, indicating he had sinned] strengthen your brothers. But he said to Him, "Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!" [we will see] And Jesus said, "I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until **you have denied three times** that you know Me."

THE REASON satan demanded was that Peter had stepped into his territory: See verse 24: **And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest.** Peter probably won the argument when he reminded them of who walked on the water. **PRIDE!**

OBSERVATIONS:

1. Satan had to obtain permission. Simon belonged to Jesus
2. Sifting removes the chaff (what is useless) and preserves the seed in which is life.
3. The prayers of Jesus will be answered – **“your faith will not fail.”**
4. **when you have turned again** (repented) **strengthen . . . He did not lose his ministry.** Romans 11:29 **for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.**
5. The GOOD INTENTIONS of the old Nature **are not sufficient** to live the normal Christian life. You **MUST** put off the old & **PUT ON THE NEW**
6. Compare Matthew 10:33 **whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.**
  - Jesus did not deny him before the Father, He prayed for him.
  - Therefore the correct understanding can only be:  
denial is from the heart and not just from the mouth or actions.
7. If you should sin – You should run fast to Jesus and confess your sins - and beat satan before he demands his legal right as sin is his kingdom.

**Luke 22:54-62** (56) **And a servant-girl, seeing him as he sat in the firelight and looking intently at him, said, This man was with Him too. (57) But he denied it, saying, Woman, I do not know Him. (58) A little later, another saw him and said, You are one of them too! But Peter said, Man, I am not! (59) After about an hour had passed, another man began to insist, saying, Certainly this man also was with Him, for he is a Galilean too. (60) But Peter said, Man, I do not know what you are talking about. Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. (61) The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times. (62) And he went out and wept bitterly. This is Repentance.**

Simon had **Denied the Lord** – saw Him Die and he felt like a total failure. Thinking he was rejected -> Simon was returning to his old life.

**John 21:3** Simon Peter said to them, **I am going fishing**. They said to him, **we will also come with you**.

**John 21:15-17** So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, **Simon, son of John, do you love Me** more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord; You know that I love You. He said to him, Tend My lambs. (16) He said to him again a second time, **Simon, son of John, do you love Me?** He said to Him, Yes, Lord; You know that I love You. He said to him, Shepherd My sheep. (17) He said to him the third time, **Simon, son of John, do you love Me?** Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, Do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You. Jesus said to him, Tend My sheep.

- Denied The LORD 3 times – Confessed he loved The LORD 3 times.

Simon had now been sifted –> learned a hard lesson -> Did not lose his ministry (Rom 11:29)

He was now: > motivated by love > controlled by the Spirit  
> living for others

**Either YOU sift out the OLD** or the evil one will !

**THE QUESTION IS – HOW DO WE “PUT ON” THE NEW MAN?**

1. It is a Struggle, a fight:

Jesus said: **You shall KNOW the truth and the truth shall set you FREE.**  
John 8:32

- FREEDOM begins with KNOWING the TRUTH.

Hosea 4:6 **My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.**

- Could this be why you are having problems?
- Either you do not know the Truth -or- not obeying.

What You Do Not Know Can Definitely Hurt You  
Here is a vital **TRUTH** that you must **KNOW & OBEY** to walk out of the kingdom of darkness and into the Kingdom of God.

**Ephesians 4** (17) So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that [1] you walk no longer as the non-believers walk, in the **FUTILITY OF THEIR MIND**, (18) being darkened in their **UNDERSTANDING**, EXCLUDED from the life of God because of the **IGNORANCE** that is in them, BECAUSE OF the **HARDNESS OF THEIR HEART**; (19) and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to **SENSUALITY** for the **PRACTICE** of every kind of **IMPURITY** with greediness. (20) But you did not **learn** Christ in this way, (21) if indeed you have heard Him and have been **TAUGHT** in Him, just as **TRUTH** is in Jesus, (22) that, in reference to your former manner of life, you [2] **lay aside the old self**, which is **BEING CORRUPTED** in accordance with the lusts of deceit, (23) and that **YOU BE RENEWED** in the spirit of your **MIND**, (24) and [3] **put on the new self**, which in the likeness of God has been created in true **RIGHTEOUSNESS** and **HOLINESS**.

Emphasis is on our **MIND / UNDERSTANDING**  
What you **KNOW & MAKE A REALITY** in your life is **VERY IMPORTANT**.

**OUR MIND NEEDS TO BE RENEWED IN SPIRITUAL TRUTH.** Only **THEN** can we "**put on the new self**" (vs. 23).

**Romans 6** (1) What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? (2) May it never be! How shall we who are **dead to sin** still live in it? (3) Or do you not **KNOW** that all of us who have been baptized (placed into) Christ Jesus have been **baptized** (placed) **into His death**? (4) Therefore we have been **buried with Him** through baptism (placed) **into death**, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, **so WE TOO MIGHT WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE**. (5) For if we have become **united with Him** in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, (6) **knowing this**

**[Step #1]** that our **OLD SELF WAS CRUCIFIED with Him**, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; (7) **for he who is dead is free from sin**. (sexual immorality, impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure) (8) Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, (9) **knowing** that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. (10) For the death that He died, He died to sin **once for all**; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

HE TOOK OUR PLACE - HE DID IT FOR US - HE IS OUR SUBSTITUTE

- 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that **one died for all**, therefore **all died**; (15) and He died for all, **so that they who live might NO LONGER LIVE FOR THEMSELVES**, but **FOR HIM** who died and rose again **on our behalf**.
- Romans 5:8 God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, **Christ died for us**.
- Isaiah 53:5 But He was pierced through for **OUR** transgressions, He was crushed for **OUR** iniquities; the chastening for **OUR** well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging **we are healed**.

