
The Key of Protection (The Gates of Hell Shall Not Prevail)

Keys To The Kingdom

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Sermon: Keys To The Kingdom: The Key of Protection (The Gates of Hell Shall Not Prevail)

Lesson Text

Matthew 16:13–20 (KJV)¹³ When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, **Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?** ¹⁴ And they said, Some say *that thou art* John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. ¹⁵ He saith unto them, **But whom say ye that I am?** ¹⁶ And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. ¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.** ¹⁸ And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ²⁰ Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

Psalms 27:1–3 (KJV)¹ The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ² When the wicked, *even* mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. ³ Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this *will I be* confident.

2 Timothy 1:7 (KJV)⁷ For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Introduction

What is the Kingdom of Heaven? A place established on earth by Jesus for a specific purpose.

The Kingdom of Heaven is Near: Matthew 3: ¹ In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, ² And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

The Kingdom of Heaven is Here: Luke 17:20–21 (NLT) ²⁰ One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, “When will the Kingdom of God come?” Jesus replied, **“The Kingdom of God can’t be detected by visible signs. ²¹ You won’t be able to say, ‘Here it is!’ or ‘It’s over there!’ For the Kingdom of God is already among you.”**

The Kingdom of Heaven is our Spiritual Military Base: Matthew 11: ¹² **And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.**

And it is in our lesson text that we will explore the purpose of this new series: Matthew 16: 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.**

That purpose is that we have been given keys to the kingdom of heaven for the purpose of accessing the tools, weapons, and armor we will need in fighting our spiritual battle.

The first key we will explore in this series is the one revealed to Peter in 18th verse: Matthew 16: 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.**

Series and Sermon: Keys To The Kingdom: The Key of Protection (The Gates of Hell Shall Not Prevail)

(Prevailing Against Fear, Prevailing Against Attacks, Prevailing Against Doubt)

I. Prevailing Against Fear (Access to the Power of God)

Psalm 27: ¹ The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One of the first things the Gates of Hell does is it produces fear.

Fear is a powerful weapon that the enemy uses against us because it causes us to lose the battle before we even get in the fight. It produces the fight or flight response. Where some people either run out of fear, or they freeze because of it.

We fail to walk in our callings because of fear. We leave ministries because of fear. We give up and quit because of fear.

To prevail against fear, our keys give us access to the Power of God

2 Timothy 1: ⁷ For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; **but of power**, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Power to overcome the fear of darkness:

- John 1: ⁵ And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.
- Psalm 91: ⁵ Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; *nor* for the arrow *that* flieth by day; ⁶ *Nor* for the pestilence *that* walketh in darkness; *nor* for the destruction *that* wasteth at noonday.

Power to overcome the fear of unclean spirits:

- Luke 10: ¹⁹ **Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.**

II. Prevailing Against Attacks (Access to the Love of God)

Psalm 27: ² When the wicked, *even* mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

Another thing the Gates of Hell does is it causes attacks.

Attacks can come from two places, our enemies and from those close to us; friends and foes.

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We should expect attacks from our enemies:

- 1 Peter 4: ¹² Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:
- 1 Peter 5: ⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

However, many of us really lost our composure when the attack comes from a friend:

- Psalm 41: ⁹ Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up *his* heel against me.
- Luke 22: ⁴⁸ But Jesus said unto him, **Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?**

To prevail against attacks, our keys give us access to the Love of God

2 Timothy 1: ⁷ For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, **and of love**, and of a sound mind.

The Love of God represents the Fruit of the Spirit which is designed to give us power over the attacks of friends and foes.

Galatians 5: ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Love to overcome hate, joy to overcome depression, peace to overcome trouble, longsuffering for impatience, gentleness for cruelty, goodness for evil, faith for disloyalty, meekness for arrogance, temperance for troubled mind.

Psalms 34: ¹⁹ Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

III. Prevailing Against Doubt (Access to the Mind of God)

Psalms 27: ³ Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this *will* I be confident.

The Gates of Hell shall not Prevail:

- When you have keys to access the Power of God to prevail against fear
- When you have keys to access the Love of God to prevail against attacks
- When you have keys to access the Mind of God to prevail against doubt

The Gates of Hell constantly produce doubt by attacking our faith.

Ephesians 6: ¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

But the fiery darts of doubt just keep coming. Will God ever do it for me? What if this doesn't work? What if the ministry or business fails? What if I lose my job? What if I'm not healed?

To prevail against doubt, our keys give us access to the Mind of God

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2 Timothy 1: ⁷ For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, **and of a sound mind.**

Philippians 2: ⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

A mind of humility: Philippians 2: ⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant...

A mind of confidence: Philippians 1: ⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

A mind of faith: Matthew 17: ²⁰ And Jesus said unto them, **Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.**

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Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Key of Protection (The Gates of Hell Shall Not Prevail))

Lesson Text

- Matthew 16:13–20, Psalm 27:1–3, 2 Timothy 1:7

Sermon Outline

- I. *Prevailing Against Fear (Access to the Power of God)***
- II. *Prevailing Against Attacks (Access to the Love of God)***
- III. *Prevailing Against Doubt (Access to the Mind of God)***

Questions: (What was your main takeaway from this message?)

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. Which sport are you most likely to watch live and in person in the fall? a) Baseball b) Basketball c) Football
2. When you have a break in the middle of the day at work or school, what do you like to do?

II. Into The Bible

1. Jesus refers to himself in John 8:12 as “the light of the world” and invites others to follow him. Why would following Jesus help dispel any confusion, doubt or fear?
2. Read Proverbs 4:23. What does the “heart” in this context represent? How can the heart influence accessing the keys to the kingdom?

III. Life Application

1. In light of Matthew 16:15–19, Psalm 27:1–3, and 2 Timothy 1:7—what fear is confronting you right now, and how will you answer Jesus’ “Who do you say I am?” with a confession that empowers your next step today?
2. Using the “keys” Jesus gives (Matthew 16:19), what attack or nagging doubt will you bind, what truth will you loose over your life this week—and what loving, sound-minded action will you take in response?