

THE KEYS



TO THE
KINGDOM



KEY # 1 – BELIEVE

1. Believe that we have messed up, missed the mark, and have made wrong decisions.
Romans 3:23 – “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
2. Believe that God knows we have messed up.
Romans 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
3. Believe that Jesus Christ was willing to, and did, pay the price for our sins.
Romans 5:8 – “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
4. Believe that Jesus Christ is willing to forgive us of our sins.
1 John 1:9 – “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
5. Believe that through Jesus Christ we can have peace with God
Romans 5:1 – “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”
Romans 8:38-39 – “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
6. Believe His prophets (ministers).
2 Chronicles 20:20 – “And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.”
Romans 10:14 – “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?”
Romans 10:17 – “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

 *The Word is established by two or three witnesses:* 

Deuteronomy 19:15 – “One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.

2 Corinthians 13:1 – “This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.”

There are four main preachers in the New Testament:

JOHN THE BAPTIST:

 MATTHEW 11:11

“Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

JESUS CHRIST:

 MARK 1:7-8

"And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose. I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost."

PETER:

 MATTHEW 16:19

"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."

PAUL:

 ACTS 9:15

"But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:"

KEY #2 – REPENTANCE

Repentance – a change of mind, purpose, and life, to which remission of sin is promised. Repentance, as defined in Easton's Bible Dictionary, consists of 4 necessary aspects:

1. A true sense of one's own guilt and sinfulness
2. An appreciation of God's mercy
3. An actual hatred of sin (See Ps. 119:128; Job 42:5-6; 2 Cor. 7:10) and turning from sin, to God
4. A persistent endeavor after a holy life through walking with God in the way of His commandments

 The four main preachers of the New Testament all preached repentance: 

JOHN THE BAPTIST:

 MATTHEW 3:1-2

"In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

JESUS CHRIST:

 MATTHEW 4:17

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

 MARK 2:17

"When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

 LUKE 13:3

"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

PETER:

 ACTS 2:38

"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."

 ACTS 3:19

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."

PAUL:

 ACTS 26:20

"But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance."

KEY #3 – BAPTISM

Baptism – Consisting of the processes of immersion, submersion, and emergence. "Baptism" comes from the Greek word bapto, meaning "to dip."

 The four main preachers of the New Testament all preached baptism: 

JOHN THE BAPTIST – HIS NAME SAYS IT ALL!

 MATTHEW 3:11

"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:"

See also: Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, and Acts 11:16

JESUS CHRIST:

 MATTHEW 3:13-15

"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him."

 MARK 16:16

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

 JOHN 3:22

"After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judaea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized."

 **JOHN 3:3,5**

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

PETER:

 **ACTS 2:38**

"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."

 **ACTS 10:44-48**

"While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days."

 **1 PETER 3:21**

"The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:"

PAUL:

 **ACTS 22:16**

"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

 **ACTS 19:1-6**

"And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied."

 **ROMANS 6:4**

"Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

 **COLOSSIANS 2:12**

"Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."

KEY #4 – RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST

 The four main preachers of the New Testament all preached the Holy Ghost: 

JOHN THE BAPTIST:

 MATTHEW 3:11

“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:”

See also: Luke 3:16

JESUS CHRIST:

 JOHN 3:5

“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

 LUKE 24:49

“And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.”

PETER:

 ACTS 2:38

“... and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

 ACTS 10:44-45

“While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision (the Jews) which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

PAUL:

 ROMANS 8:9

“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

 ACTS 19:6

“And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.”

KEY #5 – Do It Now



HEBREWS 11:1

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

KEY PHRASE: “NOW FAITH”

God wants you to use your faith right now.



2 CORINTHIANS 6:2

“(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”



JAMES 4:17

“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”