**WE RECEIVE THE BENEFIT!**

HE TOOK OUR PLACE - HE DID IT FOR US - HE IS OUR SUBSTITUTE

IF HE DID IT FOR US, THE LORD SEES US: DEAD → PIERCED → CRUSHED → CHASTENED → HEALED!

Galatians 2:20 **I have been CRUCIFIED with Christ**; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who **LOVED ME** and **gave Himself FOR ME**.

THE CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST → IS ALSO YOUR CROSS !

- HE SUFFERED THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR SIN
- HE PAID THE PENALTY OF OUR SIN FOR US - TO SET US FREE

SO WHY SHOULD ANY OF US CONTINUE TO LIVE INSIDE THE PRISON – SUFFERING THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN?

HE OPENED THE GATES – YOU CAN WALK OUT – A FREE MAN – FREE FROM SIN AND IT'S DEVESTATION!

**Galatians 5:1** It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

**Romans 6:16-19** **you are slaves** of the one whom you obey, [1] either of **sin**, or [2] of **obedience** resulting in righteousness? (17) But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became **obedient** from the heart to that form of **teaching** to which you were committed, (18) and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

“Obedient to the TEACHING” HOW?

**STEP #2 Romans 6:11** [#2] **CONSIDER YOURSELVES TO BE DEAD TO SIN**, but **alive to God** in Christ Jesus.

### **CONSIDER**

- To rely on, To count on, To regard as.
- Make the truth a reality - Make it yours!
- Act on it. Live it.
- DO NOT neglect the accomplishments of Jesus on the Cross for you.
- Jesus did it for you - to set you free.
- It is a hurt to Him for us not to make full use of what He paid so great a price to obtain for us.
- You MUST see this Truth with spiritual Eyes!
- See from an Eternal viewpoint.
- See yourself as the Lord sees you.

To walk in the FULLNESS & BLESSINGS of the Kingdom of God you must take this step of Faith & Live in this level of faith.

Examples:

1. You receive an official letter that you inherited a million \$'s. You KNOW it's yours. But you must MAKE IT YOURS. GO GET IT.
2. Your paycheck does you no good until you cash it.
3. Your Father buys you a new car (\$'s) but you never drive it. An estate in Hawaii but you never go. How would your father feel?

Jesus said: **Take up your cross daily.**

Luke 9:23-24 If anyone wishes to **come after Me**, he **MUST deny himself**, and **take up his cross** daily and **follow Me**. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.

LIVE HIS **& YOUR**: DEATH, BURIAL & RESURRECTION !

- What begins with LOVE ends with LIFE. (John 3:16)
- But in between is a DEATH!
- LOVE will experience DEATH TO SELF and then LIFE for you and those you love.
- TRUE LOVE ALWAYS includes SACRIFICE.

❖ Spiritual Life is only entered through Death.

John 12:24 **Truly, truly**, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and **dies**, it remains alone; but **if it dies**, it bears **much fruit**.

Paul emphasized this TRUTH to the Romans, to the Galatians, and also to the Colossians.

Colossians 3:1-11 Since **you have been raised** with Christ, **set your hearts on things above**, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. (2) **Set your minds on things above**, not on earthly things. (3) **For you died**, and your life is hid (concealed) with Christ in God. (4) When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

(5) **Put to death**, therefore, **whatever belongs to your earthly nature**: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. (6) **Because of these, the wrath of God is coming**. (7) You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. (8) But now **YOU MUST rid yourselves of all such things as these**: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. (9) **DO NOT LIE** to each other, **since you have taken off your old self** with its practices (10) and **HAVE PUT ON the new self**, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. NIV

**STEP #3 Romans 6:12-14** Therefore **DO NOT** LET SIN REIGN in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, (13) and **DO NOT** go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but **[#3] PRESENT YOURSELVES TO GOD** as those **alive from the dead**, and your members as **INSTRUMENTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS** to God. (14) For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Romans 12:1-2 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, **TO PRESENT YOUR BODIES** a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. (2) And do not be **conformed to this world**, but be **transformed** by the **RENEWING OF YOUR MIND**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 8:7-8 **THE MIND SET ON THE FLESH is HOSTILE toward God**; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh **CANNOT PLEASE GOD**.

1. Put to death the deeds of the body

Romans 8:12-14 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh (13) for if you are living according to the flesh, **YOU** (old man) **must die** (take up your cross) but **if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body** (saying "No" to sin) **you will live** (Rom 6:4 "in newness of life"). (14) For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are **sons** (mature, not children) **of God**.

