**KINGDOM ACHIEVER: BUILDING A GREAT CHURCH (2)**

**MATTHEW 16: 13 – 19**

We noted last week that a great church is a church where God is honoured. In such a church the people are sanctified because they are delivered from sin into salvation of their souls. Similarly, the people are saints because they live a new life that compliments their faith and the people are servants because they have a master over them.

In today’s text of Matthew 16:13 – 19, we see another part of a great church, as a church that overcomes the enemy. The enemy in our text is referred to as ***“the gates of hell”***. *Hades* is the Greek word that corresponds to the abode of the dead, or *Sheol* in the Old Testament. The gates of hell represent not only death itself, but also the present world system and all factors that lead to death and destruction, in fact, everything that is opposed to the Kingdom of Heaven. From Jesus’ interaction with His disciples, Jesus appears to be saying, as we make kingdom gains or begin to see the kingdom achieve her goals, expect the attacks of the wicked since the church is a terror to the enemy.

Since we know that the enemy is not going to give up, we must be a church that overcomes the enemy. So, a church that overcomes the enemy:

1. **The People Understand the levels of Spiritual Acquaintance: vs. 13 - 17**

By acquaintance, I mean to know someone or something personally, to become familiar with and have personal knowledge. This is because; in our text we discover two levels of relationship or spiritual acquaintance.

The ground for a church that overcomes the enemy is not based on what others say about Jesus, it is on what the Father has revealed. Some of us are joined the church based on what others believe Jesus is: He is a Saviour, a healer, a deliverer, a provider, a kind and merciful Lord. All these are what people say Jesus is. However, a church that overcomes the enemy knows the Lord personally.

If we are to overcome and remain victorious over the enemy, we must be a church who relate with the Lord based on revelation and not on flesh and blood. Churches that lack revelation depend on the testimony of others for ministry and activity.

1. **The People Understand the Limits of Satanic Adversaries:**

**Matt. 16: 18**

Jesus stresses a very important point here. Jesus refers to the adversaries we face as gates of hell. The term ***“gates of hell”*** (Plai hades - Greek) corresponds to the abode of the dead and activities in the underworld. The gates of hell represent not only death itself, but also the *present world system* that *leads to death and hell* – everything that is opposed to the Kingdom of Heaven. *That* is what Jesus tells us that he has overcome, so it will never overpower us.

**3. The People Understand the language of Spiritual Authority: Matt. 16: 19.**

Furthermore, a church that overcomes the enemy understands the language of spiritual authority. A language is a pattern of use of words or symbols that convey shared meaning among a group of people. If language is to be effective, it must be understood.

Jesus has given us the keys of the kingdom of heaven. The implication of this is access to the resources and graces that heaven has to offer. Authority is found in the terms ***“bind”*** and ***“lose”***. Jesus says whatever you bind or loose. Whatever refers to anything, any issue or matter that you have a desire for that scriptures and heaven expressly speaks about. To ***“bind”*** (deo-Greek) is to tie up, to prohibit, restrict the movement of something, and to compel obedience to an action by force. On the other hand, to ***“loose”*** (luo) is to untie, loose from ropes or straps, to set free, release from condition or circumstance; to destroy, and to ruin by tearing or breaking.

The reason some of us have problems in getting results as a church in our prayers is the wrong use of the language of authority when we pray or confront demonic spirits. Our prayer language only satisfies our psychological passion and does not achieve result.

There are five languages of authority in spiritual warfare in the Bible used by Jesus. These are:

1. **bind** - Matt. 16: 18,
2. **loose** – Matt. 16: 18,
3. **cast out** – Matt. 8:16,
4. **come out** – Mark 9:25 Acts 16:18, and
5. **rebuke** –Matt. 17:18, Jude 1:9.

**Prayer points**

1. Every evil movement in my house by night working against my destiny, I bind you in the name of Jesus.
2. Every incantation and ritual working against my destiny I rebuke you in the name of Jesus.

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**HYMNS**

**Oba aiku, airi, orison ogbon**

1. Oba aiku, airi, orisun ogbon,

T’O wa n’nu imole t’ oju ko le wo;

Olubukun julo, Ologo julo,

Alagbara, Olusegun, ‘Wo la yin.

2. Lai simi, lai duro, ni idakeje

O njoba lo, O ko si se alaini;

Giga ni idajo Re bi oke nla,

Ikuku Re b’ isun ire at’ ife!

3. O nte gbogbo eda alaiye l’ orun,

Nipa imisi Re won ngbe igbe won;

A ndagba, a ngbile bi ewe igi,

A si nro, sugbon bakanna l’ Olorun.

4. Baba nla Ologo Imole pipe,

Awon angeli Re wole lese Re;

Iyin wa la mu wa, jo ran wa lowo,

K’ a le r’ogo imole to yi O ka.

# BH 43

1. Immortal, invisible God only wise,

In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,

Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,

Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,

Nor wanting, nor wasting Thou rulest in might;

Thy justice like mountains high soaring above,

Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

3. To all, life Thou givest to both great and small;

In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;

We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,

And wither and perish but naught changeth Thee.

4. Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,

Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;

All praise we would render; O help us to see

'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee! ***Amen****.*

**BH 264**

1. There shall be showers of blessing;

This is the promise of love;

There shall be seasons refreshing,

Sent from the Saviour above.

***Showers of blessing, Showers of blessing we need:***

***Mercy-drops round us are falling.***

***But for the showers we plead.***

2. There shall be showers of blessing;

Precious reviving again;

Over the hills and the valleys,

Sound of abundance of rain

***Showers of blessing, Showers of blessing we need:***

***Mercy-drops round us are falling.***

***But for the showers we plead.***

3. There shal1 be showers of blessing:

Send them upon us, O Lord;

Grant to us now a refreshing,

Come, and now honor Thy Word.

***Showers of blessing, Showers of blessing we need:***

***Mercy-drops round us are falling.***

***But for the showers we plead.***

4. There shal1 be showers of blessing:

Oh, that today they might fal1,

Now as to God we're confessing,

Now as on Jesus we call!

***Showers of blessing, Showers of blessing we need:***

***Mercy-drops round us are falling.***

***But for the showers we plead***

# YBH 572

1. OJO ibukun yio si ro!”  
Eyi n’ ileri ife;  
A o ni itura didun  
Lat’ odo Olugbala

***Ojo ibukun! Ojo ibukun l’ a nfe;  
Iri anu wa yi wa ka,***

***Sugbon ojo l’ a ntoro.***

2. “Ojo ibukun yio sir o!”  
Isoji iyebiye;  
Lori oke on petele,

Iro opo ojo mbo  
***Ojo ibukun! etc.***

3. Ojo ibukun yio si ro!”  
Ran won si wa, Oluwa!  
Fun wa ni itura didun,  
Wa, f’ ola fun oro Re.  
***Ojo ibukun! etc.***

4. “Ojo ibukun yio si ro!”  
 Nwon ‘ba je le wa loni!  
 B’a ti njewo f’ Olorun wa,  
 T’ a npe oruko Jesu,  
 ***Ojo ibukun! etc.***