



POWER OF RELATIONSHIP

By Booker Dismuke



The **master key** to our success as believers is found in **relationship**. Our success is: exertion of power over the devil and his invasion; bringing an end to his advances; and bringing salvation, correction, and unification to the Church. This is the mission of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. To provide us with such ability, a very basic element is required--that element is our relationship with Christ, without which we can never access this ability, nor can we be the true Church.

As the time of the cross drew near, Jesus began to ask his disciples the question of who the people thought he was. **"Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" (Matthew 16:13)** To have any good to great relationship, it is necessary to know people. Otherwise, the relationship is empty; there is no real connection. This is true of husband and wife, family, or friends. *Believe me:* It has great impact on how you relate to them, and how they relate to you. In the case of Jesus, his disciples said: **"Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets." (Matthew 16:14)** The people who walked at a distance, or who went for the loaves and fishes alone, had no real certainty of who Jesus was--their only connection was of what he could do **for them**. However, to those who walked close with him, and everywhere he went, they went, Jesus asked the same question: **"But whom say ye that I am?" (Matthew 16:15)** Simon Peter answered and said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." *Notice*--this knowledge came because of **relationship**. These men who immediately, at the request of Jesus, dropped their fishing nets and followed him, had come to have a very intimate knowledge of who Jesus was. **"Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 16:17)**

Not only can we come into a better understanding of Jesus, but he himself wants to confess us before the Father. It's a two-way street. **"I say unto thee, That thou art Peter."**

Just as we need to know Jesus, he needs to **know** us, and he wants to call us by name--that means relationship. Remember what Jesus said would happen at the **"Great White Throne"** judgment, when men are to account for their actions? **"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name done many wonderful works? Then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." (Matthew 7:22-23)**

So the solution is: we knowing Christ, and Christ knowing us; we in him, and him in us--this is relationship. **"Upon this rock (unshakable foundation: relationship) I will build my Church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18)** Whenever this condition (relationship) exists, the gates of hell cannot overcome us.

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