

ACTS: I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH (PART 5)

Matthew 16:18-19 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

If Peter was given the KEYS of the kingdom of heaven, we need to obey what he says and do what he does in the book of Acts!

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Since the early church had no “New Testament” yet, Peter appeals to the Old Testament – **his sermon starts with JOEL and ends with JESUS.**

Acts 2:16-17 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

To do this, we must know (1) WHO is Lord, and (2) HOW to call on Him.

Acts 2:22-24 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

The people in Peter’s audience had heard about Jesus’ miracle ministry. Although men crucified Jesus, it was all in the plan of God!

1 Corinthians 2:7-8 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

“pains” = “birth pains” // the TOMB became a WOMB of resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:17-20 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

Acts 2:25-31 For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance. Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

Peter quotes Psalm 16:8-11, where David prophesied about the LORD, saying that it was impossible for Him to stay in the grave! Obviously, David couldn’t have been talking about himself, because his body was still in a sepulcher in Jerusalem (adjacent to the upper room!). But David had a promise from God that the Messiah would come from his lineage.

2 Samuel 7:12-13 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

Acts 2:32-35 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

Peter’s point here is that Jesus said if He went back to Heaven He would send the Holy Ghost – so since the Holy Ghost had been poured out, Jesus must be alive and in Heaven! Jesus is in the place of authority!

1 Peter 3:22 Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

Once again, David can't be talking about himself, for he never did this! Peter quotes a PROPHECY of David in Psalm 110:1 ...

The LORD (JEHOVAH) said unto my Lord (ADONAI), Sit thou on my right hand, Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

This is the same thing that happened in the Garden of Gethsemane, where the HUMANITY of Jesus submits to the DEITY of Jesus.

Matthew 22:41-45 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The Son of David. He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?

1 Corinthians 15:26-28 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

Jesus has conquered the "last (worst) enemy" FIRST, by rising from the dead! So ALL of His enemies have become his footstool!

Philippians 2:5-11 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Acts 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

This is the punchline of Peter's sermon; it is both a declaration and an accusation. God came as your Messiah and YOU CRUCIFIED HIM!

The Jews didn't actually crucify Jesus – the Romans did! But they were just as guilty, because they didn't RECEIVE Him when He came to them. And today, WE are just as guilty if we don't receive Him!

John 1:10-13 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Peter has told them WHO the Lord is, and now he is going to tell them HOW to call on Him, so their sins can be forgiven. Since Peter was given the KEYS of the kingdom of Heaven, we'd better pay attention and do EXACTLY what he said if we want to be saved!

While many modern Christian groups preach the gospel (the "good news"), not many groups preach the Bible way to OBEY the gospel. Just like any other commandment in Scripture, to know it or even to believe in it is not enough – we must OBEY God's commandments.

The New Testament Greek word for "BELIEVE" doesn't mean just to mentally acknowledge something. It is a synonym for "COMMIT" – as in believing something so strongly that it causes you to DO something!

What is the Gospel anyway? The Apostle Paul defined it specifically and let us know that there are THREE PARTS to this "good news" ...

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the **gospel** which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ **died** for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was **buried**, and that he **rose again** the third day according to the scriptures:

GOSPEL = DEATH, BURIAL, RESURRECTION

That's why in the very first church service in church history, after the very first sermon preached by one of the Apostles, after the very first time someone ever asked "what shall we do?" and at the very first "altar call" in the church age, Peter said to OBEY the Gospel by doing three things:

Acts 2:37-38 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and be **baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the **Holy Ghost**.

OBEYING THE GOSPEL = REPENTANCE, BAPTISM, HOLY GHOST
These are the KEYS – this is how you get into the KINGDOM!

Acts 2:39-41 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

The promise of the Father (v. 33) is for you (Jews) and your children (still Jews) – but also “to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call” (this is for the GENTILES, but it hasn’t happened YET).

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:18-19 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

v. 40 – “many other words” / “untoward generation” – this is not the end of Peter’s preaching, because the new birth is just a BIRTH into the Kingdom of God – we still have to GROW UP and obey God’s commandments to be saved from our own “untoward generation”!

Acts 2:42-47 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing **daily** with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church **daily** such as should be saved.

The early church did more than make **converts** – they made **disciples!** These people literally invested everything they had into the church!

The Christians you meet in the Book of Acts were not content to meet once a week for "services as usual." They met daily (Acts 2:46), cared daily (Acts 6:1), won souls daily (Acts 2:47), searched the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11), and increased in number daily (Acts 16:5). Their Christian faith was a day-to-day reality, not a once-a-week routine.

When we do what we’re supposed to do EVERYDAY, then God does what only He can do EVERYDAY!

Have YOU called on the name of the Lord the way the Bible says?