Scripture: Matthew 16 v 18

“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Subject: I will build my Church

There have been numerous sermons preached from these words that Jesus said to Peter. Peter was very quick to answer any question posed by Jesus or situation he was in that stimulated him

On the Mount of Transfiguration in Matthew 17 where Jesus was transfigured before himself James, and John he says in verse 4 “Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.”

After the discourse on the bread of life John 6 v 68 Jesus says to the disciples “will you also go away.?” “Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

In Matthew 16 Jesus asks his disciples who do men say he is, various answers came, then Jesus said Who do you say I am. It is at this point Peter says verse 16 “And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Peter inspired by a revelation said, “ Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus identifies the source of the revelation; you received this from my Father. No human investigation can identify who Jesus is, only the revelation from the Father can make Jesus known.

I want to emphasize the word I in the 18th verse, Jesus said I will build my Church. The I of Jesus is vital because of the weight it carries, the letter I has within it the full power of omnipotence. When an ordinary person says that they will do something like “I will build a wall” circumstances could hinder such a statement, he could fall ill or break his wrist, because of man’s fallibility he cannot fulfil what he said.

Jesus is different because every word he says is either truth or creative and therefore accomplishes what he says, this is because his word has creative power, it has healing power, it carries authority, the authority of an omnipotent God who has

spoken the world into being. I would like to consider the following in relation to the text.

1. The Voice.

Jesus said, I will build. Here we have the voice of omnipotence, the words Jesus speaks are all powerful, it is an active voice that works the Miraculous, bringing into being exactly what he says.

When the Apostle Paul wrote to the Colossians he says in chapter 1 v 16 & 17, "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."

The verbal declaration of omnipotence brings into existence exactly what has been said. Not a single word of Jesus fails to accomplish its goal. In Mark 4 v 37 to 39 Jesus was in a boat with the disciples, he was resting and sleeping, suddenly a storm arose creating unease among the disciples, on waking Jesus from sleep they said dint you care we are perishing; Jesus then stands and speaks to the storm and calms the storm by his word, peace be still he says. His word in omnipotent.

In John 5 we have the story of the occasion when Jesus went to the pool of Bethesda, at this place there were five porches in these those seeking to enter the pool located there were hoping to be healed. The water in the pool on occasions bubbled up, it was believed an angel stirred the water, whoever was first in the water was healed. Jesus met a man who had been ill 38 years.

Jesus speaks to this man and says, "Do you want to get well". His answer is staggering, he says I have no one to help me into the water, someone always beats me so I'm still in a disabled condition. Jesus then says, "Take up your bed and walk". Instantly he folds up his porta bed and walks. He heard the voice of omnipotence and was healed.

How remarkable is the voice of Jesus, he says come unto me you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest. Speaking to the disciples prior his

ascension back to heaven Jesus says in Mark 16 v 17 & 18, "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." His voice is the voice of omnipotence.

2. The Vehicle.

The church is the outstanding vehicle of Grace.
I will build my Church said Jesus. His church is the vehicle constructed and brought together by the Lord Jesus to convey to principalities and powers the manifold wisdom of God. It is a unique vehicle made up of individual people who have been redeemed and reconciled to God having had their sins forgiven.

People from all quarters of the earth north, south, east and west Knit together becoming members of one body. We are the body of Christ; we are his vehicle chosen in him to convey his life and truth to a world that is in desperate need of salvation.

A vehicle in not made to stay in one spot and not move forward, its purpose is to advance going from one place to another carrying the message of hope and help to those in need.

His church is being built using people of every culture, of every nation welding them together into a unique vehicle that conveys that it is possible for all people to be made into one body, people of all colors are united in Christ so that the distinctive is not those of the culture they come from but are those of the Lord Jesus Christ revealing grace, love compassion and truth.

It is this church that Jesus gave his life for, Paul says in Ephesians 5 v 25 to 27. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

It is his church, it is called his glorious church, the church that was to demonstrate the power of Jesus in the world. The church has been called the divine masterpiece because it is Lord who is building it. In Ephesians 4 v 16, the Apostle Paul says this about the church. Calling it a building he says, "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

3. The Victory.

And the gates of hell will not prevail against it. Jesus declares the Ongoing victory that is the churches. His church is a victorious church a church that constantly overcomes everything thrown against it.

In Romans 8 the Apostle Paul says in verses 35 to 39 "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

As Christian's and members of his church we are enjoying the fruit of Christs victory over Satan, sin, death and the grave. Jesus gained the victory for us, we are therefore to live in that victory. As we abide in Christ we enjoy his life his victory, making us more than conquerors, we never fought the battle with Satan Jesus did so on our behalf.

We have a chorus about victory, which says "Living in the victory, victory, I'm living in the victory now, for the Son has set me free, I'm enjoying liberty and I'm living in the victory now.

The church that Jesus is building, is to live in the victory secured at Calvary where Jesus stripped principalities and power of their authority, making an exhibition of them. The church is ongoing in the victory of Christ.

It was the voice of omnipotence that created the church, I will build by church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. The church is moving on, and nothing is going to stop it now, it is moving in, it's moving on.