

I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH

Authorized to Represent the King

Matthew 16:13-19

¹³ 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 Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, 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.”

Matthew 16:19

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.

I. All authority originates in Jesus

A. “I will give you...”

1. Jesus is the giver.
2. The disciples are recipients.
3. Kingdom authority is delegated, not self-generated.

B. “I will build... “I will give...”

1. Jesus remains the acting subject.
2. Peter does not seize authority.
3. The disciples do not manufacture authority.
4. The church does not possess independent authority.
5. **Jesus builds. Jesus gives.**

Matthew 28:18

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Kingdom authority is never self-generated authority.

Kingdom authority is delegated authority.

C. Unpack authority

1. Greek exousia — authority, right, jurisdiction, freedom/right to act.
2. Authority is different from raw power.
 - a. A police officer may not possess the physical power to stop a truck.
 - b. But lawful authority stands behind the command.

Luke 9:1

When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases.

- This might be the most important thing I can say today

Spiritual authority flows through submission.

James 4:7-10

⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

⁸ Draw near to God... Cleanse your hands... purify your hearts...

⁹ Be wretched and mourn and weep...

¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

The flow of Kingdom Authority

1. Submit to God
2. Resist Satan
3. Draw near to God... (Worship)
4. Cleans your hands... purify your hearts (Repentance)
5. Humble Yourself before God (Posture)
6. Be exalted by God. (Authoritative Operation)

Increased Authority is on the other side of Submission

Be Encouraged

The surrendered believer does not face the world merely in personal strength. We serve under the authority of the risen Christ.

Be Careful

Spiritual language without submission can become presumption.

We do not get to use Jesus' name to baptize our ego, anger or private agenda.

Acts 19:13-18

¹³ Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." ¹⁴ Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief

priest, were doing this. ¹⁵ One day the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?” ¹⁶ Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

Illustration

1. Police officer and traffic: Authority is backed by a larger legal reality. The officer does not personally generate the authority.
2. Ambassador: An ambassador speaks with authority only while faithfully representing the government that sent him.
3. Power of attorney: One person is legally authorized to act for another but does not become the owner.
4. Military chain of command: Authority increases responsibility to carry out the commander’s intent accurately.
5. Company credit card: Access to resources does not mean personal ownership. Delegated authority comes with accountability.

Application

1. Spiritual authority is not manufactured through volume, personality or religious performance.
2. Grow in submission to Christ, Scripture and the Spirit.
3. Kingdom authority is given to serve, liberate, reconcile and advance the Gospel.
4. Ask whether your private life supports the authority you want to exercise publicly.

All authority originates in Jesus

II. The keys represent entrusted Kingdom access and responsibility

A. Biblical imagery of keys

Isaiah 22:22

I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

1. Keys symbolize stewardship and delegated administrative authority.
2. The key belongs to the owner; the steward is trusted to use it faithfully.

B. The church is entrusted with the Gospel of the Kingdom.

2 Corinthians 5:20

We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

1. His hands to serve.
2. His feet to go.
3. His voice to proclaim.
4. His ambassadors to appeal.

We do not replace Jesus.

We represent Jesus.

C. The message is not ours to rewrite.

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes...

- D. Our message is HOPE.
1. Jesus Christ saves.
 2. Jesus Christ forgives.
 3. Jesus Christ reconciles.
 4. Jesus Christ breaks the authority of sin.
 5. Jesus Christ calls people to repent, believe and follow Him.

Cultural connection

Majority of Americans do not participate in Christian worship monthly.

So... you must take it to them.

Illustration

1. House key: A teenager receiving a house key receives both access and responsibility. Trust changes what can be opened.
2. Embassy: An embassy exists in one country while representing another kingdom. The church lives in this age while representing the reign of Christ.
3. Delivery driver: Faithfulness is delivering the package intact to the intended recipient, not opening it and replacing the contents.
4. Relay baton: The baton is entrusted, not owned. A generation that refuses to pass it breaks the relay.
5. Search-and-rescue team: Rescue workers go toward the lost rather than waiting for the lost to find headquarters.

Application

1. Identify one person who needs to hear the Gospel from you personally.
2. Ask where Christ wants to express compassion through your hands this week.
3. Learn to explain the Gospel simply and biblically.

4. Do not confuse inviting people to church with the whole responsibility of being a witness.

All authority originates in Jesus

The keys represent entrusted Kingdom access and responsibility

III. Christ sets the agenda

- Binding and loosing must operate under heaven's agenda

Matthew 16:19

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."

