

“Upon this Rock I will Build My _____”

Part 3: The Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven

PETER DEWITT
AGATHOS CHURCH
APRIL 18TH, 2018

Full Text (for reading on your own)

Financial Feasting!

In early February Andy took a word I had given about a season of “financial feasting.” Within 2-3 weeks Andy’s family was feasting financially in a big way - praise God!

In Philippians 4:11-13 Paul says *“Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

About 8 or 9 years ago, Andy was a young believer and learning about the tithe. He was a college student. Payment for the quarter of schooling came up but was waiting for a small paycheck to come in to be able to cover it. He had a late fee docked on and overdrew his checking account in the process. This is the “abased” version. Godliness and contentment is great gain so contentment is important.

So Andy went to the student services office, and the gentleman working there pulled up Andy’s account, clicked away the late-payment debt! So when we say “debt cancelation” that is what it can look like!

Fast forward to this year. Andy and Laura have been pressing into Proverbs 11: *“there is one who scatters yet increases more.”* They have been pressing into this for a few years. Those are the lines along which they’ve been believing. “Father we bring you this tithe and we thank you that we will increase all the more.”

Andy’s testimony from this year is that received abundantly above what they were even hoping for! God delights in the prosperity of his servants. (Psalm 35)

There is financial blessing for all of us. There is financial blessing when you are abased. We know the state He wants us to be in - to get you to - because He delights in your prosperity. That’s the abounding. But no matter where you are there is financial breakthrough and blessing for you from God! Praise the Lord!

More than Enough to Go Around!

By the way, your ability to steward a blessing from God in your life is partly determined by how much you rejoice when someone else is blessed. Watch yourself! When you hear that someone else is incredibly blessed, you should jump out of your chair with excitement and God will say “it looks like they could handle it!”

Every place where you are so convinced of lack that you are actually disappointed in someone else’s blessing ... if you are more aware of your disappointment that you are aware of joy for them ... Remember we are to rejoice with those who rejoice and to mourn with those who mourn. If you can’t rejoice with those who are rejoicing you are more aware of lack in your circumstance than you are of abundance.

As Mark Crawford says “lack is not a reality in the kingdom.” It’s a lie.

Do you remember what the main thing is that you were taught in your social studies / economics classes in high school? Scarcity! It’s the #1 rule of economics. More like the #1 demonic rule of economics!

This is a revelation / invitation. If you will latch onto this like Andy latched onto that word about finances, this could be breakthrough in your life!

Most people think that finances are a limited reality. That is what the worldly economic system teaches but you are not going to find it scripturally.

Malachi 3 says that if you are a tither your vine will not fail to bear. About 6 years ago Megan and I were praying weekly or monthly about our finances. We started to process this revelation that both of us were getting at the same time. It went like this:

Why is that we feel that the way that you make money is in trade? We felt like in order to make money you had to lop off an arm - lop off a limb of lumber as though you were a dead tree. If you lop off a limb and give it to someone they will give you money in return for it. If I cost myself something, I will get money in return. I will give of myself in a way that hurts me and I will get money in return.

We started to ask ourselves “why do we think that we are financially dead?” We started to think “actually we are financially alive” because Jesus said that if we abide in Him and His words abide in us we will bear much fruit! (Jn. 15) Malachi 3 is saying the same sort of thing “your vine will not fail to bear.” That is not the language of death! Everything that Jesus touches is filled with resurrection life!

If you serve Mammon, yes you will run the rat race. The Lord gave me a dream around the time we were receiving revelation on all of this. I saw myself running on an uphill treadmill. Next to the treadmill was a really nasty guy and all I knew is I hated him and he was not my friend. On the screen of treadmill were the numbers 247365. A couple weeks later I finally got it! The Lord was saying “you are running on an uphill treadmill 24/7, 365 and there is a demon standing next to you and his name is Mammon.” The Lord was saying “I want you out of the rat race.”

When you serve that spirit of money you are financially dead. The only way you “make” money is you sever something off of yourself and you cost yourself something. But Malachi 3 says that your vine will not fail to bear. That’s a whole different ball game. John 15 says that you are financially alive - just like you are alive in every other way when you are connected to the source of life.

