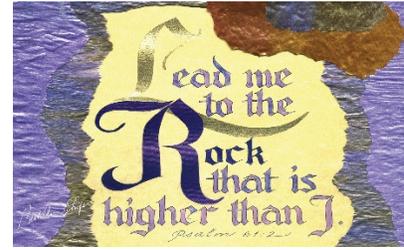




a division of Flower Girl Greetings, LLC  
writings by Beth Ann Phifer



## Use the Keys!

More on Prayer from Matthew 16:13-19

A Short Devotional and Scripture Study, February 11, 2021

This sequel follows two writings – *Spiritual Warfare – Arise!* and *Prayer – the Work of the Kingdom* at ShaleFragments.com.

## Matthew 16:13-19

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples,  
“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

<sup>14</sup> And they said,

“Some say John the Baptist and others, Elijah, but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.”

<sup>15</sup> He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

<sup>17</sup> And Jesus said to him,

“Blessed are you, Simon Barjona [son of Jonah], because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

<sup>18</sup> I also say to you that you are **Peter** [Greek: *Petros* or *rock*], and upon this **rock** [Greek: *petra* or *large rock*] I will build My **church** [Greek: *ecclesia* or *assembly of the called-out ones in the kingdom of heaven*], and the **gates** [authority, plans and schemes] of Hades will not overpower it. <sup>19</sup> **I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven**; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”

## A Glorious Family!

We belong to a beautiful worldwide gathering that has been privileged by God to possess His authority through the resurrection of His beloved Son Jesus the Messiah! – A family built on a Rock! He is Yahweh Tsur – God our Rock Who is the revealer of truth!

When Simon declared that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, the Living God, Jesus replaced his earthly name with *Rock*. Jesus said to Simon, “You are Rock and upon this Rock I will build My beautiful, empowered family for My kingdom purposes, and no darkness will overpower them. I give you the keys to the kingdom to bind evil and release light into the world!”

Keys represent **authority, ownership** and **access**. I have keys to my home. I own them. Only a few trusted individuals have keys to my home. Father God has given us the keys to His kingdom because we love His Son. He has given us authority through prayer to bring about His will on earth as it is in heaven.

Decades after Jesus spoke these words to the Apostle Peter, Peter would describe Jesus as a *Living Stone* rejected by men but choice and precious in the sight of God. He would describe the family of believers as “**living stones being built up as a spiritual house...**” (1 Peter 2:4-5) and “**that we would proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light...**” (1 Peter 2:9)

The Apostle Paul wrote, “For we know that if the earthly tent of our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” (2 Corinthians 5:1) Dear friends, we are His building made with living stones and built upon the Rock. Everything He has built in us is eternal. We are His workmanship (see Ephesians 2:10) “having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Messiah Jesus Himself being the Cornerstone in Whom the whole building being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord in Whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:20-22)

## Therefore, Let's Use the Keys!

Think of one of the most fun things you do. I like to watch pure, beautiful movies with my husband with a bowl of popcorn on my lap. I like to put my hands in the spring dirt and plant seeds and nurturingly prune the perennial herbs and flowers. What do you really enjoy? Think about it!

Can we view prayer like this? Can we ask God to strengthen us to love prayer? ... to embrace fully our greatest work of using the keys to the Kingdom to unlock and release His blessing on the earth? Yes, we can! Let's be creative. Today, I called a busy friend and asked her if she could pray a Matthew 16:19 prayer with me for 15 minutes. She did! It was fun! And the best part – Father heard and moved!

### And now, let's pray together:

Father, we come to You wanting to use the keys You have asked us to use. We want to “lay hold of that for which also we were laid hold of by Messiah Jesus.” (Philippians 3:12b)

Jesus said, “And from everyone who has been given much shall much be required, and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.” (Luke 12:48b) All of us who have received Jesus have received MUCH! We have been given the MOST! Your “divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.” (2 Peter 1:3) **We have been given the keys to the Kingdom!**

Lord, we are aware of your mercy that covers our lives. We pray **against** the enemy and **for** those who are trapped as his instruments. Have mercy on them. Together, we bind the prolific lies that cover our country. We release Your light into the dark places to expose evil and bring justice.

Your word says that, “the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ who is the image of God.” (2 Corinthians 4:4) and that “Whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.” (2 Corinthians 3:16) Please open the eyes of people in leadership who propagate lies. Take the veil away so they can see truth.

Tear down the strongholds of abortion clinics. We release forgiveness into their lives as they repent. We tear down the strongholds of the sex trafficking of children across the world. Protect, rescue, and restore these children! Pull them out of the darkness and into Your light!

Merciful Father, stop the genocide in China in Jesus' Name! Give dreams of You to those who are abused, imprisoned, and facing death. Show them Your love. Set them free!

Send relief to persecuted Christians across the world. Equip them with strength to speak of Your love where they are. Send deliverance. Cover them with angels.

Tie us together as one people, Your ambassadors, whose one focus is You! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

And the Lord says, “My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest.” (Exodus 33:14)