

I. In Matthew 16 the way to build up the church and the enemy of the building are revealed:	A. Christ, the Son of the living God, builds the church on Himself as the rock, with stones such as Peter, a transformed person. <u>Mat 16:16</u> And Simon Peter answered and said, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. <u>17</u> And Jesus answered and said to him, Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in the heavens. <u>18</u> And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.	
	B. The gates of Hades, Satan's authority or power of darkness, attack the church to frustrate the Lord from building up the church.	
	C. In order to build the church, the Lord had to pass through death and enter into resurrection:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The church was produced through Christ's death and resurrection. 2. The way to build the church is to be crucified and resurrected. 3. The church exists and is built up only in the realm of resurrection through crucifixion.
	D. Peter, with a good heart, rebuked the Lord and tried to prevent the Lord from going to Jerusalem to be crucified::	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It was not Peter but Satan who came out through one of the gates of Hades, the gate of Peter's self, to try to frustrate the Lord from building up the church. <u>Matt. 16:23</u> But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men. 2. The self, the mind, and the soul-life are the main gates through which Satan comes forth to attack and damage the church. <u>Matt. 16:24</u> Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. <u>25</u> For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it. <u>26</u> For what shall a man be profited if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul-life? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul-life?
II. The building up of the church depends on the shutting up of the gates of Hades through the exercise of three keys:	A. We need to learn to exercise the key of denying the self::	1. The flesh is the created body corrupted by sin, the nature of Satan; the self is the created soul plus the satanic mind, the mind of Satan.
		2. When the mind, the thought, of Satan was injected into the human soul, the human soul became the self, the embodiment of Satan:
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Before Eve took the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil into her body, the thought, the mind, of Satan was injected into her soul. b. After Eve's mind was poisoned by Satan's thought, her emotion was aroused, and then her will was exercised to make a decision to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge. c. By this time every part of the soul—the mind, the emotion, and the will—had been poisoned. d. The self is the embodiment of the soul-life, which is expressed through the mind; thus, the self, the soul-life, and the mind are three-in-one. e. Behind these three is Satan, who manipulates the self in order to damage the church.
		3. The self is the soul declaring independence from God:
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Lord does not have regard for what we do; rather, He has regard for our dependence on Him. (1) We should depend not only on God but also on the Body, on the brothers and sisters. <u>Exo. 17:11</u> And when Moses lifted his hand up, Israel prevailed; and when he let his hand down, Amalek prevailed. <u>12</u> But Moses' hands were heavy, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it; and Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. <u>13</u> And Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. (2) The Lord and the Body are one; hence, if we are dependent on the Body, we are also dependent on the Lord, and if we are independent of the Body, we are spontaneously independent of the Lord. (3) When we are dependent, the self is gone, and instead of the self, we have the Lord's presence and are full of peace. (4) Only when the self has been utterly dealt with by the cross are we able to touch the reality of the Body of Christ and come to know the Body.
	4. The following are some expressions of the self :	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. With the self there are ambition, pride, and self-exaltation. <u>Matt. 20:27</u> And whoever wants to be first among you shall be your slave; <u>Phil. 2:3</u> Doing nothing by way of selfish ambition nor by way of vainglory, but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourselves; b. With the self there are self-righteousness, self-justification, and exposing, criticizing, and condemning others. c. With the self there are introspection and self-despising.

