
The Keys of Prayer (Making Spiritual Contact)

The Keys of Holiness

Pastor Wil Nichols

August 16, 2020

Victorious Praise Fellowship Church of God in Christ

2116 Page Rd. Durham NC 27703

WEBSITE: www.VictoriousPraise.org

EMAIL: PastorWil@VictoriousPraise.org, Info@VictoriousPraise.org

PHONE: (919) 957-7500

Sermon: The Keys of Holiness: The Keys of Prayer (Making Spiritual Contact)

New Series Messages: “The Keys of Holiness”

- Matthew 16:19 (AV) **19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: ...**
- Sermon: The Keys of Authority (The Power to Bind & Loose)
- Sermon: The Keys of Agreement (The Power of One)
 - The Power of One Mind (Vision)
 - The Power of One Voice (Perfection)
 - The Power of One Spirit (Anointing)

Lesson Text

John 4:7–10 (AV)⁷ There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, **Give me to drink.** ⁸(For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) ⁹Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. ¹⁰Jesus answered and said unto her, **If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.**

John 4:15–19 (AV)¹⁵ The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw. ¹⁶Jesus saith unto her, **Go, call thy husband, and come hither.** ¹⁷The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, **Thou hast well said, I have no husband: ¹⁸For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.** ¹⁹The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

John 4:23–24 (AV)²³ **But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. ²⁴God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.**

Introduction

Accessing the Kingdom is series that details how Holiness gives us access to the Spiritual Keys given to us by Jesus Christ to get the things we need to Advance the Kingdom.

Normally when we look at prayer we talk about asking and receiving (petition), seeking and finding (devotion), knocking and opening (intercession). But today I want to look at contacting!

I’m a Science Fiction Buff or Nerd. I love stuff like Start Trek, Star Wars, Aliens, Marvel Comics. And what most of these movies have in common is making “First Contact” with Aliens.

Well at some point, God was an Alien to us (Unknown, Extra-terrestrial, Foreigner, Stranger); and the question is how do we make “First Contact”? Even more how do we maintain that contact?

We’ve all heard the phrase, “Prayer is the Key, Faith Unlocks the Door”! Today we will look at the Keys of Prayer, and Next week we will explore the Keys of Faith

Prayer is defined as speaking or communicating with God. In scripture it is described as a

The Keys of Prayer (Making Spiritual Contact)

Page 2 of 5 (August 16, 2020)

covenant relationship between God and his people in the Old Testament, and a personal bond through Jesus Christ in the New Testament.

Prayer is a special spiritual connection available between God and his people; a spiritual hot line if you will to those who qualify and activate the keys.

For a person to effectively pray, make contact with God, we must do three things

1. First, we must acknowledge and recognize God (John 9:31, God hears not sinners)
2. Second, we must desire and believe God (Heb 11:6, without faith you can't go to God)
3. Finally, they must respond to God when he calls (Matt 22:14, Many are called, few chosen)

If you are praying to God, but not listening and doing what He says, then you're essentially just talking to a dial tone!

John 4: 24 **God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.**

God is calling, but is anyone receiving the call, answering the call, or responding to the call?

Series and Sermon: The Keys of Holiness: The Keys of Prayer (Making Spiritual Contact)

“Receiving the Call, Answering the Call, Responding to the Call”

I. Receiving the Call (Recognizing the Contact)

John 4:10 Jesus answered and said unto her, **If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.**

To Receive the Call, we must first Recognize the Contact!

I've noticed that when my caller id says, “unknown caller”, or I don't know the number, I don't pick up. Or, how many of you have had someone respond to you with “Who Dis?”

God is Calling, but too many don't Recognize His Call. Some of us are not picking up, and some of us keep saying “Who Dis?”

Matthew 22:14 (AV)¹⁴ **For many are called, but few are chosen.**

When we don't know the voice and call of God; His calls go unanswered.

Sometimes we don't recognize the call because of Culture (John 4: 9 ... for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.)

Sometimes we don't recognize the call because of Association (Psalm 1:1 (AV)¹ Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.)

If you're ever going to receive the call, you better push past the culture and the association of this world and recognize the caller.

“You've Got to Lock Him In!”

John 4:10 ... **If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.**

At first she didn't know him, but wants she experience him, she locked him in!

John 4: 19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

When you experience God, Lock Him in; When you Study God, Lock Him in!