2. The Victory is YOURS!

Romans 16:19-20 I want you to be **wise** in what is **good** and **innocent** in what is **evil** and the God of peace **WILL SOON CRUSH satan UNDER YOUR FEET**.

The Question is:

Are You Crushing him or is he Crushing YOU?

3. Blessings are Yours! Matthew 6:33 PRAY! 6:10

This is: Philippians 2:12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always **obeyed**, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your salvation** with fear and trembling

This is obviously **NOT** Eternal Salvation > **IT IS** Day by Day Salvation > or LIVING THE VICTORIOUS LIFE >

FREE from satan's devastating attacks, snares and traps.

This is the Teaching of **SANCTIFICATION**:

**2 Timothy 2:19-22** Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "**Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.**" (20) But in a GREAT HOUSE there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, SOME FOR HONOR AND SOME FOR DISHONOR. (21) Therefore **IF anyone CLEANSSES HIMSELF** from the latter, he will be a vessel for HONOR, **SANCTIFIED** and **USEFUL FOR THE MASTER, PREPARED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK.** (22) FLEE YOUTHFUL LUSTS; BUT PURSUE RIGHTEOUSNESS, FAITH, LOVE, PEACE WITH THOSE WHO CALL ON THE LORD OUT OF A **PURE HEART.**

. . . .

Vs. 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the **snare of the devil**, having been **held captive** by him **to do his will.**

James 1:21-25 "**will be blessed**"

Therefore, **putting away** all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility **receive the word** implanted, which is able to save your souls. <sup>22</sup> But **prove yourselves doers** of The WORD, and **NOT just hearers** who **delude themselves.** <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; <sup>24</sup> for once he has

looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. <sup>25</sup> But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, **THIS MAN WILL BE BLESSED IN WHAT HE DOES.**

THIS IS THE BLESSED and PROSPEROUS LIFE !

## Introduction to KEY #4

- Ask all **Ministers / Preachers** to raise their hands.

John 15:16 You did not choose Me but **I chose you, and appointed you** that you would go and bear fruit, (ordained, appointed, placed)

- The **hair** on “the evil one’s” back just stood straight up.
- You Are the Lord’s **DELTA FORCE, UNDERCOVER AGENTS** to set the captives FREE to “destroy the works the devil” and bring them into the Kingdom of God.

**“Seek (desire) FIRST His Kingdom . . .”** WHAT ? HOW ?

### **A Kingdom is:**

- A political & territorial area **ruled / governed** by a sovereign. So, instead of “Kingdom of God” we can say **The Government of God.**

### **We are told to pray:**

1. **“Thy Kingdom come”** ->> an **INVITATION and PLEA** for HIS GOVERNMENT > HIS RULE to come.
2. **“Thy WILL be done”** is a **Declaration** that HIS GOVERNMENT will be obeyed.

Colossians 1:9-11 May you be **filled** with the **KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL** in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup>**so that you will walk** in a manner worthy of the Lord, **to please HIM** in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God

### 3. "on earth as it is in heaven."

- It begins with the pile of "earth" that I am!  
Genesis 2:7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground.
- The FIRST place the Kingdom / the Government MUST come and be OBEYED > is to **ME!**

THE GOVERNING PRINCIPAL -> THE GOVERNING LAW in the Kingdom of God is **LOVE**:

**KEY #4: LOVE** -> the Governing policy in the K. of God

Romans 13:10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore **love is the fulfillment of the law.**

1 Corinthians 16:14 **Let all that you do be done in love.**

John 3:16 For God so (1) **loved** the **world**, that **He** (2) **gave** His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes** in Him shall not perish, but have **eternal** (3) **life.**

Love -> Gives -> results in Life

I. EVERYTHING our Father does BEGINS WITH LOVE.

LOVE is the REASON / the **MOTIVATION**

- ➔ Motivation > Motor > Power > A Driving Force > move to action
- ➔ What Motivates You? What Are Your Desires? What do you love?
- ➔ What Turns You On?
- ➔ We Confuse **LUST** with **LOVE!** Big Difference.

**Lust** is a Driving Force for **SELF**

**Love** is the Driving Force for **OTHERS**. Galatians 5:24

**GOD is LOVE:** (1 John 4:8)

**1 John 4:16** We have come **to know** and have believed **the love which God has for us**. **God is love, and the one who abides in love ABIDES IN GOD, and GOD ABIDES IN HIM.** THE KING and KINGDOM HAS COME

**CHRISTIANITY is LOVE -> Relationship with GOD and PEOPLE.**

JESUS SAID: You shall **LOVE THE LORD** your god with **all your heart**, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, you shall **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR** as yourself. On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets. Matthew 22:37 Mark 12:30

This is Christianity. It is NOT a religion but a RELATIONSHIP.

Christianity is a matter of the HEART, not the head.

1 Samuel 16:7 . . . God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but **the LORD looks at the heart**.

Romans 10:9-11 if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, **and believe in your heart** that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; <sup>10</sup>for with the **heart** a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

**The Lord is Concerned with Your MOTIVATION >> WHY YOU DO WHAT YOU DO?** Are you motivated by Religion or Relationship?

**1 Corinthians 4:5** when the Lord comes He will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and **disclose the motives** of men's hearts; and **then** each man's praise will come to him from God.

