

# UNDERSTANDING AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

1. Authority is the right to act; Responsibility is the duty to act
2. We've been given keys representing authority to bind and to loose [Matt. 16:19](#).
  - Bind – close; prohibit; lock;
  - Loose – open; permit; unlock
3. There are two main direction we exercise this authority:
  - a. Exercised toward the devil and demonic power & influence
    - [Matt. 12:22-29](#) We bind what satan has loosed
    - [Luke 13:16, 17](#) We loose what satan has bound  
([Acts 12:5-7](#) Prayer directed to God also can loose)
  - b. Exercised toward a sinning unrepentant Believer
    - [Matt. 18:15-20](#)
    - The Church's action on Earth is backed by Heaven