Don’t operate as the world operates. You can be so overflowing with resurrection life that you bring such value into every situation that you’re in that money comes flocking to you.

That’s a door opener word. Walk through it and you will see more of it!

‘Church’ is Not in the Bible ... Ekklesia is!

By way of review, “church” is not in the Bible. The word “church” is a translation that is used 112 times in the King James Version of the New Testament. Whereas “baptism” is a transliteration of a Greek word, “church” is not in the original Greek. “Church” is simply a translation.

Every time that you see the word “church” in the Bible (112 times), it’s the word Ekklesia. That’s the Greek word. There is one time the word church is used as part of another Greek word meaning “temple robber” but every time “church” is actually meaning church it is the word ekklesia.

Of note, there are 3 times in Acts 19 where the Greek word ekklesia is actually translated “assembly” because those three times it was the ekklesia in Ephesus they were talking about in a secular context. In those instances the King James translators (and therefore nearly all subsequent English translations) have no issue calling it “assembly.”

This is very interesting because it was actually King James himself who told the translators that they were NOT allowed to translate “ekklesia” as assembly - they must translate it as “church” in order to continue to facilitate the consolidation of religious power with the Church of England.

This is not meaning to sound like a conspiracy theory. I am just sharing what the historical facts are. The Bible is clear that we should not associate with someone “given to change.” I am not trying to be rebellious or something, but I think many many times we’ve asked ourselves “is church really all it’s supposed to be?” Our church is incredible! I often think “what a blessing this body is!” Every person in Agathos. Your hearts, your sweetness, your commitment to His Word ... and the fruit that we see

in this body - in our lives and in the lives of those that we minister to! We have amazing testimonies to share almost every time we get together. It's awesome.

So we are totally moving in the right direction, but we're moving praise God! We haven't arrived. So if we can clarify what church is scripturally it could empower us to step further into it. That's what this sermon series is about - about some scriptural perspectives on church.

What was an Ekklesia?

Remember that Jesus chose the Roman term "apostle" - taken straight out of Roman culture. Likewise Jesus chose "ekklesia" which was a Roman and a Greek term - taken straight out of Roman and Greek culture.

He could have chosen synagogue for the word for church, but He did not. Synagogue appears only in the New Testament (it was never used in the entire Old Testament) and it appears 67 times in the New Testament. It was a very commonly used word in the New Testament. Jesus could have easily chosen the word "synagogue" for church but He did not. He could have chosen the word "temple" but that would not have quite made sense because we are now the temple of the Holy Spirit!

Instead Jesus chose the word "ekklesia" as what He would build. That word comes on the scene in Matthew 16:18 where Jesus says "*you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church (ekklesia), and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*"

So what was an ekklesia? I actually looked up "synagogue" in the Encyclopedia Britannica and I actually really liked how they described a synagogue. What they did was they used the common Jewish phrases for synagogue to help "define" it. One of the phrases is "house of prayer." One of the phrases was "house of assembly" and one of the phrases was "house of study." All of those are very good things that probably equate to many things that we know churches to be. Yet they are not equal to what ekklesia means which would be more equal to something like "house of governance."

An ekklesia was a democratic governing body. An ekklesia was a house of governance. Ekklesia inherently prays Matthew 6:10 like our Lord told us to "*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*" That's an ekklesia style prayer.

God is establishing His kingdom on this earth and the church (the ekklesia) is the government of His kingdom on this earth! God is establishing His kingdom on this earth. "*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*" The church (the ekklesia) is the governance of His kingdom on this earth.

I found a 40-plus page scholarly article on the ekklesia called *Athenian Democracy: a brief overview*. The ekklesia was basically the mode of democratic governance. It appears to have weakened a bit in

Roman times but it was the mode of democratic governance. Here's more from the article: "The Assembly (Ekklesia) was the regular gathering of male Athenian citizens (women also enjoyed a certain citizen status, but without political rights) **to listen to, discuss, and vote on decrees that affected every aspect of Athenian life, both public and private, from financial matters to religious ones, from public festivals to war, from treaties with foreign powers to regulations governing ferry boats.**"

Every area of life was under the governance of the ekklesia! A body, an assembly, that gathered together to govern every sphere of society.

