

"Peter, Thanks for the Kingdom Keys!"

"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. 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" (Acts 2:38-39).

How did Peter get the Kingdom Keys anyway?

As we begin to read the Gospels we notice:

1. No church was started in the Gospels.
2. No one received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.
3. The salvation plan was not revealed.
4. Repentance was possible in the Gospels (Luke 23:43; Mark 2:5). However, salvation or conversion was not possible until Jesus had risen and ascended back to Heaven (Luke 22:32; John 7:37-39).

Long ago, in the Book of Isaiah we read the promise, "he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut and none shall open" (Isaiah 22:22).

Once Jesus came, died on Calvary, rose from the dead, and ascended back to Heaven, the door of salvation was wide open. The price for salvation had been paid in full.

The Gospels records the life of Jesus Christ. After being on earth, people still misunderstood who He was, what He was, and why He came.

One day Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do men say that I am?" The answers varied from some saying He was John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.

Then Jesus asked a more revealing question, "Now, I want to know who you think I am?"

It was Peter who quickly responded, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Because of this answer, Peter was promised upon the revelation he gave, Christ would build the Church and he would receive the keys to the kingdom (Matthew 16:13-19).

Peter had been delegated authority by God to proclaim salvation to all who would believe in Jesus Christ (John 20:23; Acts 2:37-40; Acts 15:7-9).

How and Where did Peter use the Kingdom Keys?

Peter received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:1-4. Because he had the kingdom keys (the door to salvation), he used them for the first time in Acts 2:14-41. On the Day of Pentecost he opened wide the door of salvation to the Jews.

In Acts 8 the Samaritans had been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus (Acts 8:16) but had not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Peter and John came and prayed for them and the door of salvation was unlocked for the Samaritans.

In Acts 10 Peter preached the Gospel to Gentiles. This was not easy because he believed that the Gentiles were unclean. God spoke to him clearly through a vision and other circumstances to cause him to go to Caesarea. As he preached in the house of Cornelius the Holy Spirit fell on them and they began speaking in other tongues.

Peter asked, "Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?" (Acts 10:47).

The door of salvation had been opened for the Gentiles.

In these Scriptures we see Peter using the keys to the Kingdom to open the door of salvation and preach the Gospel.

What were the Kingdom Keys Peter used?

The Kingdom keys making up the plan of salvation consist of:

Key Number One: Repentance.

Key Number Two: Baptism in Jesus' Name.

Key Number Three: Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

These keys make up the Gospel. The Gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Death	Repentance
Burial	Jesus' name Baptism
Resurrection	Holy Spirit Baptism

Al Gossan Jr. in his tract, "Keys to Receiving the Holy Ghost" gives ten different keys helpful for receiving the Holy Spirit or witnessing/praying with those who need it. These ten keys are adapted here for your use.

1. Know it is the will of God for you to receive the Spirit.
2. Repent of your sins and be baptized in Jesus' name.

3. Obey God’s Word from day to day.
4. Ask for the Holy Spirit.
5. Pray for the free gift of the Holy Spirit.
6. Allow others to pray for you by laying on of hands.
7. Praise and worship God with all your heart.
8. Believe you will receive the Holy Spirit.
9. Expect the Spirit to come to you at anytime.
10. Speak boldly the language God gives to you.

The Kingdom keys are not for Peter alone but all can use them.

***Dear Peter:
We found the keys.
Thanks for leaving the door open!!
Love, Kofi***

Study Questions

1. How did Peter get the Kingdom Keys? _____

2. What are the three Kingdom Keys? _____

3. When/where did Peter use the Kingdom Keys? _____

4. What is the Gospel? _____

5. What are some keys to receiving the Holy Spirit? _____

