



HeartCry



May 2007

USING THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM

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(Matthew 16:19) "And I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Throughout the last couple weeks, I emailed several ministry friends concerning their understanding of this text. Many valuable truths were uncovered.

In God's Word we find three areas of the Church using the keys mentioned to Peter in the Book of Matthew.

1. In the use of the Gospel
2. In the interpretation of Doctrine
3. In the carrying out of Church Discipline.

Brother Gary Brown when asked about this verse gave some important insight: "Of course the bias of Jesus, given his use of the keys of the keys in Matt. 16, is to unlock the gates rather than to lock them. Even heathens and publicans Jesus sought to redeem."

Evangelical
Congregational Church



Evangelism &
Discipleship
Commission

Prayer Mobilization
Team

Peter operated the keys in extending the gospel to the Gentiles.

(Acts 11:17) “Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as He did to us who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; who was I, that I could withstand God?”

(Acts 11:18) “When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, “Then has God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.”

We might at this juncture say, “Well that’s fine and dandy for Peter, after all Jesus said that Peter is the Rock upon which He would build His church, but what does that have to do with me, the everyday, run of the mill believer?”

(Matthew 18:19) “Again I say to you that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing, they shall ask and it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.”

Brother Gary Brown hit it on the nail again: “Verse 19 takes this authority to set people free to the next level. He gives the gathered church (“if two of you shall agree on earth”) a veritable blank check in prayer.”



When we come to the Lord in prayer for the salvation of lost friends, neighbors, loved ones, relatives or co-workers, we are using the Keys to the Kingdom to unlock or loosen those held in bondage due to sin.

Remember the frantic morning fearing being late for work that you ran all over the house screaming to everyone, “has anyone seen where I laid my keys?”

We must find the keys and with relentless zeal, Pray, Witness, Share the Gospel message of Jesus and His Love with everyone. In John 21 the disciples went fishing as they were waiting for Jesus’ appearance in Galilee after the resurrection. Jesus appeared to them on the shore and instructed them to put the net on the right side. Having caught nothing all night, they did as instructed and caught a large amount of fish. The Bible says it was 153 fish. Jerome, a 3rd century theologian states that this number represents the known amount of existing species of fish at that particular time.

Friend, the message of Jesus is for every tongue, tribe, nation and people, it is for the rich and the poor, the educated and the uneducated.

Brother Brooke Hershiser of the Navigators said, “I don’t think we get it, if we did get it then we’d understand that the Church has to impact the world in order to be the Church. It’s like trying to separate an oxygen atom from carbon dioxide... if you do, it’s not carbon dioxide, it’s carbon monoxide. It becomes life ending poison. The Church is defined partially by it’s “loosing” action.”

To sum up this charge to pray for the lost, to operate the Keys to the Kingdom, here is a quote from Diane Webb. Diane is gifted in the area of Intercession and a member of Riverhill Evangelical Church.

“From Genesis to Revelation, God determined and declared that the enemy has been defeated, for us to be on alert, to recognize him and his lies, to resist him, to know who we are in Christ (priests, warriors, armored holy ones, etc.), and so in keeping with the historical context of loosing and binding, we walk in the authority given us by Christ and announce and declare (loose and bind) what God has already determined! Amen!”

The Warrior's Arsenal: resources & tools

Submitted by Mike Garrison of
Riverhill Evangelical Church

A Prayer that Moves Heaven: Comfort and Hope for Life's Most Difficult Moments

By Ron Mehl
ISBN: 1-57673-885-X

Beginning with one of the most dramatic, triumphant stories of God's deliverance in all of Scripture, Ron Mehl describes the prayer - and the kind of life - that moves heaven. With stories and principles from thirty-five years of ministry, *A Prayer that Moves Heaven* shows how to prepare for moments of deep crises and how to pray when the storm of life rages from out of nowhere.

92 pages
Multnomah Publishers

Believing Prayer

By: Andrew Murray
ISBN: 0-7642-2903-6

Murray contends that a "right relationship to the living God and to the living men and women around me every day are the conditions of effective prayer." "If we don't receive what we ask, we must examine our prayer and our motives. Let the Word of God search us. Let us ask ourselves whether our prayer is the expression of a life wholly given over to the will of God and to the love of our fellowmen."

85 page
Bethany Publishers



The Jesus Letters

By: David Ravenhill
ISBN: 0-7684-2173-X

The Jesus Letters takes the seven letters to the churches in the book of Revelation and lifts them out of their ancient settings, creating a mirror for the contemporary church. The image reflected in that mirror just might surprise you. These primitive letters in the book of Revelation provide a prophetic portrait of the "desires" of Jesus for His Church. With picturesque detail, Ravenhill depicts what brings the pleasure of His presence and the pain of His absence.

174 pages
Destiny Image Publishers

Fire Evangelism: Reaching the Lost Through Love and Prayer

By: Che' Ehn
ISBN: 0-8007-9410-9

Los Angeles Pastor Ahn teaches that evangelism is not an assignment, a punishment, or a duty. It is an overflow of God's life in you that brings more life in turn - first to you and then to those with whom you share. Reading *Fire Evangelism* will challenge your thinking, ignite your heart for the lost, and show you how simple and natural personal evangelism should be.

