

'On This Rock I Will Build My Church'

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. **Matt 16:13-18**

1) The rock that the church will be built on:

- i) Revelation of who Jesus is and so revelation of the Father (When you've seen Jesus, you've seen the Father! 'He is the image of the invisible God.' Col 1:15) - '*You are the Christ, the son of the living God.*'
- ii) Revelation of who He says we are (receiving our identity) - '*And I tell you, you are Peter...*'

2) Two main areas the enemy attacks:

- i) The heart and character of the Father - Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden – Enemy comes to Eve '*Did God really say..?*')
- ii) Our Identity - Jesus receives His identity from the Father at His baptism, and then He's led into the wilderness where the enemy immediately attacks it, '*if you are the son of God.*'

3) The gates of hell will not prevail against it!

- i) The only way the enemy can have authority in our lives is if we come into agreement with him – 'If you believe the lie, you empower the liar!'
- ii) If we come into agreement with God – the truth – we give Him authority in our lives.

Let's get some revelation!

A) The Truth about God:

i) God is perfect in every way...In His love; His goodness; His faithfulness; His grace; His mercy...He can't be anything but perfectly loving, good, faithful, gracious, merciful...**And, He never changes!**

ii) How does the enemy get us to call into question the character of God? He uses our experiences/circumstances. 'If God is good why did He allow that to happen?' 'If God is faithful why isn't He providing for my needs?' 'If God is so loving, why am I suffering so much?'

iii) How can we position ourselves for greater revelation from the Father about who He is?

1) We must get excellent at being real with God:

What are you expecting?

Bill Johnson – Biggest barrier to breakthrough in the UK =
Disappointment that hasn't been dealt with!

Lies – If I get real about my disappointment I'm lacking in faith; I'm being ungrateful; I'll fall into self-pity; I'm dishonouring God.

Truth – Until you get real about your disappointment you will have a blockage to really knowing the perfect love and goodness of God

How to deal with disappointment:

- 1) Be brutally honest with God about how you feel without accusing Him
- 2) Read through the Psalms until you hear your own voice
- 3) From this place of connecting with your pain, begin to declare the truth about who God is.

Are you carrying any disappointment? About your friendships; your marriage; the fact that you're single; your children; your health; your job...

2) We must lay down our right to understand:

Lie – If only I could understand, then I could know peace

Truth – The peace that the Bible promises is peace that passes understanding

B) The Truth about us:

Mark 1:9-11 Jesus' Baptism:

'...Immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the spirit descending on Him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Beloved son; with you I am well pleased.'

i) What can we learn about our identity from Jesus' Baptism?

1) We are God's Beloved sons/daughters! WOW!

2) Our identity isn't based on what we do but on what Jesus did!

Lie – Our identity and value is dictated by how we perform. I perform to receive value

Truth – Our identity and value is dictated by how Jesus performed! Because I have value I can do all I'm called to do

Because the identity God gives us is nothing to do with what we've done, nothing we do can change it!

3) We have to learn to receive our identity

It's one thing to know who the Father says we are; it's another thing to receive it and live in the good of it

We can't afford to have anything in our thinking about ourselves that God doesn't have in His thinking about us!

How are you doing at receiving the truth about what the Father says about you? What are you speaking over yourself?

ii) How can we position ourselves for greater revelation from the Father about who He says we are?

1) Get good at receiving encouragement

2) Confess hidden stuff to break shame

3) Recognise that believing what God says about you and living in it isn't pride!