Knowing all this Jesus says you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My EKKLESIA, and the gates of Hades (the areas of culture that have not yet become the kingdom of our God) shall not prevail against it - in as much as My ekklesia steps into those places and disciples nations.

Another interesting note from this scholarly article: the citizens were actually paid to participate in the ekklesia. Wow! They didn't want anybody's voice to not be heard in the ekklesia so they were actually paid to participate in the ekklesia. Does this not sound like Matthew 6:33? "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."

Listen, the church is not going to pay you participate in the ekklesia - that's not what I'm talking about. The Bible is clear. You seek first THE KINGDOM ... you don't seek first the ekklesia. The ekklesia serves the kingdom. I will say it again because it's so important - the EKKLESIA SERVES THE KINGDOM.

The ekklesia is carrying the kingdom message and the kingdom mandate. That's what the ekklesia, the church of God, is actually carrying. As you seek first the Kingdom of God all these things will be added to you and you will be just like the ekklesia who are effectively paid and taken care of financially for participation in the work of the Kingdom!

Ekklesia carries much more than a message!

The ekklesia carries much more than a message - you carry the kingdom! Jesus said in John 18:36 "My **kingdom** is not of this world." What's the point? Jesus is saying there are different kingdoms. Remember that the devil took Jesus high on the mountain and said "I will give you all of these kingdoms if you fall down and worship me." There are different kingdoms. God's kingdom is not of this world. The kingdom of God is different than the kingdoms of darkness. We have to understand this ... the entire world is functioning in a clash of spiritual kingdoms.

We know from scripture what Jesus said the Kingdom of God looks like. In Luke 9:11 we see Jesus speaking to the multitudes about the kingdom of God, and He "healed those who had need of healing." Jesus talked about the kingdom of God constantly. IT WAS HIS MESSAGE. And Jesus

would always demonstrate the Kingdom of God. When Jesus “healed those who had need of healing” it was a demonstration of the kingdom of God. Throughout scripture we see that when people were healed the kingdom of God had come “near to them” and when they were delivered the kingdom of God had “come upon them.” The kingdom of God looks like something! So you see in scripture that the kingdom of God looked like:

- Dead raised
- Sick healed
- Demons cast out - all the time
- Families restored, relationships restored
- Safety from bad weather
- Provision for taxes - from the mouth of a fish!
- WISDOM WISDOM WISDOM about how to respond in every situation despite when the religious leaders were trying to trip Him up ... He always knew how to respond!

That’s the kingdom of God! The kingdom of God is light! There is a kingdom of darkness but the darkness doesn’t stand a chance and that’s why Jesus emphasized “greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world.” The Kingdom, The Kingdom, The Kingdom, The Kingdom!

A Closer Look at Matthew 16

In Matthew 16:15-19 *“He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”*

Let’s look at a little backdrop to Matthew 16:15-19. This scene was set in Caesarea Philippi. It was about 30 miles north of the Sea of Galilee and about 40 miles north of Magdala (where Jesus had been at the start of Matthew 16). The red arrow is Caesarea Philippi. The green arrow below is Magdala (which was about 3 miles north of the town of Tiberias on the west coast of the Sea of Galilee).



Now, that's about 40 miles. I don't know if you've ever hiked long distances before, but I can tell you that 40 miles would take a little minute to walk and you don't do it by accident! 40 miles to us in the car doesn't let us finish a sermon but 40 miles on foot can take 2 days or more! My point is there is not much recounted in Matthew 16:15-19 (from Caesarea Philippi which He spent all this time walking to) aside from saying "*you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*"

Is it possible that Jesus was actually quite interested in walking to a certain place in order to make that declaration?

Looking historically you can actually understand perhaps the motivation of Christ in traveling to Caesarea Philippi. This is from Ray Vander Laan and his website called [That The World May Know](#).

