

The Keys To The Kingdom

2-7-2026, 7:49 p.m., by Roger Funk, II

People know that Jesus said He was giving us, the Church, “the Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven.” (Matthew 16:19)

That is nice to hear... but *WHAT ARE THEY?!!!*

Let’s look at the Keys for what they are:

The Keys OPEN UP THE KINGDOM TO US – “THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN” AND “THE KINGDOM OF GOD,” BOTH TERMS BEING USED INTERCHANGEABLY BY JESUS!

SO SAID, how do I ACCESS that Kingdom, then?

Jesus said, “I Am The Door,” right?! (John 10:9)

How do we access a door? By a KEY!

The Key that accesses Jesus IS FAITH!!!!!!

“Without Faith, it is impossible to please God...” (Hebrews 11:5)

ENOCH PLEASSED GOD AND WAS TAKEN UP INTO HEAVEN **BECAUSE HE HAD THE FAITH THAT GAVE HIM RIGHTEOUSNESS IN GOD’S EYESIGHT!** (Hebrews 11:5,6,7; Romans 1:17; 3:22; 4:1-13)

So, we BELIEVE what GOD THE FATHER SAID, and especially what JESUS SAID, and then WE ENTER THE DOOR – “KEY 1” WAS THEREBY USED: that is, **FAITH** (KEY 1).

What, thereafter?

KEY 2 is CONTINUING IN THAT FAITH; THUS, KEY 2 IS **FAITHFULNESS!!!**

And then, taking that a step further, HOW DOES ONE WORK OUT HIS FAITHFULNESS TO GOD?

Answer: **BY OBEDIENCE!!!!!!** We HEAR what God says to us, to our heart AND TO OUR MINDS, and we CHOOSE, BY OUR MINDS, **TO FOLLOW THE LEADING OF THE LORD’S WORD (ALL OF IT!!!)**, SPECIFICALLY, THAT WHICH IS BEING CONTEMPLATED AND CONSIDERED IN OUR HEARTS.

WE CHOOSE, MENTALLY, TO DO WHAT GOD HAS SOWN WITHIN OUR HEARTS TO DO – AND WE DO IT OBEDIENTLY!!!!!!!

KEY 3 IS **OBEDIENCE**!!!!!!!

KEY 4, THEN, BECOMES THE KEY OF ALL THE OTHER KEYS:

BECAUSE WE HAVE HAD **FAITH IN GOD**, AND THUS HAVE ENETERED THE DOOR AND BECOME A BELIEVER (KEY 1);

AND BECAUSE WE HAVE THEN WALKED THAT OUT CONSISTENTLY IN **FAITHFULNESS** THEREAFTER, LIVING AS A BELIEVER (WHICH IS A FOLLOWER OF GOD AND OF CHRIST) (KEY 2);

THAT THEREFORE, WE HAVE BECOME **OBEDIENT** TO DO THE THINGS THAT HE DIRECTS US TO DO (KEY 3), LIKEWISE DOING THEM CONSISTENTLY IN FAITH (KEY 2 STILL);

KEY 4 BECOMES **TRUST** – TRUST THAT WHAT HE SAID HE WOULD DO FOR US – IF WE WOULD DO THE FIRST THREE KEYS UNTO HIM – WILL BRING HIS PROMISES TO BE FULFILLED IN OUR LIVES.

KEY 4 IS THAT WE **TRUST GOD TO PERFORM (THAT IS, TO UPHOLD) HIS PART OF THE COVENANT HE MAKES WITH US** – WHICH COVENANT IS WRITTEN THROUGHOUT HIS WORD BASED ON WHAT HE HAS ASKED US TO DO!!!!!!!

KEY 5 IS THE NEXT STEP:

WE MUST **RECEIVE THAT SUCH A PROMISE(S) IS (ARE) OUR OWN**!!!!!!!

