

Q/A: Is there a difference between the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God? Not really; Each phrase may take on a different focus. ie. the kingdom of heaven may focus more on (peace and joy), whereby the kingdom of God may focus more on (righteousness), as we see these attributes in **Romans 14:17**. But, for the most part, the two phases are interchangeable.

Q/A: How will I know when I am on the right path to achieving the kingdom? When you notice a change in your thinking; That your desires have changed, and what has upset you before in the past no longer bothers you.

When Christ was talking with Peter, **Matthew 16:18**, He said: “Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church.” He was referring to either building His church on the revelation knowledge that Peter had of Him as the Christ, or speaking of Himself (Jesus), as the Rock. Likewise, when He said: “I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven,” He would have been referring to, the church. Therefore, **the keys are for every believer within the church.**

Jesus gave His church the keys so that we could operate within His kingdom realm. Thus, we can think of the keys as: “gaining access to the kingdom realm.” Some have defined this as to mean simply being saved; If this were all there were, it would be a key rather than keys. Rather, I see the keys as seeking out and accessing the kingdom within us, **Luke 17:21**. Therefore, the keys are internal keys within us and not some kind of external key, potion or magical enchantment.

Before we begin we need to know what the keys are not, they are not the fruit of the spirit or other kingdom attributes that we will walk in once we have achieved God's kingdom, (love, joy, peace, righteousness, etc). For until we unlock God's kingdom within us, we do not yet have access to kingdom attributes.

I have seen the keys defined from one or two to nearly 30, and in essence, whatever personal attribute that helps you to draw out God's kingdom from within you, can be considered to be a key. However, for this study, I will primarily look at the interactions that Peter had with Jesus in the gospels and at the two epistles that he wrote, and pull out some of the major attributes.

Repent, and know that you are sinful:

From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, **Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand**, **Matthew 4:17**.

When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord, **Luke 5:8**.

Knowing that Jesus is the Son of God:

And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God, **Matthew 16:16**.

Some people stop here, after the essentials of salvation are met, **Romans 10:9**. But, there is so much more. As it is written, Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love Him, **1st Corinthians 2:9**.

Forgiveness:

And Peter to Him, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Jesus said to him, **Not seven times: but, seventy times seven**, {**Matthew 18:21-22**}.

For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses, **Matthew 6:14**.

Prayer and expectation, (believe that you receive).

Pray without ceasing, **1st Thessalonians 5:17**. That which we believe for we can expect and receive, **Mark 11:24**. If there is no expectation, you will not think it strange when it does not happen.

Faith and action.

Peter said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And Jesus said, **Come**. And Peter walked on the water, to go to Jesus, {**Matthew 14:28-29**}.

Peter's faith back then was not perfect, as ours also is not, but Peter stepped out of the boat and took a few successful steps. When we hear the calling, we also need to step out by faith.

Sowing and reaping:

Every man according as he purposes in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver, **2nd Corinthians 9:7**.

Serving others / charity:

And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins, **1st Peter 4:8**.

Perseverance:

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand, **Ephesians 6::13**.

Give honor to whom honor is due:

Honor all *men*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king, **1st Peter 2:17**.

Humility, (be humble):

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time:, **1st Peter 5:6**.

Be obedient to God's Word:

As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:, **1st Peter 1:14**.

Be holy:

Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy, **1st Peter 1:16**.

KINGDOM

KEYS

*¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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, **Matthew 16:19**.*

However, unlike a physical kingdom here on this earth, we are looking to receive God's spiritual kingdom from within us.

Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you, **Luke 17:21**.

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost, **Romans 14:17**.

The New Testament does not speak of the kingdom as a physical place, such as we would think of walking on the streets of gold, **Revelation 21:21**. Receiving God's kingdom is coming into agreement with His way of operation and His righteous and just way of governing and ruling. Once we are able to access His kingdom within us we will also be able to receive all the blessings that God has for us.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT IN WORD BUT IN POWER
1st Corinthians 4:20

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