



## 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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A marriage is a perfect example of what God's design of the church is. The husband loves, cares, and provides for his wife and family. This also means he must have an intimate knowledge of their needs, desires, and concerns. The wife's knowledge, understanding, and support of her husband are vitally necessary.

Neither husband nor wife can rely on what other people have to say about the other as reality. Each must gain insight of their mate for themselves. What makes this union (relationship) really powerful is unity of purpose, which bears the fruit of teamwork. Destroying such a relationship is impossible, without destroying one or both partners. They are certain to achieve the goals for which they are striving.

No longer are we following for the loaves and fishes, or for reputation, fame and fortune (self-fulfillment). With such a union, we come to one purpose and one goal; therefore are we delegated authority and ability. *"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."* (Matthew 16:19)

It would be truly great to *experience* the principle: **no weapon** created against us should prosper; or, whatever we put *our hands* to do, should succeed. Often this is not so, for Satan has cheated many, and these have not discovered the master key needed to practice this dominion.

Relationship is the master key to transformation, and to the putting on of the ability of Christ. That means having control over your own life, being in control of



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dominated by *anything* in this world-- whether the forces are in your mind, in your body, or even outside your body. When we are in right relationship with him, we can exercise **our dominion in Christ**. Let us consider our walk with Jesus. Are we **close** to him, or do we walk at a distance? Have we **hid** (stored) his words in **our hearts**; or, do we pack our minds with the things that are esteemed by the world through the TV and radio and the secular educational message media? (Although we are in the world we are not of the world.)

Is his word **abiding** (remaining) on the inside? Have we gotten revelation of the truth that he is the great God Jehovah and questioned what is his strategy for us; or, is our reliance in what others have to say about him? Maybe you've given attention to the tradition of men due to a lack of conviction.

No matter what the case may be, unless we're loving the Lord with **all** of our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind and strength, our efforts are unsatisfactory and we fall short of his great glory. In this kind of heartless relationship, the gates of hell **will prevail**. It makes no difference who you are, or how well off you think you are; until we leave all to follow him and to love him, our **relationship** is empty and cannot be as God would have it to be.

This is not to say that we must stop caring for others or that we fail to recognize the cares and concerns of the world. It is not

what **you** do, and exercising power over your own body first. "Sickness can be a thing of the past."

It is not necessary to be

until we come into **continuous fellowship** with Christ that our relationship can be developed or have any real meaning come forth. Not until relationship happens can **we truly** care for others or meet the real needs of mankind, as we bring the Church unto the perfect man.

*"Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you."* (John 15:15)



### 3 Steps to Salvation



1. **Recognize** that your sin separates you from God: *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* (Romans 3:23)

2. **Realize** that God loves you, and believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins: *"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."* (John 3:16)

3. **Receive** Him into your life by faith: *"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."* (Romans 10:9)