A. Unpack the words

1. Greek *deō* — bind, tie, restrain.
2. Greek *lyō* — loose, release, untie.

B. Jewish teaching background

1. Binding and loosing could be used for authoritative judgments about what was forbidden or permitted.
2. The language therefore includes real Kingdom responsibility..
not magical vocabulary.

C. The grammar matters.

1. The Greek construction behind "will be bound/loosed" is commonly understood to stress alignment with heaven's determination.
2. The idea is not: earth invents a decree and forces heaven to comply.
3. The idea is: Christ's representatives act on earth under heaven's authority.

We do not command heaven.

We come into agreement with heaven.

1 John 5:14

If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

John 15:7

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

D. Authority grows out of alignment.

1. His Word shapes our thinking.
2. His Spirit shapes our discernment.
3. His mission shapes our priorities.
4. His character shapes the way authority is exercised.

Straw Man

- Biblical authority is never independent from the King.
- Jesus taught abiding prayer. John taught asking according to His will.
- James places resisting evil after submission to God.

Illustration

1. Court officer: The officer executes a judgment issued by the court; he does not create the verdict.
2. Military officer: A commander has genuine authority within the mission but cannot invent a private war.
3. Company representative: A representative can sign within delegated authority but cannot create policy beyond authorization.
4. Orchestra: Great skill does not eliminate the need to follow the conductor. Alignment turns many strong sounds into music.
5. Railroad tracks: A train is powerful precisely because its power is aligned to the track. Leaving the track does not create freedom; it destroys usefulness.

Application

1. Before asking God to empower your agenda, surrender your agenda.
2. Know Scripture well enough to recognize what heaven has already revealed.
3. Pray boldly, but pray as a submitted representative.
4. Use spiritual authority with humility, love, truth and accountability.

All authority originates in Jesus

The keys represent entrusted Kingdom access and responsibility

Christ sets the agenda

IV. The Holy Spirit empowers us to carry out Christ's agenda

Acts 1:8

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...

A. Unpack "power"

1. Greek dynamis — power, ability, capability, enabling.
2. Jesus directly connects Spirit-given power with witness.

Pentecostal power is not merely something to FEEL.

It is power to become faithful witnesses.

B. Authority and anointing are related but not identical.

1. Authority — Christ's commission/right to act under His lordship.
2. Anointing — the Spirit's empowering presence for the assignment.

C. Authority, anointing, wisdom and character must grow together.

1. Authority without submission becomes presumption.
2. Anointing without character becomes dangerous.
3. Passion without wisdom becomes ineffective.
4. Knowledge without obedience becomes sterile.

Acts 4:29–31

The believers prayed for boldness; the place was shaken; they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

D. Notice what the early church asked for.

1. Not escape from every difficulty.
2. Boldness in the middle of difficulty.
3. God's hand to act.
4. Fresh filling for witness.

Military / strategic insight

Military power without intelligence and strategy can be wasted. In the same way, zeal without biblical wisdom can exhaust people without advancing the mission. We need power AND strategy, anointing AND wisdom.

Church history illustration

The Moravian missionary movement of the eighteenth century became known for sustained prayer and costly mission. Their example is useful because prayer did not replace going; prayer fueled going.

Illustration

1. Sailboat: The sailor cannot create the wind but can raise the sail and respond to it. Dependence on the Spirit does not eliminate obedience.
2. Extension cord: It can carry power but cannot generate the source. Disconnect it and nothing flows.
3. Pilot: Greater responsibility requires training, discipline, judgment and proven faithfulness.
4. Farmer: Harvest requires energy, but also knowledge of soil, seed, timing and weather. Power and wisdom belong together.

5. Moravian prayer and mission: Prayer became fuel for cross-cultural sending rather than a substitute for action.

Revelation / Praise

All authority belongs to Jesus.

Jesus entrusts His church with Kingdom responsibility.

The Gospel is the power of God for salvation.

The Holy Spirit empowers believers to witness.

We are Christ's ambassadors in a broken world.

Request / Petition

Increase our authority as we increase in submission to Christ.

Increase the Spirit's anointing upon us for the assignments You have given.

Reveal Your strategy and agenda — not ours.

Empower us to work with You and grow in wisdom, maturity and authority.

Teach us to use biblical wisdom and Spirit-given power to confront darkness and advance Christ's Kingdom.

Fill us again with the Holy Spirit and make us bold witnesses.