

Are You Carrying Keys to Doors of the Past God Long-Ago Locked?

I wear a key around my neck. In fact, I have several different key necklaces. One says "faith." One says "dream wild." One says "create." Some are silver. Some are black. Some are copper.

Call it a prophetic thing ... I started wearing necklaces when I got the Isaiah 22:22 revelation: "The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder. Then he shall open, and no one shall shut. And he shall shut, and no one shall open" (Isa. 22:22).

In the realm of prayer, we use the Isaiah 22:22 key with governmental authority to unlock doors God prophetically shows us to open for His glory and to lock doors He wants locked to the enemy. As ambassadors for Christ, this is one strategy for waging prophetic warfare and legislating in the spirit.

Carrying Too Many Keys

Last week, I received a new revelation while relocating to a new home. As part of taking possession of the property, I got three new keys for my ring and used one of them to turn the lock on a 7-foot door. When I opened this God-given door, I walked into my dream loft in an urban city with artists, photographers and organic coffee surrounding my abode.

As I worked diligently to unpack boxes, I noticed my friend had a key ring with no more than three keys. That struck me, as my keyring had no less than 18 keys on it. Beyond the three new keys to my home, I have post office box keys, car keys, church keys and a slew of other keys. This keyring was so heavy it literally weighed down my bags.

I declared in that moment I would winnow down my key chain. I ended up with six keys. Honestly, I couldn't even remember what most of the other keys were for. If I had been on a game show and the host asked which key went in what door, I would have surely lost the competition.

Putting Away Old Keys

Here's the lesson: Many of us are holding on to keys from doors of the past that are not only closed, but the locks have been changed. We're toting around a ring with keys to doors we long forgot about. Somehow, we closed the door and kept the keys—and those keys are weighing us down.

Hebrews 12:1b admonishes us, "Let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."

We can't run our race with endurance if we don't forget what lies behind—the closed doors, the failed relationships, the trials of life. We can't sprint around the track God has laid out without wearing ourselves out if we don't let go of the heavy weights the enemy wants us to carry.

Stripping my key chain of these superfluous keys to doors of the past was like letting go of a heavy load—and not just out of my bag, but off my mind. It was a prophetic act that parallels Philippians 3:13-14.

"Brothers, I do not count myself to have attained, but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal to the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."