II. The building up of the church depends on the shutting up of the gates of Hades through the exercise of three keys:	A. We need to learn to exercise the key of denying the self::		d. When we are in the self, we can be offended by the church, the leading ones, or the saints.
			e. With the self there are disappointment and discouragement.
			f. With the self there are self-love, self-preservation, self-seeking, and self-pity.
			g. With the self there are murmurings and reasonings.
			h. With the self there is natural affection (friendship) based on natural taste and preference.
			i. With the self there are the matters of being opinionated and dissenting.
			j. When we are in the self, we are individualistic and independent.
		5. If we exercise the key of denying the self to lock up the self, it would be impossible for us to be offended; blessed are those who are not offended:	a. If we can be offended, it is proof that we are full of self.
			b. If my self has been locked up, I will not be offended no matter what you do to me or how you treat me.
		6. We need to learn to exercise the key of denying the self to lock up the self in every situation:	a. Whether a situation is for you or against you, whether the brothers love you or hate you, you must lock up the self.
			b. If the self is locked up, the church will be built up.
	B. We need to learn to exercise the key of taking up the cross:	1. To take up the cross simply means to take up the will of God; the cross is God's will: <u>Matt. 26:39</u> And going forward a little, He fell on His face and prayed, saying, My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.	a. The Lord Jesus was not forced to go to the cross, like a criminal; He was willing to go because the cross was God's will.
			b. The Lord Jesus was willing to be crucified so that through His death, His life might be released to produce and build up the church.
			c. The cross was a great suffering to the Lord, but He cared not for the suffering but for the fulfillment of God's purpose.
		2. Let him...take up his cross (Matt. 16:24) means that we are not forced to bear the cross but that we willingly take it up:	a. Our husband, wife, and children are God's will and are therefore our cross.
			b. The one church is God's will, and every brother and sister in the church is God's will; thus, to bear the cross is to bear the church and to bear all the saints so that we would have the genuine oneness.
		3. We need not only to take up our cross but also to carry our cross, that is, to remain on the cross, keeping our old man under the termination of the cross day by day:	a. We have received the divine life through the Lord's crucifixion; now, in order to be built up in this life, we need to willingly and happily take up the cross.
		b. We should not care for our taste, feeling, or consciousness; rather, we should care only for God's will, which is that we would have the genuine oneness.	
	C. We need to learn to exercise the key of losing the soul-life:	1. To save the soul-life is to please the self by allowing the soul to have its enjoyment; to lose the soul-life is to lose the enjoyment of the soul:	a. God created man as a soul with the need for enjoyment.
			b. Receiving God into his spirit and expressing God through the soul should be man's joy and amusement.
c. The Lord Jesus lost the enjoyment of His soul in this age so that He might find His soul-life in the coming age; we must do the same.			
d. If we save our soul-life in this age, we will lose it in the coming age, but if we lose our soul-life in this age, we will find it in the coming age.			
e. We need to love the Lord Jesus and to hate and deny our soul-life, not loving our soul-life even unto death.			
2. If we are willing to lose all our present soulish enjoyment for the Lord's sake, for the sake of the church, and for the sake of all the saints, others will be nourished by us and will be built up through us; this is not a suffering but a joy.			
3. If we lose our soul-life now for the Lord's sake, we will save it, and it will be saved, or gained, at the Lord's coming back. <u>Heb. 10:39</u> But we are not of those who shrink back to ruin but of them who have faith to the gaining of the soul.			
4. The kingdom reward of sharing the King's joy in ruling over the earth in the manifestation of the kingdom depends upon whether we save our soul-life in this age or lose it.			
5. At the Lord's revelation, some believers will enter into the joy of the Lord, and some will suffer in weeping and gnashing of teeth; to enter into the Lord's joy is the salvation of our souls.			

Experience: ① The gates are mentioned in verse 18 of Matthew 16, and the keys in verse 19. The enemy has the gates, but we have the keys....The enemy's gates are much bigger than the keys, but the gates are nonetheless under the control of the keys...Verses 21 through 26 not only expose the gates but also reveal the keys.

The first key is the denial of the self. Self is an open gate, but self-denial is the key that shuts it. The second key is the taking up of the cross. This means that the cross is a key to shut up the self, the soul, and the mind. The third key is the losing of the soul. Therefore, the three keys here are the denying of the self, the taking up of the cross, and the losing of the soul. Day by day we need to use these keys. Yes, Peter used the keys on the day of Pentecost and in the house of Cornelius. But we also need the three subjective keys found in this portion of the Word....The self, the soul, and the mind are three crucial subjective gates. If these subjective gates are locked, no principalities or powers will be able to come in.

Marriage life model: To build up a marriage life, the husband should love his wife and the wife should obey her husband. A husband loves his wife is like watering the plants every day, by pouring the affection and admiration in his wife every day. When the husband pours in the water, the wife's many problems will vanish away. The wife should also evaluate and support her husband. However, when trying to put these matters into practice, Satan's triple gates of self, soul, and mind will get in the way and make a fuss over the mutual misunderstandings, dissatisfaction, and irritation. Thanks be to the Lord. You are saved, and there are keys to control over enemy's gates. These keys are i) to deny the self, ii) to bear the cross, and iii) to lose the soul-life. To build up the marriage life is to use your three keys each day in small portions, and put the self, soul and mind under proper control. If you truly do this by faith and grace, you will be able to build up the marriage life and you will discover that you are getting great help from your spouse. Hallelujah!

② Because the self is something independent, the self is the greatest problem to the building up of the Body. We should be dependent not only on God but also on the Body, on the brothers and sisters. Whenever we are independent of the brothers and sisters, we are in the self, in the independent soul. For us today, being independent of the Body is equal to being independent of God. This is a matter not of doctrine but of experience. If you check with your experience, you will realize that when you were independent of the brothers and sisters, you had the sense that you were also independent of God. Likewise, when you were isolated from the brothers and sisters, you had the sense that you were also isolated from God... Having the Lord's presence depends on whether or not you are dependent on the Body and are rightly related to the Body. If you are rightly related to the Body, you will have the Lord's presence in every place. But if you are not rightly related to the Body, then no matter where you may be, you will not have the Lord's presence.

School life model (junior high, high school students): In order to have a blessed school life, you need to go to school with the Lord's presence. Empirically speaking, the Lord's presence depends on whether you depend on the body and live the body life. Not any and every individual can oppose Satan, but the body overcomes Satan. Be sure to live in the body life.