KEYS 3, 4, AND 5 ARE INTERCHANGEABLE:

I ACT OBEDIENTLY TO WHAT HE DIRECTS ME TO DO (KEY 3), AND THEREBY LEARN WHAT HIS WORD SAYS ABOUT DOING THAT... THAT IS, WHAT HIS PROMISES ARE THAT ARE CONNECTED WITH DOING THAT, AND THEN I TRUST IN HIS WORD THAT THOSE PROMISES ARE TRUE (KEY 4):

(WITH FAITHFULNESS – THAT IS, FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE – CONTINUING THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS) (KEY 2).

AND:

I TRUST THE PROMISE IS TRUE IF I DO WHAT HE DIRECTED ME TO DO (KEY 4), AND THEN I ACT OBEDIENTLY TO DO IT TO BRING ABOUT THAT PROMISE (KEY 3);

THEN:

I RECEIVE GOD'S PROMISES AS MY OWN (KEY 5), AND I TRUST IN THOSE PROMISES (KEY 4) OBEDIENTLY (KEY 3)...

OR,

I TRUST IN THOSE PROMISES (KEY 4) OBEDIENTLY ACTING ON THEM (KEY 3), TO RECEIVE THEM AS PERSONAL PROMISES (KEY 5).

AND SO, KEYS 2, 3, 4, AND 5 ARE INTERCHANGEABLE IN THAT THEY ARE:

EITHER: **TRUSTING GOD'S PROMISES ARE TRUE (KEY 4), AND, RECEIVING THEM AS MY OWN (KEY 5), I ACT, IN CONTINUED FAITH, (KEY 2) ON THE PROMISES THAT COME FROM OBEDIENCE (KEY 3),**

OR: **BELIEVING THAT, IF I FOLLOW THE LORD OBEDIENTLY (KEY 3), THE PROMISES CAN BE MINE BECAUSE THEY ARE TRUE (KEY 3), AND THEN, FOLLOWING THROUGH TO RECEIVE THEM AS PERSONAL PROMISES (KEY 5), I CHOOSE TO TRUST THAT GOD WILL BRING THEM TO PASS FOR ME (KEY 4).**

KEY 6 JOINS BOTH TOGETHER:

TRUSTING IN HIS PROMISES SO THAT WE WILL THEN "DO THE WORKS OF OBEDIENCE:"

AND

TRUSTING IN HIM THAT HE IS FULLY ABLE TO PERFORM THAT WHICH HE HAS PROMISED, SO THAT EACH OF US CHOOSE TO BELIEVE THEY ARE "FOR ME," THUS TO RECEIVE THEM INTO MY OWN HEART AS MY OWN PROMISE(S) FROM GOD, AND CONSEQUENTLY, OBEDIENTLY FOLLOWING HIS WILL TO THEN DO "THE WORKS OF FAITH!!!!!!!"

FINALLY, THERE IS KEY 7:

PATIENT ENDURANCE, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS PERSEVERENCE!!!
(Hebrews 6:15; 6:11; 10:22; James 5:11; Matthew 24:13; Mark 13:13)

TO PUT THAT IN PERSPECTIVE, HERE IS THE BREAKDOWN:

WE MUST:

HEAR, AND THEN BELIEVE;

ACT IN FAITH ON WHAT WE'VE HEARD, AND KEEP DOING SO,
CONSISTENTLY;

THEN, WITH TRUST IN HIS PROMISES BEING TRUE, THEREAFTER
RECEIVING THEM AS OUR OWN PERSONAL PROMISES FROM GOD...

...WE MUST CONTINUE TO BE STEADFAST IN FAITH, IN FAITHFULNESS, IN
OBEDIENCE, IN TRUST, AND IN BELIEVING FOR THOSE PROMISES TO BE
OURS SO THAT WE DO THE WORKS OF OBEDIENT FAITH – EVEN WHEN IT IS
A CHALLENGE TO US – AND THAT FINAL STEP IS PERSEVERANCE, BEING
TRIED BY FIRE, REFINED, AND HAVING OUR FAITH STRETCHED UNTIL WE
BECOME STEADFAST, ALSO, IN OUR CONVICTION THAT “THE UNSEEN” IS
TRUER RATHER THAN “WHAT IS SEEN” AT THE TIME OF THE TESTING.

