

# The Victorious and Glorious Church, Part 1

Matthew 16:16-19 -- 12/27/2015

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP

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**Matthew 16:16-19 -** <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ (the Messiah), the Son of the Living God.”

<sup>17</sup> 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.

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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.”

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## Three Facts that Jesus spoke about, regarding the church:

### 1. The Foundation of the church is Jesus Christ ...

**Jesus is the ROCK, NOT Peter.** It is **revealed** by the Word of God (by the Father – vs 17). The foundation of the confession that Peter said in verse 16 is like **anchoring** into a foundation. A person who has surrendered to the Kingly Rule of Jesus Christ, the Messiah of Israel, as his or her Savior, King, God, Master, and LORD ... that person is a part of the world-wide, global, and universal church that Jesus Christ is building, even now.

Thus, the church is made up of followers / disciples of Jesus Christ, who have taken Jesus Christ as their personal LORD, KING, GOD, Messiah, Savior, and Master, as Peter had.

**Peter** → **petros** → or little pebble or stone ... like a cobble stone ... skips across the water

**ROCK** → **PETRA** → **Foundational Boulder, Bedrock Stone** which would anchor a building. Jesus is the Foundation, the Anchor of the Building, the Living Building He is growing as a Living Temple - **Ephesians 2:19-22** → <sup>19</sup> Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> having been built on the **foundation** of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief **cornerstone**, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole building, being fitted together, **grows** into a holy temple in the Lord, <sup>22</sup> in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

The Foundation Bedrock, the Cornerstone, a Sure Secure Rock in which to Anchor to is Jesus Christ – The Foundation of the church.

### 2. The Victorious, Triumphant Mission of the Church – “I will build my church, and the Gates of Hades will not prevail against it” - vs 18.

- **ekklesia** → a group of people, an assembly. Could be used for any type of special assembly of people, short-term, long-term, temporary, permanent . . . have some affinity and/or identity with one another within the group. An assembly of people for a purpose, etc. Could refer to the “city council”, congress, the Roman Senate, etc.

The English word “church” comes from the Greek word **kyriakos**, “**belonging to the Lord**” (kyrios). **ekklesiá** (“church”) is the root of the terms “ecclesiology” and “ecclesiastical.”

So, in our case “church” → people of the Lord Jesus Christ (owned by Jesus Christ) it always relates to an assembly of Christians with our common Identity in Christ AND each other. A local church is identified as **distinct** from other local churches, all following Christ, together. The Spread of the Gospel is the Mission of the Church ... thus Truth Sets the Captives Free ...

**John 8:31-32:** Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall **know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**”

**Gates do not chase down people and kill them.** Gates are attached to hinges, attached to a Fence or a Wall of some sort. The “**Gates of Hades**” was a commonly recognized phrase that represented the Entry Point of the Most Evil Place in the Universe. It brought FEAR to the minds and hearts of normal folks. The mention of that phrase brought morbid fear. Yet, Jesus said that His church would be More Powerful than the most evil place on earth. From the Perspective of **John 8:31-32**, it seems that Jesus wants to use us to **overcome** those Gates and **set the captives free**. Behind those walls are people who are deceived, sinful, rebellious to God ... they are fallen, sinful, selfish, self-centered human beings, **Slaves of Satanically Inspired Fear** - descendants of Adam and Eve, who are fully taken captive by Satan, by inheritance, not even by choice.

**1 John 5:19** - We know that we are children of God, and that **the whole world is under the control of the evil one.**

**Hebrews 2:14-15:** Now since the children have flesh and blood in common, Jesus also shared in these, so that through His death He might destroy the one holding the **power of death** - that is, the **Devil**, and **FREE** those who were held in **SLAVERY** all their lives by the **Fear of Death**.

**Our Mission is a RESCUE Mission** – to Rescue those taken Captive By SIN, Enslaved by Satanically Inspired Fears that hold them as SLAVES under the Devil’s Spell. They are behind the Walls of Hell ... Trapped behind the Gates of Hades (the Gates of Hell) and CANNOT Escape on their own, no matter what. They are Powerless to Escape. Only Jesus Christ can rescue them. We, who have been rescued, are to Point them to their Rescuer, their Savior. All they have to do is Trust in Him and they will be Rescued, even **NOW**. Those Gates of Hell shall not Prevail against our Triumphant and Victorious Advance, in the Power of the Holy Spirit, Proclaiming the TRUTH, Gospel of Jesus Christ. That will **Set the Captives Free**.

- 3. We are Participants in this Mission** – Jesus Christ is doing this “building of His church” **through us**. It is growing and multiplying like a Living Temple that grows like a living organism (ref.: Ephesians 2:19-22) ... **With Great Authority and Power: “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.”** Those that are saved, in Christ, Born Again Disciples of Jesus Christ, are the very “vessels” God uses to further His Kingdom. But it isn’t by us being spectators. We are the Team. We are not the Fans in the Stands. We are the Team on the Field, and Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, has given us the KEYS of the Kingdom. Those KEYS unlock all the Resources we need to perform our Rescue Mission. He said so. We see this happen in the book of Acts, starting in Prayer and Resulting in Disciples made and multiplies while they Proclaimed the Gospel. There is No Other Way. Prayerfully Spreading the Gospel. Not just Spreading the Gospel. Not Just Praying. But, Praying then Spreading. We see this in Acts 1 and 2, Acts 4:23-31 and in Acts 13. In each Case the Spreading of God’s Word happened AFTER they Prayed Intensely. The KEYS are just as far from us as Asking in Prayer, seriously and intensely without giving up. The Motivation is the Salvation of the Lost, the RESCUE MISSION, not our comfort, not our safety, not our abundance of material wealth, etc. The RESCUE MISSION.  
**BIND → BIND** back the GATES (Pin those DOORS OPEN)  
**LOOSE → LOOSE** the Bonds of the Captives and Set them FREE in the TRUTH of CHRIST  
Resources, Fuel, Direction, Encouragement, Wisdom, etc., are all UNLOCKED by these KEYS from Christ. KEYS of HIS KINGDOM ... We have them, NOW ...  
**Let’s Use them to Set the Captives FREE!!! Unlock the Lock on those GATES of Hell!!!**