

Bridgeway Community Church
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 Series: Threshold
 May 29, 2022

THRESHOLD

The Kingdom Doors!

"Part of my message today is to talk about how do we as believers walk in the authority that God has given us. There's going to be evil on the earth, there's going to be problems and troubles in the world, but God has called us to live a kingdom lifestyle."

"Once you enter the door of Jesus Christ and walk into a relationship, of fellowship with him, you are then given kingdom business to do...to grow us us strong, so that we can be light in darkness...we need to live a life where we are actually having an effect on the evil in this world...the authority to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ in his name."

Matthew 16:13-19 NIV84

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Question: What do YOU say about Jesus Christ? Who do YOU say that he is?

"Every person will have to answer this question. Here or in eternity, so you must answer the question."

John 14:6 NIV84

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 10:7 ESV

So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep."

Question: Has God revealed who Jesus is to you?

"If you seek him, you will find him. If you invite him, he will come. Jesus is seeking you and he will be revealed to everyone who calls on the name of Jesus."

Matthew 16:18 NIV84

[Jesus speaking] And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

"When Jesus relates to you, he doesn't relate to you simply with regard to who you are and where you are NOW...but because he is the God of the past, present and future, he can see who you are becoming and so he relates to you, not just based on now, but based on the future because he knows what he's going to do in your life."

Question: Does anyone remember the first encounter that Jesus had with Simon Peter when they first met?

John 1:40-42 NIV84

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

"So when Simon first meets Jesus, Jesus tells him who he is, and who he will become...Jesus knows who you are now, but he also knows who you're going to be after he works on you for a few years. He's going to do something in your life and you're going to go through some difficulties, some temptations, but when you come out, you are going to be at a place where your purpose is elevated beyond what even you can see in your own life right now."

"I'm here to tell somebody that you ARE but one day you WILL BE. God is going to take you from where you are NOW to where you're gonna be because he sees the divine purpose he has in your life."

"You just gotta stick with Jesus. You see, when you stick with Jesus, Jesus walks with you, talks with you, fights for you, and through that time of your discipleship...things are being transmitted to you that you don't even know what's happening."

Matthew 16:18 NIV84

[Jesus speaking] And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

For the first time, Jesus called Simon 'Peter.' I looked at every red letter in the New Testament and this is the first time Jesus calls Simon 'Peter.'

Jesus declares in John 1 and doesn't say it again until Matthew 16. Jesus fulfills exactly what he predicted.

"There is power in the second name God gives you. Your purpose is in the second name that God gives you. Your authority is invested in the second name God gives you. The first name gets you there, but the second name takes you there! God will move you from sinner to your second name - saint."

The power is in the second position, the power is in the second name.

FIRST POSITION

From sinner

From unsaved

From natural birth

From Old Testament

From the law

From first heaven/earth

From earthly body

SECOND POSITION

to saint

to saved

to spiritual birth

to New Testament

to the gospel

to new heaven/earth

to heavenly body

God says the gospel goes to the Jew first, but thank God it comes to the gentiles second.

Romans 1:16 NIV84

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Abraham wasn't always Abraham. Originally he was Abram. Jacob after he wrestled with the angel became Israel.

Genesis 17:5 NIV84

No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations.

Genesis 32:28 NIV84

Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome."

"There is a change that takes place when you come into a relationship with the Lord and everything changes when you place your faith in Christ."

Matthew 16:19 NIV84

[Jesus speaking to Peter] I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

"I want you to notice that once Peter makes the confession then Jesus tells him the name and the authority now that he can live in connected to his purpose."

Keys signify authority.

"Believers, we must hold on to the fact that we can activate our faith and our authority by walking in the power of the gospel by faith and not by sight."

"Practically speaking, what locked areas has God given you authority in and over that you must now access by activating your faith?"

"The only way the key works is if you work the key. A key on a ring has no power. An unused key means nothing, there's no purpose. The purpose comes when you take the key and you turn the key...there's got to be a connection between the key and the lock."

"There are a lot of believers who have their faith in their pocket. They carry the faith with them but they don't activate the faith, they don't live with their faith. They just have it in their pocket and pull it out when they think they need it."

"There are a lot of believers who do not have power because all they want to do is carry their faith in their pocket like a badge, like a license, like a credit card. They keep it in their pocket, it has no power."

Matthew 16:19 NIV84

[Jesus speaking to Peter] I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Because of his confession, now Peter was ready to receive the keys.

"We have the master key and that is the gospel. The gospel is the key. The gospel has the key to save human souls. The gospel has the key to heal human hearts...the power of the gospel can avert a tragedy...the power of the gospel cannot be stopped! The power of the gospel can go into any area that Satan has put a gate around."

Matthew 16:18 ESV

[Jesus speaking] And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and **the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

"Gates don't move. Gates are set. You got the key to the gate. He [Satan] puts gates around areas in our life. He puts gates around people, places and things and Jesus says the power of the gospel is the key and you walk in the authority of the gospel and you can go into places where even demons trod."

Question: How do you activate your faith? How do you take and turn the key?