**WHY YOU DO WHAT YOU DO IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHAT YOU DO!**

### 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

- If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have **love**, I have become a **noisy gong or a clanging cymbal**.
- If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have **love**, **I am nothing**.
- And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have **love**, it **profits me nothing**.
- Love is **patient**, love is **kind** and is **not jealous**; love does **not brag** and is **not arrogant**, does not act **unbecomingly**; it does **not seek its own**, is **not provoked**, does **not** take into account **a wrong suffered**, does **not rejoice** in **unrighteousness**, but rejoices with the **truth**; **bears** all things, **believes** all things, **hopes** all things, **endures all things**. **LOVE NEVER FAILS**
- Vs.13 But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the **GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE**.
- Vs.14 **PURSUE LOVE**

To Be Our Motivation - LOVE must CAPTURE our HEARTS & CONTROL US. How ? The same way it controlled Paul.

**2 Corinthians 5:14-15** For the **LOVE of Christ COMPELS** (NIV) **us**, (**CONTROLS** us, [NAS]) being convinced that, one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, **so that they who live SHOULD NO LONGER LIVE FOR THEMSELVES, but FOR HIM** who died and rose again on our behalf.

LOVE MUST Controls us / Constrains us / Taken Hold of us / Captured us **MOTIVATES US !]** 1 John 4:19 We love, because He first loved us.

TO THE DEGREE THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THE CROSS >>>>  
>>> YOU WILL UNDERSTAND LOVE

THIS LOVE → WILL MOTIVATE YOU & GIVE YOU A MISSION

## II. The **OBJECT** of His LOVE: God so loved the **WORLD**

WHY? HIS TREASURE WAS IN THE WORLD

Matthew 13:44 **PEOPLE !**

Matthew 6:19-21 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.** NKJV

JESUS is concerned about your HEART = Your Motivation (lust or love)

## III. The **ACTION** of LOVE: He **GAVE . . .**

→ Love is Measured by WHAT WE GIVE !

→ God The Father GAVE HIS SON !

→ Jesus Gave up EVERYTHING ! His Throne – Position – Glory-  
From being served to Servant – Heaven to live in a sinful world- He  
who is Holy became sin – He who was life . . . died

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, than one lay down (give)  
his life **FOR** his friends. Love -> is SACRIFICE!

- **MOTIVATED** BY A **LOVE** for PEOPLE GAVE JESUS A **MISSION**
- His Life was a Life **POWERED** by LOVE. A Life of **MISSION**
- His LIFE was a **DEMONSTRATION & DECLARATION** of the VALUE of PEOPLE.

THEREFORE:

**Luke 2:49** And He said to them, Why is it that you were looking for Me?  
Did you not know that **I must be** about My Father's business? NKJ

**Luke 4:43** But He said to them, **I must** preach the kingdom of God to the other  
cities also, for I was sent for this purpose.

**John 4:4** I must pass through Samaria.

**John 10:16** I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also

**Matthew 16:21** From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.

- It was not **NAILS** that held Jesus on the Cross (Mt.26:53)
- It was a love for people

**IV. The Result:** shall not perish, but have **eternal LIFE**.

WHAT BEGINS WITH **LOVE** . . . ENDS WITH **LIFE** !  
**"LOVE NEVER FAILS"**

EXAMPLE:

**Luke 19:1-10 vs.5** When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house. And he hurried and came down and received Him gladly. When they saw it, they all began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner."

**LOVE** walked into Zaccheus' house that day  
 & changed his **LIFE**.

Zaccheus said to the Lord, "**Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much.**" And Jesus said to him, Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost. NASU

Do You Remember when . . .

**JESUS WALKED INTO YOUR HOUSE - WHERE YOU LIVE - AND  
 LOVE CHANGED YOUR LIFE FOREVER ?**

## &gt;&gt;&gt; BECAUSE HE LOVES YOU! &lt;&lt;&lt;

Example:

**Luke 10:25-37** And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I **DO** to inherit eternal life? And He said to him, **What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?** And he answered, "you shall **love** the lord your god with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And He said to him, **You have answered correctly; DO THIS and you will live.** But wishing to **justify himself**, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus' answer convicted him that he did not truly love the Lord or his neighbor.

Jesus replied and said, A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among **robbers**, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead. And by chance a **priest** was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he **passed by** on the other side. Likewise a **Levite** also, when he came to the place and saw him, **passed by** on the other side. But a **Samaritan**, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt **compassion**, and **came to him** and **bandaged** up his wounds, pouring **oil and wine** on them; and he put him on **his own beast**, and brought him to an inn and **took care** of him. On the next day he took out **two denarii** and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and **whatever more you spend**, when I return **I will repay** you. Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands? And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him. Then Jesus said to him, Go and do the same.

**Robbers** -> sin & satan: **Motivation???**

Hate the Lord & kill, steal and destroy People.

*"What is yours is mine and I will take it"*

**Priest & Levite** -> Religious leaders: **Motivation???**

Say they love God > but *"PASSED BY"*

Love their Religion > People not as valuable!

