

2017 theme:

"THE DILIGENT HANDS WILL RULE" Pro 12:24

- BE OBIDIENT – DO NOT DOUBT (Part 1)
- BE RIGHTEOUS (Part 2)
- BE TRUTHFUL (Part 3)
- SEEK AND FIND KNOWLEDGE (Part 4)
- DEMONSTRATE WORKS (Part 5)
- RELATE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT(Part 6)
- DO NOT BREATHE ANXIETY (PART 7)
- SOW A SEED OF THANKSGIVING (PART 8)
- BE STEADFAST (PART 9)
- GIVE - THERE IS POWER IN GIVING (PART 10)
- PRAYER OF THE RIGHTEOUS AVAILS MUCH (PART 11)
- THE DILIGENT'S EYE MUST BE OPEN (PART 12)
- GOD'S GLORY RAINS ON THOSE WHO FEAR HIM (PART 13)
- STAND FIRM IN YOUR FAITH (PART 14)
- CLEAN YOUR HOUSE (PART 15)
- SUMMARY: 16 KEY TOOLS FOR AN EFFECTIVE TOOL BOX (PART 16)
- TAKE CHARGE (PART 17)
- TAKE SMALL STEPS (PART 18)
- TAKE SMALL STEPS #2 (PART 19) – BEWARE OF MOCKERS AND SCOFFERS
- SOW FOR HIS TREASURE (PART 20)
- FIX YOUR THOUGHTSS ON JESUS (PART 21)
- NOT HOW SOON BUT HOW WELL (PART 22)
- GOD FIGHTS THE BATTLE OF THE DILIGENT (PART 23)
- SOMEONE ELECTED AS MANAGER MUST PROVE FAITHFUL (PART 24)
- AND THE GATES OF HAIL WILL NOT PREVAIL (PART 25)

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AND THE GATES OF HELL WILL NOT PREVAIL (PART 25)

Text: Matthew 16:17-19

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^[a] I will build my church, **and the gates of hell^[b] shall not prevail against it.** ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed^[c] in heaven."

Brethren, the only thing that Peter did to receive this overwhelming promise over the other disciples was his RESPONSE!

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The same question was thrown out at the 12 disciples but Peter responded with speed and conviction.

There are two things: RESPONSE & WHAT LED TO THE RESPONSE.

BEHIND THE RESPONSE:

- **FAITH** IN ALL HE HAD SEEN JESUS DO
- **REFLECTIONS** AS HE WAS COMING ALONG
- **BURDEN** FOR ACTION

Faith is key: "Without faith, no one can please God" Hebrews 11:6.

Reflections: "A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart." Luke 6:45

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Burden: Matthew 17 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ²There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. ³Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

⁴ **Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."**

Brethren, Peter's response was driven by Faith, Reflection and Burden for action.

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ACTS 1: ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." ⁸ You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

For Peter, with so much burden and whom Jesus had told, on him, He will build the church and gates of hell will not prevail, he waited expectantly for the coming of the Holy Spirit:

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Acts 2:

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place..... ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁶A crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.

¹³Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

¹⁴Then Peter (filled with Faith, Reflections and Burden) stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:"

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From that moment on, Peter was launched into ministry.

Act 2: ³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."

⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

With all the persecutions, Peter continued the ministry and in his book, he laid down the secrets that led to his success:

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1. The living hope through the resurrection of Christ (1Peter 1:2-4)
2. Holiness (1 Peter)

¹⁴As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy.

3. Knowing whom you are (1 Peter 2)

⁹You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

4. Living for God

5. Suffering for being a Christian.

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**GOD HAS SAID THAT "THE DILIGENT HANDS WILL RULE" AND
THE GATES OF HELL WILL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT"**

We need to respond well and be driven by:

- **FAITH** IN ALL WE HAD SEEN JESUS DO
- **REFLECTIONS** AS WE ARE COMING ALONG IN FAITH
- **BURDEN** FOR ACTION

**These should be surrounded by the five (5) keys Peter has
given us.**

God Bless You!

2017 PRAYER POINTS

1. **Prayer over the message of today**
2. **“Lord, please extend your love to all nations through prayers offered on this alter (Psalm 117)**

Let our prayers be acceptable unto you.

3. **Prayer for Leadership of Nations ...**

- a. Be anointed leaders of honour like Cyrus (**Isa 45:1, Rm 9:21**)
- b. Give them spirit of humility in leadership and wisdom to lead well
- c. Any leader that fails to obey God's Word, should be replaced

4. **Troubles/Wars in nations.**

5. **Leave no room for diseases; cleanse our land**

6. **Missions/Ministries & Missionaries/Ministers**

7. **Marriages, Children & families**

8. **Members of the fellowship – grace to be diligent**

9 **Needs in fellowship**

