

1 Keys to the Kingdom

- Understanding How the Kingdom Works

2 Virginia Tech Shooting

3 Promise

- “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.” (Luke 12:32)
- “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, . . . ” (Luke 8:10 NIV)

4 God’s Kingdom

- All forms of government have the following:
 - Constitution – a declaration of what people can expect from their government.
 - Laws – conditions or principles that will guarantee the promises of the constitution.
 - Keys – principles on how the constitution and law work.

5 Proof Texting?

- “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.” (Matt 16:19 NIV)
- Excommunication
 - God has given the caretakers of the church (elders) the authority to exclude or permit entrance into the Church.
- Keys as principles that unlock the activity of God’s Kingdom.

6 What are Keys?

- Keys are principles that represent:
 - authority
 - access
 - ownership
 - authorization
 - power
 - freedom
- What is a principle?
 - a basic truth that predicts outcomes.
 - can be general or specific
 - will happen if not countered by other principles.

7 Characteristics of Keys

- Keys are . . .
 - Reliable standards that never change.
 - Activate function
 - Initiate action
 - Blueprint on how the kingdom of God operates.
- Keys cannot be substituted by:
 - Feelings,
 - Emotions,
 - Wishful thinking, or
 - Manipulation.

8 Keys of the Kingdom

- Since God's Kingdom is invisible and is only seen when it affects the visible world it takes faith to use its principles (keys).
- Since God's principles function off of a totally different value system of this world it takes faith to use its principles (keys).
- Our encouragement to put into practice the keys to God's kingdom comes through the hearing—hearing/seeing/experiencing of the activity of God.

9 The Key of Giving

- The key of giving can also be called the principle of reciprocity (“Give, and it will be given to you . . .” Luke 6:38)
- When used it has the potential to unlock mercy, finances, and general good welfare.
- It can also be referred to as the principle of sowing and reaping.

10 The Key of Forgiveness

- The key of Forgiveness is linked with the key of Giving as there is a reciprocal relationship.
- The principle is simply, if we forgive people their sins, God will forgive us our sins against Him.
- However, if we stubbornly hold on to unforgiveness God will not forgive us.

11 The Key of Use

- This key of God's Kingdom works in hand with a mathematical phenomenon known as the exponential curve.
- Use what you have and more will be given to you . . .

- Faith,
- talents, and
- responsibility.

▪This principle is reinforced in the natural world as well.

12 The Key of Perseverance

- The key of Perseverance is critical to success and growth.
- The basic teaching of this principle is that resistance helps us to grow and develop strength, which wouldn't develop any other way.
- So persevering during trials helps us to grow in our faith where it can become strong and proven genuine.

13 The Key of Greatness

- This key works off of a virtue of the Kingdom that is often neglected but is one of the most important . . . Humility.
- It is also known as the Upside/Down principle as it promises success and honor for those who don't seek it.
- God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble and will exalt the humble in due time.

14 The Key of "Jesus' Name"

- "And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me." (Matt 18:5 NIV)
- "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." (Matt 18:20 NIV)
- "In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; . . . they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well." (Mark 16:17-18 NIV)
- "And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." (John 14:13-14 NIV)

15 The Key of "Jesus' Name"

- "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name." (John 15:16 NIV)
- Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." (Acts 3:6 NIV)

- “By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.” (Acts 3:16 NIV)
- “Seven sons of Sceva” (Acts 19:14 NIV)

16 Manifestations

- The values of the kingdom of this world influence us more than we think.
 - We are a highly competitive society and measure worth by being better than others.
 - Spirituality or Religious Observances
 - Church Growth and attendance
 - Sports & Business
 - These all have potential to invoke pride and conceitedness, which produce strife and division.

17 Not of this World

- “Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? . . . What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? . . . For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.” “Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. . . . I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” (2 Cor 6:14–18 NIV)

18 Aliens & Strangers

- Since you call on a Father who judges each man’s work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. (1 Pet 1:17)
- Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.” (1 Pet 2:11 NIV)
- Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our “God is a consuming fire. (Heb 12:28–29 NIV)

19 The Key of Escape!

▪His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. (2 Pet 1:3-4 NIV)