Therefore, you need to: i) Pray-read the word and pray for your school life with the brothers and sisters, every morning 7 times a week. ii) Attend a family meeting for yourself for 15 to 30 minutes each week. iii) Join the youth gathering on Saturday and enjoy the Lord together. iv) Consecrate the morning on the Lord's Day for the Lord and participate in the Lord's meeting for youth. If you carry out such body life, the Lord's presence will be with you abundantly over time. The Lord's presence protects you from all temptations and the trials you cannot bear. For example, in order to be protected from your depraved classmates with insidious bullying by Satan's agitation and from the temptation of fallen sin, you need the Lord's presence. When many people encountering such situation with unbearable trials, they become extremely weak, and are corrupted by falling into the temptation. But thanks for the protection of the Lord's presence. Enjoy the Lord's presence in the body life, trust in the Lord, and have a blessed school life. Amen!

③ We may talk a great deal about the building. However, when certain things take place to touch us, the self is open. Because we are open to Hades, something from Hades—Satan—comes out. How we need to use the key of self-denial to lock the self! The way to keep from being offended by others is to lock up yourself by denying yourself. Blessed are those who are not offended... If my self has been locked up, I will not be offended no matter what you do to me or how you treat me. To be disappointed is a proof that you are in the self... If the self is locked up, we shall have the building. If you exercise the key of self-denial, others may be offended, but you will not be offended. Instead, you will be built up because the self in you has been locked up. We all need to use the prevailing key of self-denial to lock the self, the soul, and the mind. Otherwise, the building up of the church will be frustrated.

Business life model: You need to be properly guided by the Lord in the important aspects of your business life, or in the stage of your career change. However, when you are in such important stage, the self comes out easily. The gate of the self is actually the gate of Hades, from which Satan comes out. And Satan uses the self to guide you in the wrong direction. Use the "self-denial", which is the key to actually close the gate of Hades. Call the name of the Lord, take the grace and reject self that is independent from God. Then Satan will not come out and the Lord's grace will guide you to the gate of righteousness. In order to carry out this matter, you need to pray-read the Word and be revived every morning before you meet the various types of trials at work. When in the morning, you may be tired still but never skip the every morning revival, thinking that it would be better to sleep for an extra 15 minutes than getting up to pray. How can you say that the trial will not come and the gate will not be opened on that day when you are off guard? In order to live a spiritual and sanctified life, Chapter 5 of 1Thessalonians has the saying as follows:

15 See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always pursue what is good both for one another and for all. 16 Always rejoice, 17 Unceasingly pray, 18 In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit;

The key to the success of business life is to utilize your spirit, pray constantly, maintain the joy, and give thanks to everything by using the key of self-denial to close off the gate of Hades.

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試練の中での慰め — 主に信頼する

1 主に信らいするは 何とあまいこと、
やくそくのうえに われ安そくする。

(復) イエス、イエス、信頼する、その都度たしか；
イエス、イエス、とうといイエス、主は生けるかみ。

2 イエスにしん頼して、とうとい血を信じる；
いやし、きよめる血、単純にしんじる。

3 イエスにしん頼する、つみ、自己を解く；
歓喜、安そく、いのち、めぐみを受ける。

4 イエスにしん頼する、何たるよろこび！
われは主とともに えい遠にいたる。

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试炼中の安慰—信靠主

一 信靠耶稣何其甘甜，抓祂话语作把握，
安息在祂应许上面，只知主曾如此说。
耶稣、耶稣，何等可靠，我曾试祂多少次；
耶稣、耶稣，我的至宝，祂是活神不误事。

二 信靠耶稣，何其甘甜，信祂宝血能洗净；
信心简单，血有效验，疾病医治，罪洗清。
耶稣、耶稣，何等可靠，我曾试祂多少次；
耶稣、耶稣，我的至宝，祂是活神不误事。

三 信靠耶稣，真是甘甜，救我远离罪与己；
从祂接受无限恩典：生命、喜乐和安息。
耶稣、耶稣，何等可靠，我曾试祂多少次；
耶稣、耶稣，我的至宝，祂是活神不误事。

四 何等喜乐，我能信你，至宝耶稣，我救主！
信你与我是在一起，一直一起到永古。
耶稣、耶稣，何等可靠，我曾试祂多少次；
耶稣、耶稣，我的至宝，祂是活神不误事。

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Experience of Christ - Trusting Him

1 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His word;
Just to rest upon His promise;
Just to know, Thus saith the Lord.

(C) Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him,
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er,
Jesus, Jesus, Precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more.

2 O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to trust His cleansing blood;
Just in simple faith to plunge me,
'Neath the healing, cleansing flood.

3 Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just from sin and self to cease;
Just from Jesus simply taking
Life, and rest, and joy, and peace.

4 I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that Thou art with me,
Wilt be with me to the end.