230 pages
Chosen Books

Incense Before the Throne

How to Pray for the Lost



Many of us - if not all of us, owe our conversion to friends and family who prayed us into the Kingdom. Prayer is a bit weapon for the salvation of souls. Argument and debate without prayer is dry and fruitless. Do not spend all your time bashing your head against the arguments of people. Instead bash into Heaven with strong prayers on behalf of those who want to be saved.

Why should we pray for the lost?

1. Out of love - if we love our neighbor as ourselves we will want him or her to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior too.
2. Out of holy fear - if we realize that Hell is for real and for eternity then we will not want our friends, family or neighbors to go there.
3. Out of knowledge of the nature of God - who loves to be merciful and desires that all men should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.
4. Out of knowledge of the power of prayer - prayer often succeeds when all else has failed. It is the only way we have of asking God to move in someone's life and heart. We know that the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. We know that prayers according to God's will are answered. This is not spiritual manipulation from a distance. Rather prayer grants the person the ability to see clearly and make a free and informed choice, free from the manipulative bondages and blindness that the Devil tries to impose. We can legitimately pray that a person may be able to freely choose to have the mercy and glory of God. We can pray that their blindness be removed and Christ shown to them convincingly and clearly. Imagine if we could present every non-Christian with a clear convincing presentation of the facts. Imagine they were made to choose between Jesus Christ, eternal glory, a magnificent resurrection body, life in heaven, etc. versus pain and torment and death and disgrace for all eternity. Only a crazy person would choose to remain a non-Christian. Prayer allows the unbeliever to glimpse the facts for what they are and to make a sensible choice. It is not unfair or manipulative - it is the fairest, most freeing way we have.

Praying for Structures

Paul writes to Timothy about his **FIRST PRIORITY** in 1 Timothy 2:1-8

"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men - the testimony given in its proper time. And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle - I am telling the truth - I am not lying, and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles. I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.

God wants us to pray - for kings and all those in authority... in order that people may be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. This points out a sometimes forgotten aspect about praying for the lost - that governments can do a lot to help or to hinder the process of evangelism.

God wants "all people everywhere" - that means the lost of you without exception - to pray for those in authority so that we may openly have permission to preach the gospel without hinderance.

Please pray that -

Our school systems may remain open to Christian Religious Education.

That Anti-Christian Laws may be repealed.

That the Government recognize the contribution that true Christianity can make to our nation.

That we continue to enjoy the Liberty and Freedom to share our Faith in Jesus Christ.

So part of our praying for the lost is praying for structures that block the spread of the gospel to be removed. The second part of praying for the lost is praying for individuals/families/cities and nations to be saved.

How to Pray for the Lost

The following ideas have been taken from a small pamphlet called "How to Pray for the Lost."

The first thing you need to understand when praying for the lost is that the price has been paid. When Jesus died upon that cross He paid the price for every single sinner on the earth. When you are praying for the lost remember that the price has been paid and make that the starting point for prayer.

"Lord you bought _____ at Calvary, he is yours and so is his wife. We ask you to claim _____ for yourself and to remove the chains that bind them. We pray for those you have bought Lord, that you be glorified in them and through them. Bring them back to yourself and set them free. Christ has done it and now we claim it." Amen.

Know that Christ has paid the price gives us confidence to pray boldly. It is not as if we have to bargain at all. The price is paid - that person rightly belongs to God who has bought them back out of slavery and sin. The technical name for this is "praying on the basis of redemption" or in some circles "praying for the lost in the power of the blood of Jesus". Stand before God, confident that He wants your friend saved and confident that He has already paid the price for that to happen.

PERSISTENTLY AND REGULARLY - praying for people to be saved can at times be a very long battle. We need to pray persistently and regularly for those we want to be saved. In Luke 18:1 Jesus makes it clear that persistence pays off and tells us that we ought to "pray and not grow weary."

PRAY WATCHFULLY - It pays to be alert to the spiritual state of the unbeliever and to pray appropriately - Are they curious about God yet? Are they convicted about their sin? Are they attracted to Jesus? Are they involved in something they would find very difficult to give up if they became a Christian? Pray specifically for where the person is at spiritually so they can take one or two steps closer to faith in God. "Lord you know _____ finds it hard to believe the Bible - please show him it is true and that it can be relied on."

SPECIFIC THINGS TO PRAY FOR:

1. That God will make them curious about spiritual things. The first hurdle is often sheer apathy with regard to the truth. Pray that God will stir them up to search out the truth about Life, the universe and everything for themselves.
2. Pray that God will surround your friend with witnessing Christians. Pray that they will feel absolutely surrounded and unable to escape from God. This will force people to consider Christ and the difference between their lives and the lives of true Christians.
3. As that they may clearly grasp that they are sinful. Unless there is a clear perception of sin there can be no true repentance from sin. They must know that they are in the wrong.