*"What is mine is mine and I will keep it."*

**Religious people:** (as above) PASSED BY

**1 John 4:20-21** If someone says, "**I love God**," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does **not love** his brother whom he has seen, cannot **love** God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who **loves** God should **love** his brother also.

**Samaritan** – Those who Truly LOVE the Lord & recognize:

- PEOPLE ARE THE MOST VALUABLE TREASURE ON EARTH.
- Love People More than his TIME / MONEY / BUSINESS
- COULD NOT PASS BY A PERSON IN NEED
- *"What's mine is yours and I will give it if you need it !"*  
WHAT BEGINS WITH LOVE . . . ENDS WITH LIFE !

Victor Hugo wrote a great novel entitled: Les Miserables.

It is the story of a young French man named Jean Valjean who was sentenced to a nineteen-year term of hard labor for the crime of stealing bread.

Jean Valjean was gradually hardened into a tough convict. No one could beat him in a fistfight. No one could break his will. At last Valjean was released. Convicts in those days had to carry identity cards, however, and no innkeeper would let a dangerous felon spend the night.

For four days he wandered the village roads, seeking shelter against the weather, until finally a kind old pastor had mercy. That night, after a good meal and visit with the pastor, Valjean lay down on a comfortable bed. But he lay there awake until the pastor was asleep.

He rose from his bed, rummaged through the cabinets and took the family silver, and slipped off into the darkness. The next morning three policemen knocked on the pastor's door with Valjean in hand-cuffs. They had caught the convict in flight with the stolen silver, and were ready to put him in chains for life.

When the bishop opened the door and saw what was before him, he responded in a way that no one, especially Jean Valjean expected.

He cried to Valjean, “**I’m delighted to see you.**” You forgot to take the candlesticks that I also gave you. They are silver like the rest, and worth a good 200 francs. **Valjean’s eyes widened.** He was now staring at the old man with an expression no words can convey.

The bishop assured the police that Valjean was no thief and that the silver was a gift to him. When the police left, the bishop gave the candlesticks to his guest who was now **speechless and trembling.** “*Do not forget, do not ever forget,*” said the bishop, “*that you have promised me to use the money to make yourself an honest man.*”

The power of the bishop’s act, defying every human instinct for revenge, and the love of money, changed Jean Valjean’s life forever. His granite heart melted & he dedicated his life to helping others.

### ***WHAT BEGINS WITH LOVE . . . ENDS WITH LIFE !***

Luke 6:27-36 But I say to **you who hear, love** your enemies, **do good** to those who hate you, **bless** those who curse you, **pray** for those who mistreat you. Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either. **Give** to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back. Treat others the same way you want them to treat you. If you **love** those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners **love** those who love them. If you **do good** to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same amount. But **love** your enemies, and **do good**, and **lend**, expecting nothing in return; **and your reward will be great**, and you will **be sons** of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Matthew 5:45 for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. **Be merciful**, just as your Father is merciful.

1 Corinthians 13:13 There are three things that will endure  
faith, hope and love — and **the greatest of these is love.**

## THIS, IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

➔ LOVE is THE KEY.

➔ It will Open a Door into a life that is beyond your imagination!

➔ Love is The Most Powerful Force on Earth because . .  
**"God is Love."**

Ephesians 3:14-19 THE PRAYER OF PAUL FOR YOU:

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom the whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be **strengthened with power** through **His Spirit in the inner man, so that [1] Christ may dwell in your hearts** through faith; and [2] that **YOU, BEING ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE**, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the **breadth** and **length** and **height** and **depth, and to know the LOVE OF CHRIST** which **surpasses knowledge**, [3] that you may be **FILLED UP TO ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD**.

MORE HOLY SPIRIT > MORE OF JESUS > MORE LOVE > THE  
 MORE LOVE > MORE OF THE "FULLNESS OF GOD."

- What Are YOU Seeking?? What Do You Desire??
  - What Governs Your Life??
  - How Far Into The Kingdom Are You?
  - How Far Do You Want To Go?
  - Where Do You Draw Your Line?
  - Will You Make A Commitment To The Lord Now:
1. to Pray seriously **"Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done"**  
 FIRST IN MY LIFE.

2. Seek and earnestly desire MORE of the HOLY SPIRIT >  
 MORE OF JESUS > MORE LOVE > That you may be FILLED  
 WITH THE FULLNESS OF GOD.

## KEY #5 PREACHING THE GOSPEL

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

vs. 18 gave us the **MINISTRY** of Reconciliation

to restore, reestablish a close relationship

vs. 19 committed to us **THE WORD** of Reconciliation

→ this is PREACHING !

vs. 20 **ambassadors**: a representative (**figuratively, preacher**  
 EVERY BORN-AGAIN BELIEVER IS A PREACHER / MINISTER

- Walk into any church and ask "Who is the preacher?" Who will raise their hands?

Who was the first one to be Given the Gospel?

Who was the first one to be Given the **KEYS** of Blessing and Life - to take to the people of the world?

ANSWER: Galatians 3:8 The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and **preached the gospel in advance to Abraham**

Genesis 12:1-3 Now the LORD said to Abram, **Go forth** from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you (a call to missions) And I will make you a great nation, And **I will bless you**, And make your name great; and so **YOU shall be a blessing**; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you **all the families of the earth will be blessed**.

