

An "Exposing the Word" Sermon Series



10- It's Time to Get the Keys *John 10:10*

There is nothing that is anymore thrilling than to move into a house after all the construction has been complete. All the hard work has paid off. The contractor gives you to the keys to the house. We tend to romanticize the moving into a new house, in the past men would carry their bride over the threshold into the home. In our series of *Blueprint for a Christian Life* we come today to the time of getting the keys to our new house. What joy in moving into a new place, what an adventure.

We moved into our home in Kingsport and got many surprises that the former homeowner did not tell us about. The first time we turned on the shower the knob came off in our hands. We turned on the faucet to water the dogs outside and flooded our basement because we did not know the outside faucet was broken. But, our new house should have no such problems if we have learned our lessons from the past.

Remember we are building our house on the Blueprint of the Word of God, we have Christ as the Builder, the Father as the Architect of the plan, the Holy Spirit responsible for the day to day building as the Contractor. We have answered the call to be on the jobsite and decided to stick with the plan and only change what is necessary in our lives. We got fresh water in our lives and now we are getting the keys.

We as individuals as well as the church need to make sure we focus on the right things after we move in.

G. Campbell Morgan- While he always kept abreast of the activities of the church, Campbell Morgan detested committee work. He told a friend, 'I would

prefer to preach three sermons a day rather than spend half an hour at a deacon's meeting discussing who ought to keep the keys to the door."

The Wycliffe Handbook of Preaching & Preachers, W. Wiersbe, p. 209

We need to focus on the keys to the kingdom and not allow small things to upset and divide. Jesus said to us in ***John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.***

Let talk about the keys to this abundant life that Jesus talked about.

Back in the 60's many young men and women set off on a journey to discover themselves. They were searching for fulfillment in life. They found what was known as the "flower child, free love" generation. Rebellion was everywhere. They grew a little older and found they had not found the abundant life after all, just bodies wrecked by drugs and ruinous living.

Almost any given day we read or hear on the news about some star or starlet from Hollywood that has entered drug rehab for addictions, divorced, or died either from overdose or suicide. Yet the glamour and shimmer of Hollywood continues to be held up before our children, as well us, as the greatest life. Fame and fortune seems to not bring anything but heartache.

What little boy and girl has not at some times been given to flights of fantasy about being famous or being a great world class athlete that wins it all. Still it is a common occurrence for athletes to go to drug rehab or to be caught in some crime

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of aggression. Is fame and fortune what it takes to have an abundant life?

The scripture tells us of a man we know, as the prodigal son who left home with his part of the family fortune and found it was not what life was about. I'm sure he would agree with the scripture that says, "**And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.**" **Luke 12:15** Jesus said he came that we might have life, not only life but also an abundant life.

First, however, please notice that it is God who wants us to have this abundant life. On the other hand, in the scriptures you will notice it is the devil that desires to kill, steal and destroy. One needs to look no farther than the fact that Jesus came to realize that God wants us to have a life that is full and rich. Allow me to offer you a few of what I feel are the keys to having this abundant life.

I- First Key is Jesus.

Look at the context of our text.

Joh 10:1-2 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. 2 But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

Joh 10:7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

Jesus made this statement in the context of discussing that he is the door for the sheepfold. It is obvious that He is talking about those who are called his own. Recently we have had the ad that asks, "Got milk." Some Christian shirts have asks, "Got Jesus?"

We can go back to the garden of Eden and find that God created man to have fellowship with Him. **Genesis 3:8** records for us the events that took place shortly after the fall. The intimacy of man with God had been broken. "**And they [Adam and Eve] heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.**"

Since this fall of man there has been a God sized and God shaped void in the life of men. May I say that there is no life that can totally be complete unless this void is filled? The void is filled when Jesus comes to live within.

Jesus is the one who hold the keys of both life and death. **Rev 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.**

So when we get the keys we really are just getting Jesus, the key and the door of entrance into the abundant life.

II- Second Key is to be in fellowship with Jesus.

Once we are in Christ as far as salvation is concerned we need to continue to grow in our relationship. It is possible to be a Christian positional and not be in fellowship with Christ because of sin. We has discussed in this series when we talked about resisting temptation and demolition of the old building infested with sin.

Paul's pray for the Ephesian church, found in **Ephesians 3:17-19** was, "**That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth,**

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and height; ¹⁹ And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.”

You may have often heard that God should be the guest in our home and at our table continually. Beloved for our lives to be lived by God’s blueprint it must be so.

Many times we have exercise equipment in our homes, you know the one that has the clothes hanging on it. Many exercise so they can walk to stay in physically shape.

A retired couple decided that they should walk two miles a day to stay in shape. They chose to walk a mile out on a lonely country road so they would have no choice but to walk back. At the one-mile mark on their first venture, the man asked his wife, 'Do you think you can make it back all right, or are you too tired?' 'Oh, no," she said. 'I'm not tired. I can make it fine.' 'Good," he replied. 'I'll wait here. You go back, get the car and come get me.'
Joyce Redding in Reader's Digest, February, 1980

Beloved many times we begin our walk with God and then abandon it. In order to have an abundant life we must continue even after we think we have arrived.

III- Third Key is to walk in fellowship with other believers.

Countless times when the storms of life blow the winds of adversity we know the value of being in the body of Christ and fellowship with other believers. **Heb 10:24-25** says, “**And let us consider one another to provoke unto love**

and to good works: ²⁵ Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

One of the things I have a privilege of is being in many homes. Each is different because each of us are different. One of the things that I think we have lost is the fellowship of visiting with others. One key to and abundant life is to have friends intertwined with your life.

IV- Fourth Key is to count Your Blessings.

Have you ever looked around at most homes? We hang the pictures....move in the furniture...hang the clothes in the closet. However, beloved we fail many times to take stock of the blessings. Every picture has a story, every piece of furniture has a tale, and our closets speak of blessings.

How long has it been since you have taken inventory of all the good things in your life. When we stop and look at our lives we will see indeed how abundant they are. Our lives are rich because of Christ, family, friends and our church.

Three Keys to Happiness

Someone has cited these three keys to happiness:

1. Fret not, He loves you (**John 13:1**)
2. Faint not, He holds you (**Psalm 139:10**)
3. Fear not, He keeps you (**Psalm 121:5**)

Source unknown

Let’s enjoy the presence of the Lord, the fellowship of others and count our blessings, keys to and abundant life.