Revelation 2:29 (AV)²⁹ **He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**

Romans 10:17 (AV)¹⁷ So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

When you know God and "Lock Him In", You activate the Keys of Prayer to Receive the Call.

II. Answering the Call (Desiring the Contact)

John 4:15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

To Answer the Call, we must Desire the Contact!

Another thing that I've noticed is that even if I know who is calling, if I don't want to talk to them I will either ignore the call or send them straight to voice mail.

God is saying to some of us, "No you didn't just send me to voice mail"!

Matthew 5:6 **Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: ...**

We all have a hunger and a thirst, but like the heroine of our lesson text, we may be hungering and thirsting after the wrong thing.

John 4: 15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, ... ¹⁶ Jesus saith unto her, **Go, call thy husband, and come hither.** ¹⁷ The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, **Thou hast well said, I have no husband: ¹⁸ For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.**

We hunger and thirst for the wrong things; and like a tapeworm, it's killing us!

Mark 4:19 (AV)¹⁹ **And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.**

To Answer the Call, We must Hunger and Thirst for God through Prayer.

When this woman heard about a water that would quench her thirst, she answered the call.

Matth 5: **6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: *for they shall be filled.***

When we hunger after God, we are filled; when we thirst after God, our thirst is quenched.

Psalms 42:1-3 (NLT)¹ As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God. ² I thirst for God, the living God. When can I go and stand before him? ³ Day and night I have only tears

for food, while my enemies continually taunt me, saying, “Where is this God of yours?”

Matthew 6:33 (AV)³³ **But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**

When you desire God by Hungering and Thirsting after Him, You activate the Keys Prayer to Answer the Call!

III. Responding to the Call (Worshipping the Contact)

John 4:23–24 (AV)²³ **But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. ²⁴ God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.**

Activating the Keys of Prayer Require us to:

- To Receive the Call by Recognizing the Contact (Lock Him In)
- To Answer the Call by Desiring the Contact (Hunger and Thirst for Him)
- Finally, To Respond to the Call by Worshipping the Contact.

The final step to Activating the Keys of Prayer is Responding to God’s Call.

Prayer is a two-way communication. If you are praying to God, but not listening and doing what He says, then you’re just talking to a dial tone!

John 4: ²⁴ **God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.**

Responding to the Call of God requires us to Worship him in Spirit and in Truth!

Worship Him In Spirit:

- Galatians 5: ¹⁶ *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.
- Romans 8:1 (AV)¹ *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
- Galatians 5:22–23 (AV)²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Worship Him In Truth:

- John 17:17 (AV)¹⁷ **Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.**
- Psalm 119:11 (AV)¹¹ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.
- John 15:7 (AV)⁷ **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.**

When You Recognize the Call, Answer the Call, and Respond to the Call, Keep On Praying!

Luke 18:1 (AV)¹ ... that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

Always Pray, Never Stop Praying, Keep on Praying,

P.U.S.H: Pray Until Something Happens! Pray Until You Contact God, Pray until You Reach God; Pray until you Touch God, Get Your Miracle, Your Healing, Breakthrough!

The Keys of Prayer (Making Spiritual Contact)

Page 5 of 5 (August 16, 2020)

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Keys of Prayer (Making Spiritual Contact))

Lesson Text

- John 4:7–10, John 4:15–19, John 4:23–24

Sermon Outline (Notes)

I. *Receiving the Call (Recognizing the Contact)*

II. *Answering the Call (Desiring the Contact)*

III. *Responding to the Call (Worshiping the Contact)*

Questions (What was your Main Takeaway from Sunday's Sermon?)

I. **Getting to Know "Me"**

1. What prayer have you prayed the longest?
2. If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

II. **Into the Bible**

1. Jesus is our greatest example. Using Jesus' interaction with the Samaritan woman at the well, explain how Jesus received His call, answered His call, and responded to His call.
2. When Jesus' earthly ministry/calling was accomplished, the Bible said that Jesus was glorified and God was glorified in Him, (John 12:16, John 13:31, John 17:5). Does God glory in us when we respond properly to His call and how does God glorify us?

III. **Life Application**

1. In Sunday's sermon, Pastor Wil identified racism as one thing in our culture that keep people from recognizing the voice of God. What are some other things in our culture that prevent people from recognizing God's call? How will we overcome these things?
2. In John 4:10, Jesus offered the woman at the well "living water." Did she desire the living water? What should we do to develop and maintain a thirst for the living water offered by Jesus?