- Blessed to be a blessing to all the families of the earth
- You will be blessed as you give of yourself to missions

Abraham, and the family of Abraham -> Israel <- were Blessed with the knowledge of Who God is:

- (1) A Savior - from Egypt by the blood lamb
- (2) A Provider – in the Wilderness
- (3) How to worship & serve Him - tabernacle
- (4) **And the Responsibility to take this Good News to all the Families of the earth.**

However with the passing of time they began to say:  
 “we are God’s chosen people > God loves us, not the Gentile dogs.”

2,000 years after giving Abraham [Israel] the keys, JESUS CAME and HE was Angry at Israel:

Matthew 21:33-43 Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and went away on a journey. <sup>34</sup>When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants [the prophets] to the tenants to collect his fruit. <sup>35</sup>The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. <sup>36</sup>Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. <sup>37</sup>Last of all, **he sent his son [JESUS]** to them. They will respect my son, he said. <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, This **is the heir**. Come, let's **kill him** and take his inheritance. <sup>39</sup>So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard **and killed him**. <sup>40</sup>Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" <sup>41</sup>He will bring those wretches to a wretched end, they replied, and **he will rent the vineyard to other tenants**, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time. <sup>42</sup>Jesus said to them, Have you never read in the Scriptures: The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes? <sup>43</sup>Therefore I tell you that THE KINGDOM OF GOD **will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit** ->  
 -> His Church, you and me.

Matthew 23:37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, **you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you**, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but **you were not willing**. Look, **your house is left to you desolate**. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Jesus took the ministry -> the preaching of the Gospel, AWAY from Israel and GAVE THAT MINISTRY TO HIS CHURCH ! **TO YOU and ME!**

Gave us our work:

John 9:4 **We must** work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.

John 20:21 **Jesus said** as the Father has sent Me, so **am I sending you**

How did The FATHER send JESUS? Anointed and Filled with the SPIRIT

Jesus said: The **Spirit of the LORD** is **upon** Me, **because** He has **anointed Me** (1) **to PREACH** the **gospel**; He has sent Me (2) to **heal** the brokenhearted, (3) to **proclaim liberty** to the captives and (4) recovery of **sight** to the blind, (5) to set at liberty those who are oppressed; (6) to **proclaim** the acceptable year of the LORD." Luke 4:18-19

- ❖ This is the purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit ! ! !
- ❖ If Jesus needed The **Spirit of the LORD** is **upon Him** / the **Anointing** -> **How much more do you and I ???**

Luke 4:43 He said to them, I **must preach** THE KINGDOM OF GOD to the other cities also, for **I was sent for this purpose**.

Matthew 9:35-38 And Jesus was going about all the cities and the villages, **teaching** in their synagogues, and **proclaiming** the gospel of The KINGDOM, and **healing every kind of disease** and every kind of sickness. And seeing the multitudes, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to **send out workers** into His harvest.

- YOU ARE THE ANSWER TO THIS PRAYER !

Jesus was one man. He needed help, so . . .

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.

- JESUS, The KING of KINGS and LORD of LORDS (1Tim.6:15; Rev.17:14) gave KINGDOM AUTHORITY to His disciples to:

Matthew 10: 7-9 Go, **preach**, saying, **THE KINGDOM** of heaven is at hand. **Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons**. Freely you received, freely give.

- ❖ All of the above demonstrates The KINGDOM of GOD

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 Paul's Testimony: and my **message** and my **preaching** were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in **DEMONSTRATION OF THE SPIRIT** and of **POWER**, <sup>5</sup>so that **your faith** would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the **POWER OF GOD**.

JESUS said the same Authority, Power and Manifestations are to be in our ministry !

John 14:12 Truly, truly, I say to you, **HE WHO BELIEVES** in Me, **THE WORKS THAT I DO, HE WILL DO ALSO**; and **GREATER THAN THESE HE WILL DO**; because I go to the Father.

- ❖ Believe it, Expect it, look for opportunities to manifest the POWER OF GOD as you share the Good News.

Luke 24:49 And behold, I am sending forth **the promise** of My Father **upon you**; but you are to stay in the city until you are **clothed with POWER from on high**.

Acts 1:8 **You shall receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come **upon you**; and **you shall be My witnesses**, in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:39 For **THE PROMISE IS FOR YOU** and your children and **for all** who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.

1 Cor 1:18 For **The Word of The CROSS** [your sharing] is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved **IT IS THE POWER OF GOD.**

- The Power of GOD accompanies your sharing. GO FOR IT !

1 Cor 1:6-7 The testimony of Christ was [will be] confirmed in you, so that **you are not lacking in any gift** . . . Healing diseases, eyes, lepers, etc.

This is the HEART of our Father:

- ➔ If Jesus Paid So Great a Price / Made So Great a Sacrifice to Open the Gates of Heaven (Psalm 24:7-10)
- ➔ He will **Greatly Bless & Prosper anyone** who makes Sacrifices to Win the People He Loves so Greatly.

For Example:

Matthew 19:29 **Everyone who has left houses** or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms **for My name's sake**, will **receive many times as much**, and will inherit eternal life.

