

Thy Kingdom Come: Keys to the Kingdom

Reflect

1. What are some things you think of that are never changing?
2. What things in life seem to change often?
3. How do you, in general, deal with change in your life?

Read Your Bible

1. 1 John 1:5-10
2. Matthew 16:13-20

Apply God's Word To Your Life

1. Read Matthew 16:13-20. Simon Peter calls Jesus "the Messiah, the Son of the living God." How is Peter calling Jesus "the Messiah" different from the High Priest (26:63), scribes/elders (26:68) and Pilate (27:17, 22) calling Jesus "the Messiah."
2. Jesus then calls Peter by name (*Petros* = rock), "and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." How would you describe physical rock (think bedrock or mountain) and its attributes?
3. How could the attributes of rock be helpful in our understanding of Peter and the church?
4. Keys to the kingdom and binding and loosening (v. 19) are about the ability and authority the Holy Spirit gives to interpret scripture and apply it to our lives. When have you experienced the Spirit convicting you in your sin or assuring you in your walk with Jesus?
5. Read 1 John 1:5-10. What do you think it means to walk in darkness and to walk in the light?
6. Why is it important to recognize if we are walking in darkness or light in our life? (v. 8-10)
7. What do you need to confess today?

Conclusion

The Keys to the Kingdom of God is all about the work of the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit that led Peter to confess faith in Jesus as "the Messiah, the Son of the living God." It was the Spirit that built Christ's church on immovable rock. It's the same Spirit that caused the curtain in the Temple and rock to split at Jesus' death (Matthew 27:51). It's the same Spirit that moved Peter from denying having known Jesus to repentance and faithfully taking up Jesus' command to him to "feed my sheep" (John 21:71). The Keys to the Kingdom of God by the power of the Holy Spirit have the power to unlock the most hardened places in our hearts and lives, to overcome our sin and give us new life.

Pray

God, Your Spirit is as gentle as a whisper on the wind and more powerful than earthquakes that move mountains. Speak into my heart today the truth of Your love and the grace that is mine through Your Son. Move me where I am hard in my heart and mold me more into who You created me to be. Unlock Your kingdom work within me so I am free to love and serve You faithfully. In Jesus' name. Amen.