THAT IS PERSEVERANCE!!!

AND WE SHALL COME FORTH AS GOLD!!!!!!!

(OR, IF WE GIVE UP, WE SHALL NOT RECEIVE THE PROMISE, BUT IT SHALL
BE DELAYED, OR DENIED ALTOGETHER, DEPENDING ON THE MEASURE OF
OUR LACK OF OBEDIENT, FAITHFUL TRUST AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF
GOD...AND OF HIS WORD, AS BEING TRUTH TO STAND ON!)

Breaking this down concisely:

KEY 1:
I **BELIEVED** (**FAITH**), UNTO SALVATION;

KEY 2:
I **CONTINUED TO WALK BY FAITH** (**FAITHFULNESS**);

KEY 3:
**WALKING OUT THAT FAITH (WHICH IS DOING GOD'S WILL BY
OBEDIENCE)**;

KEY 4:
I **TRUST** THAT HIS PROMISE HE'D STATED WOULD BE TRUE, ***IF*** I **CHOSE
TO ACT IN OBEDIENCE** (KEY 3) **TO HIS WILL**;

KEY 5:
I **RECEIVE THE CERTAINTY** THAT HE WILL PERFORM THE PROMISE HE
SPOKE, RECEIVING FROM HIM THAT HE'D GIVEN IT PERSONALLY TO
ME (EITHER VERBALLY OR BY HIS WRITTEN WORD);

AND THEN

KEY 6:

**TRUSTING THAT THAT PERSONAL PROMISE WILL BE MY REALITY IF,
AND WHEN, I CHOOSE TO RECEIVE IT AND THEN ACT ON IT IN
OBEDIENCE TO DO THE WORKS OF FAITH REQUIRED OF ME.**

FINALLY:

KEY 7:

**BEING TESTED FOR ENDURANCE: LEARNING TO PATIENTLY WAIT ON
GOD TO PERFORM HIS PROMISE(S), BECOMING STEADFAST IN FAITH,
AND IN FAITHFULNESS IN OBEDIENT ACTION; REMAINING STEADFAST
IN MY CONVICTION THAT GOD CANNOT LIE, AND IS TRUE TO HIS
WORD... AND WILL FULFILL HIS PROMISE!**

**MY FAITH IS TESTED TO REFINE IT, SO AS TO BRING IT FORTH AS GOLD
REFINED IN THE FIRES OF AFFLICTION AND HARDSHIP; OF
STRUGGLING; OF PERSECUTION; OF FAITH STRETCHING LACK, AND
MAYBE EVEN WANT, OF WHAT IS NEEDED; OF PERSECUTION; AND
MAYBE EVEN GREAT LOSS OF UNSPECIFIED KIND OR DURATION;
ESPECIALLY, EVEN THE LOSS OF PEOPLE WHOM WE LOVE.**

KEY 7 IS THE ONE THE WHOLE PROCESS WAS ABOUT!!!!!!

**AND THEN WE START OVER AGAIN, ON NEW FAITH FOR NEW THINGS,
OR FOR NEW BREAKTHROUGHS, OR UNTO FURTHER TRIUMPHS, OR
UNTO CONTINUED PROGRESS IN AND VICTORIES OVER OUR
CIRCUMSTANCES...**

**...SO WE REPEAT THE WHOLE 7 KEYS ALL OVER AGAIN, SO AS TO GAIN
HIGHER AND GREATER REWARDS FROM THE HAND OF GOD, AND
FROM THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND OF HEAVEN!!!**

THIS FINAL STAGE IS CALLED “WALKING WITH GOD!!!!!!!”

Blessings2u!!

~Roger Funk, II

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