Matthew 24:14 This **gospel of the kingdom** shall be **preached** in the **whole world** as a testimony to all the nations, **and then** the end will come.

So THIS KEY not only opens the door (1) for others to come into the Kingdom of God (2) BUT ALSO OPENS THE DOOR FOR THE RETURN of JESUS and His literal Kingdom to come to this earth.

- Where is Jesus right now ?

Hebrews 10:12-13 Having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, **sat down** at the right hand of GOD, **WAITING** from that time onward **until** his enemies be made a footstool for his feet.

- HIS work was finished. And has given us the Responsibility of PROCLAIMING THE KINGDOM OF GOD !
- HE IS WAITING ON US ! YOU and ME !

Romans 10:14 How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a **PREACHER?**

Matthew 28:18-20 All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **Go and make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching them** to observe all that I commanded you; and I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

**NOW THE KEYS ARE IN OUR HANDS !**

1 Corinthians 1:26 **"consider your calling"**

**The Lord called:**

- Moses > "I can not speak" Exodus 4:10
- Gideon > "I'm the youngest in my family" Judges 6:15
- Jeremiah > "I am too young" Jeremiah 1:6
- And **NOW THE LORD IS CALLING YOU !**

**HOW WILL YOU ANSWER??**

**I CAN DO ALL THINGS** through Him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13

**WE MUST GATHER HIS TREASURE !**

Revelation 3:11 I am coming quickly; **hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.**

2 Timothy 4:1-2 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: **preach the word**; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

Vs. 5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, **do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry**.

THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM ARE IN YOUR HANDS

YOU ARE A PREACHER / A MINISTER / A MISSIONARY !

KEY #6: **Read / Study / Meditate in The Word Of God**

**Psalm 1:2-3** But **his delight** is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which **yields its fruit** in its season and its leaf does **not wither**; and in **whatever he does, he prospers**.

**Joshua 1:8** This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but YOU SHALL MEDITATE ON IT DAY AND NIGHT, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; **for THEN you will make your way prosperous, and THEN you will have success**.

**Proverb 3:1-2** My son, **do not forget my teaching**, but let your heart **keep my commandments**; for length of days and **years of life** and **peace** they will add to you.

**John 8:31-33** If you **continue** in My Word, **then** you are truly My disciples; and **you will know the truth**, and the truth will make you **free**.

- Knowing the Truth -> sets you free
- Believing a Lie -> places you in bondage / captivity

Matthew 7:24-27 Therefore everyone who **hears** these words of Mine **and acts** on them, may be compared to a **wise man** who built his house on the rock. (25) And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet **it did not fall**, for it had been founded on the rock. (26) Everyone who **hears** these words of Mine and **does not**

act on them, will be like a **foolish man** who built his house on the sand. (27) The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and **it fell — and great was its fall.**

- This is THE REASON for most of our PROBLEMS.
- We HEAR but DO NOT ACT.

John 10:10 **The thief comes to steal and kill and destroy**

DESTROY OUR LIFE &/or STEAL OUR BLESSINGS

BUT HE CAN BE PREVENTED !

HOW???

#1 Matthew 26:41 Keep **watching** and **praying** that you may not enter into temptation; **the spirit is willing**, but **the flesh is weak.**

#2 **Knowing the Word of God**

Matthew 4:1-3 Then Jesus was **led up by the Spirit** into the wilderness. And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then **became hungry.**

- His flesh had a strong desire. The age old battle: Spirit vs. flesh

And the tempter came and said to Him, "**If** You are the SON of GOD, command that these stones become bread."

**In Crafty Deceit satan sets his snare:**

**"If"** - to try to focus the issue on **proving who He is.**

- IF you are the "man of the house" prove it!
- IF " " a man drink another beer / shoot up / snort up
- IF you're a man / IF you're tough PROVE IT, Satan says with a grin.

Proverb 14:16 **A wise man is cautious and turns away from evil**, but a fool is arrogant and careless.

But there is a more important issue >> Should Jesus do so, He would be OBEYING satan.

Romans 6:16 **whosoever you obey, his servants you are who you obey**  
WHAT KINGDOM YOU ARE IN DEPENDS ON ->

**WHO YOU OBEY !**

But Jesus Obeys His Father and answers WITH THE WORD:

Matthew 4:4 **It is written**, Man shall not live on bread alone, but on **EVERY WORD** that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

The New Living Translation: **Jesus told him, NO!** The Scriptures say, **people need more than bread for their life**; they MUST feed on **every WORD of GOD**.

We all need to overcome the temptations at the table and JUST SAY "NO" to more bread . . . meat . . . potatoes & gravy . . . pie . . .

THERE IS SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN FEEDING THE STRONG DESIRES OF THE FLESH. AND THAT IS ->

FEEDING THE SPIRIT WHAT IS NECESSARY FOR SPIRITUAL STRENGTH.

Jesus escapes this Snare Because **HE knows WHAT IS WRITTEN**

Matthew 4:5-7 Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; **for it is written**, "He will command his angels concerning you; and on their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

satan, seeing that Jesus is guided by what is Written, sets his second trap using what is written in **Psalm 91:11** but takes it **OUT OF CONTEXT!**

Psalm 91 begins with vs.1 **He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.**

Jesus said to him, **On the other hand, it is written, 'you shall not put the lord your god to the test.** (Deut. 6:16)

- We need to know as many Scriptures as possible.
- And be very careful to consider the context.

