

**The Kingdom Of God
III
(Advancing)**

(8 09 09)

The Secret Things

- **Deut 29:29**
The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.
- **Certain secrets that God wants to reveal to us.**
- **Mat 13:11**
“The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you.”
- **Look at a secret/key that God revealed about the kingdom**

Gates of Hell Not Prevail

- Mat 16:18-19**

And I say to you, that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto you the keys of the kingdom of heaven...

- Ben Wong in El Salvador**

- What is the image that we have?**

- Enemy attacking us the church

- When does an army use a gate to attack?

- * Castle or fortress

- Church is built upon storming the gates of hell

- Something that we have missed in US churches**

- Secret revealed: We are at war

- “Church is not on defense, but on offense”

War

- **What is war like?**

- **Killing & destruction**
- **Bombing and shooting**
- **People fleeing. Losing homes, families.**
- **Lives destroyed**

- **Christians are at war**

- **1Jn 5:19 “We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.”**
- **John 10:10 “thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy”**
- **1Pet 5:8 “Your enemy is like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour”**

War

- **Some say “Don’t think so.. We have peace in country.”**
 - Do not understand there are only 2 choices
 - *James 4:4 – friendship with world is hatred toward God
 - *Jesus in dessert (Luke 4:1-7)
 - B/c he uses the weapons of deception (Rev 20:3, Mat 24:24)
 - *Dion Roberts of Ivory Coast
 - Results
 - *divorce rates, dysfunctional families, abortions, etc.
 - *kill, steal, and destroy
- **Is War a good thing?**
 - No... most of the time, except...
 - If we are to rescue the perishing from an evil force (i.e. WW II)
 - The reason that Jesus commissioned His Church (Mat 28:18)
 - B/c He came to set captives free, give sight to blind, release oppressed, and proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor (Luke 4:18)

That was Jesus, but am I Qualified?

- **Not spiritually equipped (never been trained in Bible College)**
 - **Acts 4:13 – after Pentecost**
 - * **Saw courage of Peter & John & realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and took note that these men had been with Jesus. (1st qualification)**
 - **Eph 6:13**
 - **Put on full armor so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground.**
 - **We misunderstood this to be a defensive posture**
 - **Remember Rocky**
 - **Armor is for war.. Who uses it just to defend?**
 - **Feet fitted with gospel of peace**
 - **Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**

That was Jesus, but am I Qualified?

- I have too many issues in my life
 - Power of deception
 - Focus on our issues (darts of enemies)
 - Can't move forward. Do not realized that
 - We have been set free (John 8:32)
 - We are more than conquerors (Rom 8:37)
 - Assured of victory (Col 2:15)
 - Prisoners of war in WW II
 - Freedom came only when they accepted it
 - You have freedom
 - Discipline to focus on task
 - 2Tim 2:4 "No one serving as soldiers get involved in civilian affairs."
 - Mat 6:33 "Seek 1st His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you."
 - 2Cor 6:7 "..in the power of God, with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left."

Secret of the Kingdom

- **Kingdom is not defensive nor stagnant**

- Mat 11:12

- From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

- Luke 16:16

- Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it.

- **Some examples**

- Wal-Mart's stampede last Thanksgiving

- Rhode Island's night club

- **Force like an army advancing**

- Breaking in the gates of hell and rescuing people from dominion of darkness

How Does This Applies to Me?

- Maybe you are a young believer, or maybe you have so many things going on in your life?
- How does this secret really applies to me?
- **Acts 16:25-30**
 - Paul & Silas in prison / Midnight praying and singing
 - Violent earthquake & all prison doors opened
 - Jailer panicked & wanted to kill self
 - Paul said that they were all there / Jailer convicted.
- **Acts 16:31**
 - “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household.”
 - Took them in / washed them / fed them
- **Act 16:34**
 - “He was filled with joy b/c he has come to believe in God – he and his whole household.”

Get in the Flow

-The jailer stepped into the flow of the kingdom

-So filled with joy

-It advanced quickly

-He and his whole household were swept into the Kingdom

-For most of us:

-More than anyone else we want our family / parents / children / friends to be saved.

-But our attentions are on darts of enemy

-This hurts / This stings

-Not everyday

-Secret revealed – we are not on defensive

-Get in the offensive flow.. Advance His kingdom

-Seek His Kingdom & His Righteousness. All these things will be added unto you.

Edification Time

- What spoke to you in this message
- Pray for one another.