Again, we see the significance of Caesarea Philippi. The Grotto of Pan was located next to the "Rock of the gods." It was a cave which the pagans believed to be the entrance to the underworld. It was known as the Gates of Hades (Hell). Caesarea Philippi, which stood in a lush area near the foot of Mount Hermon (*where it's believed Jesus was transfigured*), was a city dominated by immoral activities and pagan worship. Caesarea Philippi stood only twenty-five miles from the religious communities of Galilee. But the city's religious practices were vastly different from those of the nearby Jewish towns. In Old



Testament times, the northeastern area of Israel became a center for Baal worship. In the nearby city of Dan, Israelite king Jeroboam built the high place that angered God and eventually led the Israelites to worship false gods. Eventually, worship of the baals was replaced with worship of Greek fertility gods. Caesarea Philippi, which stood in a lush area near the foot of Mount Hermon, became the religious center for worship of the Greek god, Pan. The Greeks named the city Panias in his honor. Years later, when Romans conquered the territory, Herod Philip rebuilt the city and named it after himself. But Caesarea Philippi continued to focus on worship of Greek gods. In the cliff that stood above the city, local people built shrines and temples to Pan. Interestingly, Jesus chose to deliver a sort of "graduation speech" to his disciples at Caesarea Philippi. In that pagan setting, he

encouraged his disciples to build a church that would overcome the worst evils. They believed that their city was literally at the gates of the underworld the gates of hell. In order to entice the return of their god, Pan, each year, the people of Caesarea Philippi engaged in horrible deeds, including prostitution and sexual interaction between humans and goats. (*I've even heard there was human sacrifice at this place.*) It was a city of people eagerly knocking on the doors of hell (*"to raise hell"*).

And Jesus walked 40 miles and made a certain declaration there, Matthew 16:18 "*you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and **the gates of Hades** (very possibly the structure we see in the picture above) shall not prevail against it.*"

Let's look at an analogous story from World War 2. This is from Historian Stephen Ambrose who recounts the story which is then retold by Dean Briggs in his book Ekklesia Rising (pages 132-133):

In June 7, 1944, along the "plateau above the bluff at Omaha," we are introduced to Brigadier General Norman "Dutch" Cota. General Cota finds a group of infantry pinned down by some Germans in a farmhouse. Ambrose tells us "in the hedgerows ... German sniper fire came from all directions. The Norman farm homes and barns, made of stone and surrounded by stone walls, made excellent fortresses." What follows is almost a perfect parable, told in modern language, to understand what Jesus was doing with his disciples in Caesarea Philippi.

"Well, I'll tell you what, captain," said Cota, unbuckling two grenades from his jacket. "You and your men start shooting at them. I'll take a squad of men and you and your men watch carefully. I'll show you how to take a house with Germans in it."

Cota led his squad around a hedge to get as close as possible to the house. Suddenly, he gave whoop and raced forward, the squad following, yelling like wild men. As they tossed grenades into the windows, Cota and another man kicked in the front door, tossed a couple of grenades inside, waited for the explosions, then dashed into the house. The surviving Germans inside were streaming out the back door, running for their lives.

Cota returned to the captain. "You've seen how to take a house," said the general, still out of breath. "Do you understand? Do you know how to do it now?"

"Yes, sir"

Believers are to be dangerous to the darkness. Dangerous to the darkness. YOU ARE TO BE DANGEROUS TO THE DARKNESS! Robby Dawkins says "do not pray at night that the Lord would keep your kids from darkness but instead pray that they would become dangerous to the darkness!"

Jesus took His disciples to Caesarea Philippi and says “you see that place back there where they do all the pagan worship and human sacrifice - and so many terrible things that people actually believe it is the gates to Hell?” This was the place where they were literally knocking on the gates of Hell to try to bring the demons up and out with their acts. Jesus came to that exact place and says “I am going to build My church (My ekklesia) and those gates will NOT prevail against it!”

“You’ve seen how to take a house,” said the general, still out of breath. “Do you understand? Do you know how to do it now?” “Yes, sir” DO IT.

