



# “I have the Keys”

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Easter  
Sunday 2017



When Pilate gave in to the political pressure from the Jewish leaders and condemned Jesus, he wrote the accusation “*Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews*” in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. (Jn 19:19) Many Catholic crucifixes have the letters INRI posted above Jesus’ head. This is the abbreviation for the Latin “*I*esus *N*azarenius *R*ex *I*udaeorum”. If you likewise abbreviate the Hebrew phrase you will get the Hebrew Tetragrammaton! יהוה -Yahwey! It is translated “LORD” some 6792 times in the Old Testament and Jesus claimed that Holy Title dozens of times in the New Testament. (Some examples include: Jn. 8:58; 13:13; 14:6,10,11,20; 15:1,5, 18:5-8 and 7 distinct times in Revelation!) While the Apostles all fled from the Garden when Jesus was arrested, only John returned to stand with him at the Cross. (Jn 19:26) Some 60 years later Jesus came to Patmos to “stand” with John. Jesus identifies himself as “*I am he that liveth and was dead; and behold, I am alive forevermore... and have the keys of hell and of death.*” (Rev. 1:17-18) He goes in in Rev. 3:7,8 to describe himself as the one who “*openeth and no man shutteth*”. Life is filled with “shut doors”! On that first Easter Jesus opened many doors that held his people in bondage.

## 1. The Door Of Discouragement: He opens the tomb. Luke 24:1-12

### A. The Women were the first to arrive at the tomb.

- 1) They were still Devoted in spite of feeling defeated!
- 2) Their Fears were ultimately Futile. “*Who shall roll us away the stone?*” Mk.16:3
- 3) Their Tears were Temporary: Jn 20:15,16 (See Psalm 30:5)

### B. Their Remorse Was Replaced With A Reminder. Lk 24:5-8

*Beware of forgetting in the darkness truths you learned in the light! Is. 50:10*

### C. Their Devotion led to a Delightful “Duty.” Vs9

- 1) Duty to God is a Privilege! (Mark 16:7)

## 2. The Door Of Doubt Vs 13-35 He opens their eyes! (Vs 13-35)

### A. Their Doubt Was Complicated By:

- 1) A Transition: Circumstances pressured them to shift their focus toward human reasoning rather than Divine Revelation.
  - a) Their Feelings overwhelmed their Faith.
  - b) Their Intellect replaced God’s Inspiration.
- 2) A Revelation (of their selfish motives):
  - a) They wanted a Messiah, not a Master.
  - b) They wanted a “shortcut” to happiness, not a savior! Lk 24:21 “*But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel.*” Redemption comes at a price. Mt. 20:28

## B. The Great Physician:

1) Diagnose their problem: ***Faithlessness***. Vs 25-26

Their real problem was not in their heads, but in their ***hearts***! Pr 4:23

2) Prescribes the solution. ***God's Word***. Luke 24:27-28 See also Romans 10:17

**Bible "Commandments" (entole) literally are "authoritative *prescriptions!*"**

a) This was ultimately "***Heart***" medication. Vs 32 ***"Did not our hearts burn within us..."***

b) It penetrates deeper than any medicine. Heb. 4:12,13

## C. When They Opened Their Hearts, God Opened Their ***Eyes!*** (2 Cor 3:16-18)

1) They already had the evidence of the promises of Jesus, the empty tomb, the angels, the women's witness, and the Scriptures.

**How much more "evidence" do you need?**

2) They immediately returned to share with others! (16 mile round trip!) Luke 24:33-35

*The best evidence that we have understood the Bible and met the living Christ is that we have something exciting to share with others. Ps. 107:2*

**Doubt makes the mountain which only faith can move.**

Doubt sees the obstacles; Faith sees the way. Doubt sees the darkest night; Faith sees the day.

Doubt dreads to take a step; Faith soars on high;

Doubt questions, "Who believes?" ***Faith answers, "I."***

## 3. The Door of ***Distress***. Vs. 36-45 "terrified and affrighted..." 37

A. Christ Offers Peace. Vs. 36

1) Remember "Peace" means to ***Partner!*** (eiro:"to join")

B. Notice Christ's Process. Vs 39

1) Encouragement. ***"Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself, handle me, and see."***

2) Chastisement. "he upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart." (Mk 16:14)

3) Enlightenment: Vs 44,45 ***"then opened he their understanding..."***

**He opens their *mind!***

**He patiently does this in order to encourage us to walk through:**

## 4. The Door of ***Devotion***. Vs. 36-45 He Opens their ***Lips***. (Vs 46-49)

A. Their Part: Pray and Obey. Vs. 49; Acts 1 (They were to be witnesses) (29 X in Acts.)

B. God's Part: Enlighten and Empower. (Acts 1:8)

### Application:

➤ Are you trapped behind the door of Discouragement? Doubt? Distress? (See Rev. 3:7)

➤ There's one door even God can't open! (The heart can only be opened from the inside!)

Romans 10:10 ***"With the heart man believeth unto righteousness"***.

Revelation 3:20 ***"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him."***

➤ Are you willing to Walk through the door of Devotion and be a witness of His grace?

***"I have set before thee and open door" Rev. 3:8***