
The Keys to the Power of Agreement

Keys To The Kingdom

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Sermon: Keys To The Kingdom: The Keys to the Power of Agreement

Lesson Text

Matthew 18:15–20 (KJV)¹⁵ Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. ¹⁶ But if he will not hear *thee*, *then* take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. ¹⁷ And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell *it* unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. ¹⁸ Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Introduction

Our theme passage for this specifically speaks to one of the Keys to the Kingdom we will study today: 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.

The power to bind and loose on earth speaks specifically to a power given to us, which is the power to govern, settle, and set order in the church.

The truth is, the church must be governed, issues must be resolved, offenses must be rectified, order must be established in order for this thing, the Church, to function.

- Romans 16: ¹⁷ Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.
- 1 Corinthians 14: ³² And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.
- 1 Corinthians 14: ⁴⁰ Let all things be done decently and in order.

This is the theme of our lesson text, the process or methodology in dealing with issues and problems in the church. 1) Go to the offender, 2) Establish truth, 3) Get backup from heaven, 4) Petition God.

But in order to do these things and establish governance, it requires us to come into agreement.

Without agreement, we can't function. The husband is only the head when his wife agrees. The pastor is only the Shepherd when the church agrees. The president, governor, or mayor can only lead when we agree. But when any of the parties break the agreement, it all falls apart.

But the opposite is true when they come into agreement:

- Genesis 11:6 (NLT)⁶ “Look!” he said. “The people are united as one, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them!”

- Genesis 2: ²⁴ Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.
- Acts 4: ³² And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul:

The enemy wants to divide us and keep us in conflict, but one of the keys to the kingdom is the power of agreement which gives us the power of confession, authority, and petition.

Series and Sermon: Keys To The Kingdom: The Keys to the Power of Agreement

(The Power of Confession, The Power of Authority, The Power of Petition)

I. The Power of Confession (Establishing Truth)

Matthew 18: ¹⁶ But if he will not hear *thee*, *then* take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

One of the first keys to the Power of Agreement is Confession.

Confession is universal to salvation itself:

- Romans 10: ⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.
- 1 John 1: ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- Matthew 10: ³² Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

But the enemy can use confession against us:

- Numbers 13: ³¹ But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they *are* stronger than we.
- Revelation 12: ¹⁰ ... for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.
- 1 Peter 5: ⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Confession with The Power of Agreement

There is another level of power that comes with your confession when it is done in agreement with others.

Confessed Truth requires agreement: Matthew 18: ... that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

Confessed Healing requires agreement: James 5: ¹⁶ Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Confessed Overcoming requires agreement: Revelation 12: ¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony;

II. The Power of Authority (Heaven's Backup)

Matthew 18: ¹⁸ Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

The next key to the Power of Agreement is Authority.

God has given us authority:

- 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.
- Deuteronomy 8: ¹⁸ But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for *it is* he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as *it is* this day.
- Isaiah 54: ¹⁷ No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn.

But Authority without agreement is like a leader without followers; just a man going for a walk!

Without agreement, the seasons of life will cause us to lose confidence. We lose confidence when we go through a season of loss and failures. We lose confidence when we go through financial distress. We lose confidence when the weapons against us get the best of us.

Authority with The Power of Agreement

Authority requires agreement with each other: Ecclesiastes 4: ⁹ Two *are* better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour... ¹² And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Authority requires agreement with your fight: Deuteronomy 32: ³⁰ How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?

Authority requires agreement with heaven: Matthew 18: ¹⁸ ... Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

III. The Power of Petition (Answered Prayers)

Matthew 18: ¹⁹ Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

The final key to the Power of Agreement is Petition.

- Confession with the Power of Agreement – Every word is established
- Authority with the Power of Agreement – Heaven backs us up
- Petition with the Power of Agreement – The Power of Answered Prayers

The Keys to the Power of Agreement

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Many of us have struggled with unanswered prayers. Prayers of healing that haven't happened. Prayers of financial help that haven't come through. Prayers of deliverance but still bound. Prayers for peace but still troubled.

Petition with The Power of Agreement

Petition requires the will of God: 1 John 5: ¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: ¹⁵ And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

Petition requires faith in God: James 1: ⁶ But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

Petition requires agreement with others: Matthew 18: ¹⁹ Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

Petition requires agreement with God: Matthew 18: ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Keys to the Power of Agreement)

Lesson Text

- Matthew 18:15–20

Sermon Outline

- I. *The Power of Confession (Establishing Truth)***
- II. *The Power of Authority (Heaven's Backup)***
- III. *The Power of Petition (Answered Prayers)***

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

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. If you had a theme song that played every time you walked into a room, what would it be?
2. If you were given a free billboard in your city for one day that could only contain five words, what five words would you advertise?

II. Into The Bible

1. In Amos 3:3, the prophet asks, “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” What does this verse teach us about the importance of unity and alignment among believers? How might disagreement or disunity hinder the power of prayer, ministry, or the church’s witness to the world?
2. Read Ephesians 4:1-3. What does this passage, along with our lesson text, tell us about how to handle conflict with one another? What attitudes or actions help maintain unity within the body of Christ?

III. Life Application

1. In what ways might a “negative confession”- focusing on your fears, limitations, and worldly circumstances—hinder God’s work in your life and dry up your spirit?
2. How does your growth group handle unanswered prayers, especially for things everyone was in agreement with?