

UNSTOPPABLE GOD'S POWER IN HIS CHURCH

Matthew 16:18 NKJV: And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

This week we are beginning a brand new series called “Unstoppable” which is going to be very important for us as we continue to deal with all the changes that have taken place in our lives because of this pandemic. It seems like everything that we’ve been accustomed to has stopped. The way we work, the way we play, the way we travel, the way we interact with others, etc. all came to a screeching halt for a while and now we’re trying to figure out how to restart various aspects of our lives. But it’s been very comforting throughout this time to realize that the “church” has not stopped - that it has continued to operate, serve, minister, and function despite having to make some adjustments. The “Unstoppable Church” is a Biblical principle and promise found in our focus passage this week. Let’s look at how and why God’s power in His Church is “Unstoppable!”

1A) According to Matthew 16:18, who built or formed the church, what was the foundation, and how strong would the church be?

1B) Many people are confused by this verse and believe that Peter, whose new name means “little rock or stone” was the foundation. But what statements of Truth do you find concerning the Rock from the following verses??

1 Corinthians 10:4:

2 Samuel 22:2-3:

Psalms 18:2:

2A) Look at the following passages to see how Scripture describes the church that was to be built.

Matthew 26:31:

Acts 2:42:

1 Peter 3:8:

1 Corinthians 12:27:

2B) PERSONAL: Which description means the most to you and why?

Read Genesis 2:7:

3A) What are we told about the creation of the first body?

3B) According to Genesis 2:15, what did God do next?

3C) Compare Genesis 2:7 with Acts 2:1-4. What do you find that was similar between the creation of man and the creation of the church?

Read Ephesians 4:10-13:

4A) What details are we given about the structure of the church and its function or purpose?

4B) What additional details are we given in Ephesians 4:15-16 about what the people of the church are supposed to be doing and how we're able to accomplish this goal?

5) If the Church is the "Body" of Christ, then what does Luke 19:10 reveal about what the purpose and ministry of the church should be?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-26:

6A) How does Paul describe the unity of the body and how can this also be applied to the church? Verses 12-13

6B) How does Paul describe the diversity that is necessary within the body? Verses 14-20

6C) How does Paul confirm the importance of each part of the body and what warning does he give? Verses 21-26

7) PERSONAL: Which part of the Body do you think best describes you and are you serving in that area?

ACT: As believers in Jesus Christ, we are part of His Body - the Church. We need to understand that whether we're a hand, a foot, a leg, an arm, a mouth, an ear, an eye, or whatever part we are, it's important for us to fulfill our function by allowing the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us to reach those who are lost and to build up the Body of Christ and keep it Strong. Every part needs to function. If some parts are not involved then the Body is not functioning as it should and cannot be as effective as God wants us to be. Let's ask God to clearly show us where and how He wants us to be involved so He can love others and change the world through His Power at work in His Church.

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- This week let's look at passages that describe the Rock and why we can trust in Him.

Monday:

Psalm 18:2 NLT

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety.

Tuesday:

Psalm 62:2-7 NLT

He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will never be shaken. So many enemies against one man—all of them trying to kill me. To them I'm just a broken-down wall or a tottering fence. They plan to topple me from my high position. They delight in telling lies about me. They praise me to my face but curse me in their hearts. Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will not be shaken. My victory and honor come from God alone. He is my refuge, a rock where no enemy can reach me.

Wednesday:

Psalm 95:1-7 NLT

Come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come to him with thanksgiving. Let us sing psalms of praise to him. For the Lord is a great God, a great King above all gods. He holds in his hands the depths of the earth and the mightiest mountains. The sea belongs to him, for he made it. His hands formed the dry land, too. Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our maker, for he is our God. We are the people he watches over, the flock under his care. If only you would listen to his voice today!

Thursday:

Psalm 144:1-2 NLT

Praise the Lord, who is my rock. He trains my hands for war and gives my fingers skill for battle. He is my loving ally and my fortress, my tower of safety, my rescuer. He is my shield, and I take refuge in him. He makes the nations submit to me.

Friday:

Isaiah 26:4 NLT

Trust in the Lord always, for the Lord God is the eternal Rock.

Saturday:

Matthew 7:24-25 NLT

"Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock."

Sunday:

Romans 9:32-33 NLT

Why not? Because they were trying to get right with God by keeping the law instead of by trusting in him. They stumbled over the great rock in their path. God warned them of this in the Scriptures when he said, "I am placing a stone in Jerusalem that makes people stumble, a rock that makes them fall. But anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced."



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