

Q/A: Is there a difference between the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God? Not really; each may take on a different focus. ie., the kingdom of heaven focuses more on (peace and joy), whereas the kingdom of God is more about (righteousness and righteous judgment), as we see these in **Romans 14:17**.

When Christ was talking with Peter, recorded in, **Matthew 16:18**, He said, “Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church.” He was referring to building His church on the revelation knowledge that Peter had of Him as the Christ and directly speaking of Himself as the Rock. Likewise, when He said, “I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven,” He would have been referring to the church and all believers. Therefore, **the keys are for every believer**.

Jesus gave His church these keys or concepts so that we could operate within His kingdom realm. Thus, we should think of this as “gaining access to the kingdom or the heavenly realm.” Some have defined this as simply being saved; if this were all there were, Jesus would have referred to this as a key rather than keys. Rather, I see the keys as seeking out and accessing the kingdom within us, **Luke 17:21**. And going further, if we are open to this, we can even access and operate in the 3<sup>rd</sup>-heaven, for we have been seated with Christ Jesus in heavenly places.

<sup>5</sup> Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) <sup>6</sup> And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: **Ephesians 2:5-6**.

## Repent, and know that you are sinful:

From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, **Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand**, **Matthew 4:17**.

When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord, **Luke 5:8**.

## Knowing that Jesus is the Son of God:

And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God, **Matthew 16:16**.

Some people stop here, after the essentials of salvation are met, **Romans 10:9**. But, there is so much more. As it is written, Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love Him, **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:9**.

## Forgiveness:

And Peter to Him, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Jesus said to him, **Not seven times: but, seventy times seven**, {**Matthew 18:21-22**}.

**For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses**, **Matthew 6:14**.

## Prayer and expectation, (believe that you receive).

Pray without ceasing, **1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:17**. That which we believe for we can expect and receive, **Mark 11:24**. If there is no expectation, you will not think it strange when it does not happen.

## Faith and action.

Peter said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And Jesus said, **Come**. And Peter walked on the water, to go to Jesus, {**Matthew 14:28-29**}.

Peter's faith back then was not perfect, as ours also is not, but Peter stepped out of the boat and took a few successful steps. When we hear the calling, we also need to step out by faith.

## Sowing and reaping:

Every man according as he purposes in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver, **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9:7**.

## Serving others / charity:

And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins, **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:8**.

## Perseverance:

Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand, **Ephesians 6:13**.

## Give honor to whom honor is due:

Honor all *men*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king, **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:17**.

## Humility, (be humble):

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time:, **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:6**.

## Be obedient to God's Word:

As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:, **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:14**.

## Be holy:

Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy, **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:16**.

We are made in God's image and likeness, we are to be like Him, to emulate our Father in every way, for how can two walk together, except they be in agreement, **Amos 3:3**.



***17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood has not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. 18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven, Matthew 16:19.***

Unlike unlocking physical doors here on earth, we are looking to access God's spiritual kingdom, which is within us.

***Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you, Luke 17:21.***

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost, **Romans 14:17**

The keys to the kingdom are not physical keys, like the one that is shown above. Rather, we need to think of them as spiritual concepts that when we come into agreement with them and incorporate them into our life, they will open doors for us to receive God's many further blessings. Likewise, these keys are not unique to the person they were spoken to, such as the disciple Peter, or to other select disciples of Jesus, for these same concepts are reflected in the scriptures throughout the entire Bible. Thus, any righteous and biblical concept that brings you peace and joy and brings you into a closer relationship and walk with Jesus could be considered a kingdom key. However, for this booklet, I have limited it to the concepts that were told to the disciple Peter.