Greater works than these will you do. You do not carry just a message. You carry a kingdom. The kingdom of God is many orders of magnitude greater than the works of darkness (Kingdom of God >>>> kingdom of darkness).

The Ekklesia is Inherently Legislative

The ekklesia is inherently legislative. “*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*” You’re here. It’s His Kingdom. YOU are His government! The ekklesia is His government to bring and to legislate His kingdom on this earth!

Matthew 16:19 is the very verse after Jesus introduces “church” to the whole world: “*And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*”

Keys are authority. You’ve been given the authority to either lock things up or to set people free! Bind means to lock up. Loose means to set free. Isaiah 61 (a prophecy about Jesus that Jesus read at the start of His ministry) demonstrates both concepts. Jesus said He had come to bind up the broken hearted and to proclaim liberty to the captives. We bind and we loose. This is what we do!

We know what God’s will is. We know what He is doing in Heaven and then we say “*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*” 1 John tells us that if we know what His will and we know that we ask according to His will we know that we have what we ask.

Matthew 16:19 is a crazy verse because Jesus is saying that if we bind on earth it will be bound in Heaven. Heaven will back you up! Heaven will back you up! You are representing Heaven!

Remember there was the conventus Romanorum in Roman times and if you had 2 or 3 Roman citizens gathered in the name of Rome - the power and the authority of Rome was there in their midst. This is the mindset that caused the authorities to be terrified when they realized Paul was a Roman citizen. The Roman citizens carried such weight of authority and they understood that.

You are a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven and Jesus has chosen the word “ekklesia” to represent who we are as the church. I am telling you who you are. When you bind on earth, Heaven backs you

up! Wherever 2 or 3 are gathered in My Name there I am in their midst and whatever they - agreeing - ask will be done for them! Ekklesia!

Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in Heaven. This is what He's saying about the ekklesia. When we loose on earth, it will be loosed in Heaven!

You might say "who me?" Luke 12:32 says *"Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."* It's His good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

If you go on your concordance and you look up the word "to pray" in the Old Testament you will notice that the first definition for the word to pray in Strong's Concordance is "to judge."

When you pray you are releasing the judgement of Heaven into every situation. Our prayers are much more legislative than we know that they are. Death and life is literally in the power of our tongue.

When I declare over a pornography shop "that shop will close in Jesus' Name" it is only a matter of time until they are bankrupt. I've had this sort of thing happen multiple times. Recently, I prayed a very odd thing about a crime spree that was going on and the next morning I found out that exactly the verbiage I used was exactly what happened to that crime spree. I'm sure others were praying as well. When the phrase came out of my mouth I thought "God did I really just say that and do you want me to retract it?" God said "do NOT retract it." That exact thing ended up happening which ended that crime spree. Instantly - within less than 24 hours - it was done.

Here's how you do this: (1) you need to know the will of God and (2) you need to know your assignment. You need to be careful because you need to function according to your assignment. Leif Hetland says you can be "on assignment, but out of alignment." The Bible is clear "do not think more highly of yourself that you ought to think." I try not to concern myself with things too great and too mighty for me. I've calmed and quieted my soul like a weened child with it's mother - like a weened child with it's mother is my soul within me.

You have to operate according to your measure of faith. When I have a thought to pray like this (to bind or to loose) it is usually not pre-meditated. It's definitely not "I've been dwelling on this and now I am getting offended by that shop and now that I am sort of personally offended by it I am going to pray something negative about it!" NO! You are just flowing in the Spirit of God and you are seeing "that is NOT what is in Heaven!" God's kingdom is coming here on this earth and He told me to pray like that. He said what I bind on earth will be bound in Heaven and what I loose on earth will be loosed in Heaven. So I'm sick of seeing that loosed here so it's time for that to be bound here as it is in Heaven!

Again this is not in the natural mind - it is more in the Spirit that it will come on me. And then sometimes an exact phrase will come to me and I will check with the Holy Spirit before I pray that phrase. There is a sobriety in all of this because I know there is literally death and literally life in the power of my tongue. "God, is that in line with your will? Is there anything in me where this is coming from me and not from you in any way?" So when it checks out scripturally and I have a green light from the Holy Spirit despite my sobriety in doing it I then declare the decree that the Lord has given me - and it's over.