4. That God will grant them an almighty thirst for God's Word.
5. Please for a clear understanding of Jesus as Savior and Lord. With some of the heresies abroad today Jesus is often misunderstood. Pray that your friends may see Jesus as real and historical and also as divine. Pray that God may clear up any misunderstandings in these areas and be prepared to answer questions. Be clear about Jesus being the only way to a true relationship with God.
6. Intercede for your friends at any points where they are being held under Satan's power. Ask for release from wrong ways and bad influences. Their friends may be a real obstacle to their salvation, pray that they may not give in to them but may instead have the courage to believe in God. There is today an increasing interest in the occult and some people are badly hooked - pray for their release from this dark addiction so that they may be free to believe.
7. Ask for grace toward your friends so that they may develop godly tastes which lead them toward God and salvation.

I am going to leave you with the challenge of making a list of people you will pray for. Also get your home groups to buy a small notebook, rule it up, "Person", "What We Will Pray", "When It Was Answered." We can really see things happen when we persistently pray for the lost on the basis of what Christ has done on the cross.

Join with millions of Christian's world wide to pray on Global Day of Prayer - Pentecost Sunday, May 27, 2007.



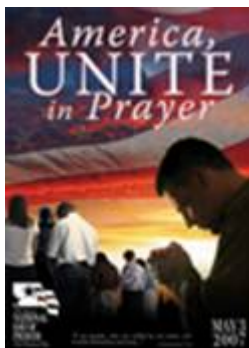
I Traveled on My Knees

Last night I took a journey to a land across the sea,
I did not go by boat or plane, I traveled on my knees.
I saw many people there in deep sin,
And I did not want to send my prayers in.
But Jesus said I should go and see, how many I
could win.
I said, "Jesus, I cannot go and work with such as
these."
He answered quickly, "Yes, you can by traveling on
your knees."
He said, "You pray, I will meet the need. You call and
I will hear."

National Day of Prayer May 3 2007

Look for a prayer event near you.

www.ndptf.org



Tidbits on Prayer



Several famous people were asked what they felt was the saddest word in the English language. Here's what some of them said.

- ❖ Poet T.S. Eliot: "The saddest word in the English language is, of course, 'saddest'".
- ❖ Lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II: "But."
- ❖ Writer John Dos Passos quoted John Keats: "Forlorn! The very word is like a bell."
- ❖ Psychiatrist Karl Menninger: "Unloved."
- ❖ Statesman Bernard M. Baruch: "Hopeless."
- ❖ President Harry Truman quoted John Greenleaf Whittier: "For of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these: 'It might have been!'"
- ❖ Alexandra Tolstoi: "The saddest word in all languages, which has brought the world to its present condition, is 'atheism.'"

Put all of these answers together and you have a faint picture of a soul without Christ. I think of that word which Keats used so dramatically, "forlorn." It is the English form of the Dutch word *verloren*, which means "lost." But the Word of God, through the apostle Paul, gives the ultimate description, "...without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world" (Eph. 2:12).



Objects are lost because people look where they are not instead of where they are. – Henry L. Miller

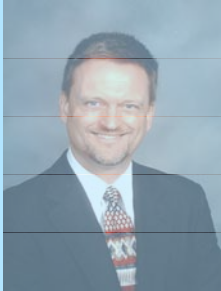
How They Prayed for Missions

- ❖ George Whitefield, the famous English evangelist, said, "O Lord, give me souls, or take my soul!"
- ❖ Henry Martin, a missionary, cried as he knelt on India's coral strands, "Here let me burn out for God."
- ❖ David Brainerd, missionary to the North American Indians in the early 18th century, prayed, "Lord, to Thee I dedicate myself, oh accept of me, and let me be Thine forever. Lord, I desire nothing else, I desire nothing more." The last words in his diary written several days before he died were, "Oh come, Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen."
- ❖ Thomas a Kempis, 1379-1471, said, "Give what Thou wilt, and how much Thou wilt, and when Thou wilt. Set me where Thou wilt and deal with me in all things as Thou wilt."
- ❖ Dwight L. Moody implored, "Use me then, my Savior, for whatever purpose and in whatever way Thou mayest require. Here is my poor heart, an empty vessel, fill it with Thy grace."
- ❖ Martin Luther prayed thus on the night preceding his appearance before the Diet of Worms: "Do Thou, my God, stand by me against all the world's wisdom and reason. Oh, do it, Thou must do it. Stand by me, Thou true, eternal God!"
- ❖ "Praying Hyde," a missionary in India, pleaded, "Father, give me these souls, or I die."
- ❖ Mrs. Comstock, a missionary in India, uttered this prayer of parting when she sent her children home: "Lord Jesus, I do this for Thee."

How do you pray for Missions?

Praying for Our Next Bishop

"This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desires a good work." 1 Timothy 3:1



Rev. David Dennis
Lakeside E. C. Church
Transfer, PA (2001-present)



Rev. Kevin Leibensperger
Trinity E.C. Church
Boyertown, PA (1986-present)



Rev. Kirk Marks
St. Paul's E.C. Church
Reamstown, PA (1998-present)

May 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		