

“Bind”, “loose”

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Introduction:

Sadly, very often, you will, sooner or later, stumble upon people who “bind”, “loose” things. They use the following two verses as a “biblical” ground that they can say things and speak them into existence. If I say so, God will do so.

Matthew 18:18

Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

This verse is often used in combination with:

Matthew 16:19

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

How does this verse line up with other verses in the new testament? Let the bible make clear the verses that for us are sometimes not clear. Lets look at some verses that do make it clear:

2 Corinthians 12:8-9

Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

Was Paul (The Paul from the Bible!) able to speak things into existence? What did Paul do when he had the thorn? Did he use that “magic gift card”? Was there a “magic gift card” for Paul (The Paul!)? No...

1 Timothy 5:23

Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.

What did Paul do when his friend Timothy was sick? Was there a “magic gift card” for Paul (The Paul!)? No...

Was Paul’s faith (again: The Paul!) not big enough? Say what?

So, that’s not how it works... not by a long way. When we look at other scriptures, the bible is very clear.

More explanation:

Matthew 18 is clearly about church discipline (see our other bible study on that) and we can, once again, not pull verse 18 out of context and use it as a verse to say that we, as humans, are given the privilege of changing God’s mind, as if whatever we decide on earth would be duplicated in heaven.

Rather, they (the disciples) were encouraged that, as they moved forward in their apostolic duties, they would be fulfilling God’s plan in heaven. When the apostles “bound” something, or forbade it on earth, they were carrying out the will of God in the matter. When they “loosed” something, or allowed it on earth, they were likewise fulfilling God’s eternal plan. In both Matthew 16:19 and 18:18, the syntax of the Greek text makes the meaning clear: “Whatever thou mayest bind upon the earth shall be having been bound in the heavens, and whatever thou mayest loose upon the earth shall be having been loosed in the heavens”. (Matthew 16:19, Young’s Literal Translation) Or, as the Amplified Bible puts it, “Whatever you bind [forbid, declare to be improper and unlawful] on earth will have [already] been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose [permit, declare lawful] on earth will have [already] been loosed in heaven.”

Jesus taught that the apostles had a special task on earth. Their words of authority, as recorded in the New Testament epistles, reflect God’s will for the church. When Paul declared an anathema on those who pervert the gospel, then we know that anathema was already declared in heaven (see Galatians 1:8–9).

Cultural background:

The power for binding and loosing is something that the Jewish rabbis of that day used.

They bound or loosed an individual in the application of a particular point of the law. Jesus promises that Peter — and the other apostles — would be able to set the boundaries authoritatively for the New Covenant community. This was the authority given to the apostles and prophets to build a foundation (Ephesians 2:20).

We should understand this as Jesus giving both the permission and the authority to the first-generation apostles to make the rules for the early church — and indirectly, the inspired writings that would guide all generations of Christians. The authority that Peter carries is “not an authority which

he alone carries, as may be seen from the repetition of the latter part of the verse in Matthew 18:18 with reference to the disciple group as a whole.”

“Binding” and “loosing” were administrative terms in daily Jewish life; whenever a Jew came up against the Law of Moses, that Jewish person was either “bound” or “loosed” **in regard to that law**. So, it’s a law that already was made by God. To loose was to permit; to bind was to prohibit. To loose was to free from the law, to bind was to put under the law. “Their regular sense, which any Jew would recognize was to allow and to forbid. To bind something was to declare it forbidden; to loose was to declare it allowed. These were the regular phrases for taking decisions **in regard** to the law.” (Barclay)

Its not humble to God..:

Luke 11:2

He said to them, “When you pray, say: “Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.

Luke 22:42

“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”

Matthew 26:42

He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

Matthew 6:8

Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

We can jump up and down, as much as we want, we can declare whatever we want, but not our will, will be done, Gods will, will be done. Full stop. We are not God and we are NOT to command God to do anything. We are here to serve God, God is not there to serve us....

And last but not least...

“Bind”, “loose”, is not a prayer....

The bible tells us, that prayer is communicating with God and that we make a petition to God (Philippians 4:6,7) And if we do so, we leave them at the altar, Gods altar. We leave it in the hands of a loving and sovereign God. That’s prayer, not commanding God to do something.

In short:

So its NOT If I say so, God will do so , its when they (the disciples) “loosed” something, or allowed it on earth, they were likewise fulfilling God’s eternal plan.

What should we do instead?

Instead of “Bind”, “loose” to obtain something, we should pray to the Lord in submission to His will (Matthew 26:42). Instead of seeking to force God’s hand by calling forth whatever we want, Christians should trust in the Heavenly Father who “knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!”

And if we bind or loose anything, we should declare a statement of facts that are biblically proven. Example: “I declare, right now, that I am unconditionally loved by God” (fact: Psalm 86:15) or “I declare that I am forgiven by the blood of Jesus” (fact: 1 John 1:7)

You can declare that, but you can not bind God to do anything you want Him to do.

Warning:

So, if you hear somebody “bind”, “loose” things ... be VERY WARNED... it's a HUGE red flag that somebody is pulling verses out of context and that person might be a VERY false prophet or under the influence from a VERY false prophet and is deceived.

These verses are too often used in a very wrong way, but as soon as you hear these verse... be on your guard and:

1 Thessalonians 5:19-20

Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt **but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil.**

Matthew 7:21-23

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

In short: do your bible studies, and listen carefully. Use the armor of God, every single time, with everything you hear. Every single time.

God bless.