3 Ways to Activate Your Faith

1. Walk in Your Authority

Matthew 16:17 NIV84

Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon **son of Jonah**, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven."

John 1:42 NIV84

And he [Andrew] brought him [Simon] to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon **son of John**. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

"The first name came from his father John. The second name comes from his heavenly father, Jonah. Not the same word in the Greek."

Jonah is a reference to the prophet from the Old Testament that Jesus mentioned earlier in the same chapter in verse 4:

Matthew 16:1,4 NIV84

The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven...[Jesus speaking] A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except **the sign of Jonah.**” Jesus then left them and went away.

Question: What's the sign of Jonah?

Jonah was in the belly of a fish for 3 days and 3 night and Jesus was belly of the earth for 3 days...They only sign they were going to get was the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

"Once he[Peter] confesses Jesus, Jesus says 'now you can step into your second name. Now you can step into your purpose. You will be like Jonah.' Peter's name is 'rock.'

Matthew 16:18 NIV84

[Jesus speaking] And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

1 Peter 2:4-6 NIV84

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him— ⁵ **you also, like living stones**, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

"Jesus is saying, 'You have the keys to the kingdom because you're now going to live out your purpose, which is the gospel...you were a fisherman, now I am calling you the son of one who was swallowed by a fish. Peter, you were a fisherman...but I told you one day you'd be a fisher of men?"

Luke 5:10 NIV84

Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will catch men.”

This is fulfilled in Act chapter 2:

Acts 2:14, 41 NIV84

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say...Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

We need to be willing to go with the gospel to the very people we might be afraid of, not like.

"The gospel has power but we must...walk in our authority. Take your key with you which is the power of the gospel. Take the power of the gospel to work, take it to your meetings, take it to your schools, take it to your community."

2. Talk in Your Authority

Romans 10:8-10 NIV84

But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: ⁹ That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

If you can't say it, maybe it is because you really don't believe it.

Peter confessed with his mouth what he believed about Jesus.

Matthew 16:13-19 NIV84

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus asked all the disciples but only one answered, Peter.

"You many wonder why you are not going to the next level spiritually. I don't know, but maybe you can ask yourself this question: Do I walk and do I talk in my authority that God has given me?"

Question: Do you speak your confession with your mouth?

Question: Do you complicate the message and confuse your own soul with your schizophrenic faith?

"Schizophrenic faith is that faith that says 'I believe with my heart but my mouth is always declaring the opposite.' "

"If you want life, speak life. Don't speak death and expect life, that's schizophrenic. Don't speak defeat and expect success, that's schizophrenic. Don't speak negative and expect positive results, that's schizophrenic."

"You don't need faith if you ONLY believe the doctor. You don't need faith if you ONLY listen to your accountant. You don't need faith if you ONLY get advice from human beings...then why do you need God?"

Matthew 16:19 NIV84

[Jesus speaking to Peter] I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

"Jesus steps in and he goes, "Now that you've got the keys to the kingdom, I want you to know something. That you can now loose and bind and exceed the expectations that are limited by the earth. What you are doing Peter now when you loose on earth, it will be loosed in heaven. And what you bind on earth, will be bound in heaven. What you're doing is you are calling on heaven to unlock and to loose something on the earth...you are calling for a miracle beyond science."

"When you bind and close the door on the earth that will take a heavenly move in order to lock it, then you're going beyond human potential. You are calling on heaven as your ultimate power and authority. In other words, there is an authority that supersedes science and technology and medicine and human governments and the law of the land. This authority is rooted in the power of the gospel."

"Jesus is elevating Peter's faith by connecting heaven and earth. Not just loosing on earth but in heaven. Not just binding on earth but in heaven. You're bringing heaven's authority and power to bear on the earth."

Matthew 6:10 NIV84

[Jesus praying] your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

"This is kingdom stuff! If you don't think you can bring heaven power and authority to bear on the earth, then why do you pray!? Prayer is an act of futility if you don't believe that we are bringing heaven to bear on the earth."

"We just need more mature and mighty believers who are bold enough to believe that there is a kingdom beyond this earthly realm."

3. Fight in Your Authority

Matthew 16:21-23 NIV84

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. ²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" ²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

The problem this section of the passage illustrates is we can get into our purpose and pride can take over. God anoints you, and before you know it you think your the stuff!

"Just because Peter was called, doesn't mean Peter was ready."

You can be called by God, that doesn't mean you're prepared, doesn't mean you're equipped, doesn't mean you're trained, doesn't mean you're disciplined, doesn't mean you've been battle tested, it doesn't mean you're disciplined, it doesn't mean you're mature & mighty...it might take a minute...or two.

Luke 2:40, 52 NIV84

And the child [Jesus] grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him...And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

What Jesus is trying to show us here is that spiritual battle can come against our purpose.

Ephesians 6:10-12 NIV84

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

3 Ways to Activate Your Faith

1. **W**alk in Your Authority

1. **T**alk in Your Authority

1. **F**ight in Your Authority

W.T.F. = What the Faith!