Vs.8-11 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him **all the kingdoms of the world and their glory**; and he said to Him, " **All these things I will give You, "if" You fall down and worship me.**"

Satan appeals to: PRIDE – Power – Glory – Riches & Significance to **ensnare many people**.

1 John 2:16 the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life

Then Jesus said to him, **Leave, Satan! For it is written, you shall worship the lord your god, and serve him only.** Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.

Luke 4:13 When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him **until an opportune time**.

The "tempter" the "evil one" satan will come back.

With sin and lust in us -> we are an easier target than JESUS!

**1 Peter 3:15** But in your hearts set apart CHRIST as LORD. ALWAYS be prepared **to give an answer** to (the tempter) to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect NIV

- We need to know as many Scriptures as possible.

**Hebrews 4:12** For the WORD of GOD is **living** and **active** and **sharper** than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

**1 Peter 1:23** You have been born again not of **seed** which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the **living** and enduring **WORD of GOD**.

- The WORD of God is Alive!
- Seed that brings "NEW" Life! To You & In You !

**John 6:63-64** It is the **Spirit** who gives **life**; the flesh profits nothing; **the words** that I have spoken to you **are Spirit** and **are Life**.

**2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is **God-breathed** (Spirit, breath, (πνευμα)) of God as breathed into man and he became alive) and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and **training in righteousness**, NIV

- We need to know as many Scriptures as possible.

**Joshua 1:8** **Study** His Word continually. **Meditate** on it day and night so that you may be **sure to obey** all that is written in it. **Only then** will you have **good success**.

➤ **Psalm 119** David – “a man after God’s own heart” Acts 13:22

Psalm 119:133 Establish my footsteps in Your word, and do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.

- We need to know as many Scriptures as possible Because:

Revelation 12:10-11 Now the **salvation**, and the **power**, and the **KINGDOM of our GOD** and the **authority** of His Christ have come [it is all available to us] for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down [at The Cross] he who accuses them before our God day and night. And **they overcame him** [1] **because of THE BLOOD of THE LAMB** and [2] because of the **word of their testimony**, and [3] they did not love their life even when even unto death.

- ❖ We MUST be able to TESTIFY what the Scriptures say that THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB has accomplished and done for us

THIS IS HOW WE LIVE IN THE FULL BLESSINGS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

KEY #7: **Giving / Sowing or Planting Seed**

**Proverb 3:9-10** Honor the LORD from your wealth and from the first of all your produce; (10) So your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine.

**Proverb 19:17** He who gives to a poor man lends to the Lord. And HE will repay him for his good deed. Proverb 22:9

**Malachi 3:8-11** Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. (9) **You are cursed** with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! (10) Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and **pour out for you a blessing until it overflows**. (11) Then **I WILL REBUKE THE DEVOURER FOR YOU**, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes," says the LORD of hosts.

**Luke 6:38** **Give, and it will be given to you.** They will pour into your lap a good measure — pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.

Example of GIVING:

The Sinful Woman      Luke 7:36-50

You can tell a GRATEFUL SINNER by the way they **GIVE** in WORSHIP and APPRECIATION.

When we give ourselves to the LORD, all other giving becomes easier.

So, could we say . . .

Where Your HEART is -> is proven by HOW YOU GIVE.

John 3:16 **GOD SO LOVED** the world that **HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON** . . .

❖ LOVE GIVES!

❖ The measure of our LOVE is determined by what and how we GIVE.

❖ Our FATHER GAVE HIS SON!!!

Jesus said: **I will give you the Keys to the Kingdom.**

Keys are for Locks -> to lock or unlock

Each and Every KEY is Vitally Important, Essential, and opens another door for us to walk deeper into The KINGDOM of GOD.

These KEYS UNLOCK:

- the Chains that SIN & satan have bound us with
- Set us FREE
- Open to us Blessings – Prosperity - the Provisions of the K.
- Open to us the Power and Authority of the Kingdom

It Pleases the LORD Greatly to see us take and use every Key to open door after door, deeper into the KINGDOM of GOD.

**Luke 12:32** it is **your Father's good pleasure** to give you **The Kingdom**.

- ❖ It Cost HIM a GREAT PRICE !
- ❖ And It PLEASES HIM Greatly to see that we also Greatly Value it and that we **seek first HIS KINGDOM and HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS**

We Need the Heart of JESUS:

John 8:29 I always do the things that are **pleasing to Him**.

2 Corinthians 5:9 **Therefore we also have as our ambition . . . TO BE PLEASING TO HIM.**

1 John 3:22 **and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because [1] we keep His commandments and [2] do the things that are PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT.** This is the simplicity of Christianity

Hebrews 13:20-21 **Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead The Great Shepherd of the sheep through THE BLOOD of the eternal covenant, JESUS our Lord, <sup>21</sup>EQUIP YOU in every good thing TO DO HIS WILL working in us that which is PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the Glory forever and ever.**

Amen