I'm careful. I'm careful to make sure I do this according to my assignment and in alignment with God and the leadership God has placed in my life! Some people will get into this sort of thing and get their face kicked in because they are meddling in something that they do not have an assignment for. I am not saying to be afraid - at all - I am just saying to be sober about it. You don't go around declaring about everything but when the Lord puts it on your heart you say "that will stop."

Perhaps you work at a place of business where there is this one person constantly spouting their atheism to everyone and making everyone uncomfortable and dissuading people from knowing God. One day it comes upon you as you are driving to work to add something about that into your prayer. And you say something to the effect of "in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the lip zips or they're out!"

You may think to yourself "wow ..." Don't withdraw it. If that came from the Spirit, do not withdraw it! It only happens because you spoke with authority. If you withdraw it afterwards, it gives the enemy the right to circumvent your prayer. You can withdraw your prayers. Do you know this?

Some people that are trained in healing ministry when they have people pray for healing they may say "if the person is healed, stop praying; you could mess it up."

Don't withdraw your prayers. Be confident you are speaking the Word of the Lord over a situation and if you are - speak it! It's our job to legislate the Kingdom of God on this earth and to say "*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*" Jesus is saying to the ekklesia then "I give the keys - the authority - to bind and to loose!"

We do the same thing when we come to someone and say "how long has that infirmity been on you? 12 years? 12 years you've been bound by this infirmity ... 12 years you've given up all your money to go to every doctor you can go to ... 12 years you've been shunned ... 12 years this infirmity has been on you ..." I am now going to BIND that spirit of infirmity and loose healing into that person's life. I am declaring "those days are over. A son of God just arrived on the scene with the authority of the kingdom of Heaven ready to back me up if I will declare what Heaven is saying about a situation ..."

So I come in and I say that and just like when the Holy Spirit was hovering over the waters waiting for the Word of God to be pronounced at the beginning of creation - and as soon as the Word of God was pronounced - the power of the Holy Spirit moves and the entire universe is created! In the same way as we are looking at this lady with a spirit of infirmity that has caused her to be hobbled over or bleeding or whatever else all these years we declare “that ends today. It’s not like that in Heaven. It’s going to change today. Ma’am, come over here, I want to pray for you.”

“And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Do not fear little flock, it is the Father’s good pleasure to give us the Kingdom!

The entire kingdom of God is wanting to come to this earth and He is waiting for the sons of God to reveal themselves and to legislate the kingdom of God in every area of society - every area of influence. Welcome to the ekklesia!

Kingdom Impartation

This is not something to reach for - but something to receive. There are two models in the Word: achieve and receive. Achieve is the Law. Receive is Grace. We receive - that’s how we operate. So even as you read this, get in a heart-stance of being ready to receive something.

In the Name of Jesus I release the reality of the Kingdom of God, which you carry, to come upon you. It’s the Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom so I release the Kingdom of God to you. The power and authority of the Kingdom of God be released now over every reader in Jesus’ Name. Every mantle, every authority, everything be released now in Jesus’ Name. It’s His good pleasure to give you the Kingdom so I say “receive the Kingdom of God.”

Receive the Kingdom of God. Carry the Kingdom of God. Release the Kingdom of God. Rivers of living water will flow from your belly. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth we receive the Kingdom. I pray for the impartation of the Kingdom of God!

Say this “I receive the Kingdom. I receive the keys of the Kingdom - that what I bind would be bound and what I loose would be loosed. Thank you God that it is your good pleasure to give me the Kingdom. I receive a greater manifestation of the Kingdom in my life. I receive!”

We Need to be the Ekklesia

Dean Briggs (Pg. 131-2) says “Quite often, a well-intentioned reformist within his local fellowship or even a well-known pastor will offer a critique of the Body of Christ, something like, “We need to quit playing games and be the church.” Their zeal is sincere, but their diagnosis is entirely inaccurate. The problem is, we’ve been the church for hundreds of years! *We need to be the ekklesia.*”