



Kingdom Life Ministry Presents:

# Keys to Kingdom Living

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Dear Friend,

## When the 'Spirit of Stupid' Overcomes You!

I don't know about you but I certainly blurt out things at times that are definitely 'off the wall' comments. Almost all of us have been known to say things that we wish we could take back. In fact it is almost humorous to watch someone say something and try to take it back but to no avail. Once spoken it becomes fair game for all the rest of us as we watch the individual try and distance themselves from the ludicrous comment the person just made.

Almost all of us have watched men becoming overwhelmed by a 'spirit of stupid' at times during their lives while having a conversation with their wife. Normally it never happens when they are alone but always when surrounded by a large group of people. I don't know of many men, who at one time or another, while in a discussion with their spouse wish they could grab those words they had just spoken and put them back into their mouths.

In fact it is interesting to watch couples that are gathered together in a room when this happens. The man will say something so profoundly idiotic to his wife that immediately everyone is wide-awake and alert. The women lean forward in their chairs or if standing they position themselves into full alert mode. They don't even have to be in the same room or even hear everything that was said, they just know that a man has said something incredibly stupid. The men on the other hand are backing away from what just happened. They know that what was said is indefensible and any attempt to defend him on their part will only draw themselves into the fray. Women lean into the fray while the men are shrinking back hoping that no one will even know they are present. I have witnessed the looks between the men that say, "This man is definitely on his own, in fact I don't even recognize this man at all." I have seen men look around the room for support and quickly realize that they are on their own and if he does catch the eye of another man he will see that there is to be found no help from them. He is definitely on his own with no help in site.

Now if this is a young man and only married a couple of years, he would probably plough ahead and try to offer up an explanation for his crazy remark that will somehow give him a way out with dignity, but it will be of no avail. Even if he were to present a semi-good argument the rest of the women will pounce on him like he was a special 'dark chocolate desert' at the Hershey Hotel. Some men will try and tread water so to speak hoping to keep their dignity intact but they in turn will slowly sink, as their own defense becomes the very anchor that drags them to the bottom. Older men just know that there is no saving themselves from what they have just said. They have tried all the above and realize that there is no hope in redeeming themselves so they throw themselves on the altar of sacrifice hoping that their embarrassment and ultimate demise will be short lived. Insanity is their only defense but unlike the courtrooms of America this insanity defense will come with a sentence that will be carried out. "Yes I am crazy!" you will say but everyone knows that because only a crazy person would have said it in the first place. "What was I thinking?" they will say to themselves. "Everything was going along so great why did I say something so stupid!"

## When we have in mind the things of God!

I think we all are in agreement that we would like to always have in mind the things of God and not say really foolish things. Perhaps that is why we like Peter so much. Peter represents the universal man because almost all of us identify ourselves with him more than any other person in the scriptures. The sad thing is we use Peter's life as a way of excusing away our saying crazy things as a way of life rather than overcoming the urge and not say them at all. But lets look at a couple of Peter's most notable situations where the pendulum of saying something incredibly awesome and incredibly stupid has swung to the opposite extremes in his life. (Lets go to Matthew 16: 13-19 to follow this exchange)

In the first instance Peter and the disciples were with Jesus in the region of Caesarea Philippi. This was definitely one of the times he was the star and what a moment for Peter it was to be, Jesus had just asked everyone, "Who do the people say the Son of Man is?" and after a brief exchange with the other disciples Peter said, "You are the Christ, the son of the living God." Jesus looked over at Peter and responded by telling him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven." This must have been an incredibly high point in Peter's life. To have Jesus say this about what you just said must have puffed Peter up and those who were present must have been amazed as well.

I really don't know how many people who wouldn't have been excited about getting that answer right. The other disciples around Peter probably clapped him on the back and kidded with him for getting the answer right. They probably were still laughing and kidding around with Peter when Jesus continues on to say this over Peter about the manner in

which he received his revelation, “And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

This is a very important segment of scripture because it really deals with how we as Christians are to have healthy fruitful conversations. Either it comes from God or from out of our old carnal nature. This is what Jesus was trying to get Peter and the disciples to understand when he asked him “Who do people say that I am?” He was looking at not only what their answer would be but also how they arrived at their answer. Jesus was pleased when Peter answered correctly and quickly pointed this out to Peter and the disciples that the manner in which he received his revelation was what he was looking for.

When Jesus said, “And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church” he was saying that the ‘rock’ the church would be built upon was the revelation of having his *mind on the things of God* and not on the *things of man*. Jesus was saying to Peter and the disciples that when they receive revelation like Peter just did it comes not from your old nature but it comes from our Father to you through the Holy Spirit. It is on ‘that rock’ of revelation that I will build my church.

Jesus was in essence saying, “Peter when you speak like you just did you are saying what is on my Father’s heart and when you do you will find in those words the keys to the kingdom. When you speak my Father’s words you will see that, “whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven.” Don’t you see Peter that when you have the mind of God rather than having your mind centered on the things of this world that, “Whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” When you get a revelation that comes from the natural carnal mind it is not based on the things of God but rather on the things of man. The things of man come out of our sin nature and do not have the things of God nor do they contain the keys to the Kingdom.” When we grab a hold of this revelation we will find the secret that Jesus spoke of in John 15:16, “The the Father will give you whatever you ask for in my name.”

### **When we have in mind the things of man!**

Jesus was explaining to his disciples of his going to Jerusalem and the things he must suffer, the type of death and resurrection he must go through. When Peter hears this he immediately is outraged and says to Jesus, “Never, Lord! This shall never happen to you!” The words are barely out of Peter’s mouth when Jesus says; “Get behind me Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”

What a contrast from what seemed to happen just moments before where Peter was praised for having not the mind of man but the mind of the Father. Now it seemed the table has been turned and Peter found himself having the mind of Satan, not the mind of the Father. Peter in his own wisdom is forbidding Jesus to die on the cross. Nothing takes the heavenly air of praise from under our wings than a strong rebuke from Jesus. Here we find within a couple of paragraphs two illustrations of what happens when you receive from the mind of God versus the mind of man. It just happens that Peter, the universal man, is more than eager to demonstrate how easy it is to be awesome one minute and look like the village idiot the next.

That really is the crux of man’s problem isn’t it, we really don’t have our mind on the things of God and when we do not we are more than likely to say some really crazy things that get us in all kinds of problems. Paul said it so eloquently in Colossians chapter three. He told us to set our hearts on the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God and also to “Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” Isn’t that the truth? We died to the old ways of receiving revelation and because our life is now hidden with Christ in God our old way of thinking have been put to death.

**Lord as we spend this Christmas with family and friends may we be conscious of the words that come forth from our mouths that they would be a pleasing fragrance of blessing to all we come in contact with. Grant us in 2010 the grace to put to death our old nature with its old patterns of thinking and speaking so that we may be renewed into your image.**

Merry Christmas,



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