

IN HIS NAME



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“In His Name” is a common term used by Christians. We use it every time we pray. But for so many of us it has little meaning apart from maybe honouring the Lord to possibly give us the answer as He is the only one who has power to do so.

However, Jesus gave us an awesome and wonderful promise:

“Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it” John 14:12-14.

Think on this for a moment. Notice He is speaking of “*whoever believes in me*” - that’s not just referring to the early apostles, that’s US! Do we really believe what Jesus said? If, and when, we do, we will see our world “turned upside down” like the early Christians did (Acts 17:6 NKJV). Praying “in His Name” is not just a hopeful “magical” or polite term at the end of a prayer, but the most dynamic force that is in our hands!

This is a challenge to all of us as believers. Let us see what Jesus was meaning in the context of the Word of God:

THE NAME

When God called Moses to deliver the Children of Israel out of Egypt (Exodus 3), Moses asked a very important question...

“Then Moses said to God, “Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?” And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you’” Exodus 3:13-14.

What a strange name - “I AM” (translated “Yahweh” or “Jehovah”). Back in Bible days the names given to people had special meaning. For

example, God, proclaiming the eternal purpose and call on his life, changed Abram's name, meaning "high father", to "Abraham", the "father of a multitude" (Genesis 17:5). He also changed his wife's name from "Sarai", meaning "my princess", to "Sarah", "mother of nations" (Gen.17:15-16). This was God's declaration of who Abraham and Sarah were to become in His glorious plan for the salvation of the world. When the Son of God was to come, His name was declared ahead of time - Jesus, "the one who saves":

“...She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins” Matt.1:20-21.

What God was declaring to Moses was that His Name was His very CHARACTER - WHO HE IS!

THE NAMES OF GOD

Throughout the Scriptures the Lord is referred to by different names:

- ➔ **Elohim** - "Strong One" or "Lord Almighty".
- ➔ **Adonai** - "My Lord" (Psalm 18:1)
- ➔ **Shaddai** - "Almighty" (Genesis 17:1; 28:3)
- ➔ **Jehovah-Jireh** - "I AM provider" (Genesis 22:13-14)
- ➔ **Jehovah-Rapha** - "I AM healer" (Exodus 15:26)
- ➔ **Jehovah-Nissi** - "I AM your Banner" (Exodus 17:8-15)
- ➔ **Jehovah-Shalom** - "I AM Peace" (Judges 6:24)
- ➔ **Jehovah-Ra-ah** - "I AM the Way, your Shepherd" (Psalm 23:1)
- ➔ **Jehovah-Tsidkenu** - "I AM Righteousness" (Jeremiah 23:6)
- ➔ **Jehovah-Shammah** - "I AM Light, ever present" (Ezekiel 48:35)

Later, the Lord Jesus shocked the religious leaders of His day by declaring "I AM".

“Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!” John 8:58.

Nine times in the Gospel of John He declares Who He is:

- ➔ ***I am the Bread of Life*** - John 6:35
- ➔ ***I am the Light of the world*** - John 8:12
- ➔ ***I am the Door*** - John 10:9
- ➔ ***I am the Good Shepherd*** - John 10:11
- ➔ ***I am the Resurrection and the Life*** - John 11:25,26
- ➔ ***I am the Way*** - John 14:6
- ➔ ***I am the Truth*** - John 14:6
- ➔ ***I am the Life*** - John 14:6
- ➔ ***I am the Vine*** - John 15:5

THE REVELATION OF WHO HE IS

Revelation of who God is has a dramatic effect, not only on our own lives, but on the lives of those around us and to whom we minister. When we pray in His Name, we are praying based on our personal revelation of who He is in the face of the situation or challenge we are experiencing. God gave Moses four specific revelations of Himself that enabled him to fulfill the call to deliver the Children of Israel out of the bondage of Egypt and bring them to the Promised Land (Exodus chapters 3 and 4).

➔ His holiness

“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground” 3:5.

➔ His mercy

“I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering” 3:7 (read to verse 10).

➔ His faithfulness

“The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—appeared to me and said...I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land... flowing with milk and honey” 3:16-17.

➔ His power

“Then the Lord said to him, ‘What is that in your hand?’ ‘A staff,’ he replied. The Lord said, ‘Throw it on the ground.’ Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. Then the Lord said to him, ‘Reach out your hand and take it by the tail.’ So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand” 4:2-4.

The Lord uses two main vehicles to reveal His Name to us:

The Word of God

➔ The Lord Jesus Christ is the Living Word of God

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind” John 1:1-4.

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth” John 1:14.

By our words we communicate to others what is on our heart and in our minds, revealing to them what kind of person we are. The Lord Jesus is the living Word - the full communicator to us of God in all His glory - Who He is and what He is like.

“Philip said, ‘Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.’ Jesus answered: ‘Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’”
John 14:8-9.

The Written Word of God

Just as a letter from a loved one reveals the heart of the one we love to us, so the Lord Jesus is revealed to us through the written Word of God.

“Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God’” Matthew 4:4.




“Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near...Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll”
Revelation 1:3; 22:7.

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

Dwelling within us, as a believer in Christ, is the most precious Gift imaginable - the Spirit of God.

“...when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth...He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you” John 16:13-14.

He has been given for a purpose -

-  to give us new Life (John 3:5-8)
-  to bring us to maturity in Christ (Romans 8:28-29)
-  to empower us to be His witnesses (Acts 1:8)

“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive” John 7:38-39.

Rivers of living water - the Spirit of Life - flowing from us to others!

Read 2 Corinthians 3. Paul’s description of what believers have now stepped into in the New Covenant in Christ is amazing and wonderful. The contrast to what was in the Old Covenant is made very clear:

THE VEILED GLORY

The Thick Veil of the Old Covenant

Under the Old Covenant, there were three distinct compartments in the building of the Tabernacle and later the Temple - the Outer Court where the sacrifices took place (open to everyone); the Holy Place (open only to the priesthood), and the Most Holy Place. This third compartment was where the glory of God was revealed. A thick curtain barred the way from anyone entering. No-one could enter except the High Priest, once a year. On that day, the Day of Atonement, after much sacrificial cleansing, he would go into the Presence of God as the representative of the whole nation (Leviticus 16).

The veil (curtain) represented everything that separated mankind from the presence of a holy, righteous God in all His glory - all our sin and unrighteousness. Paul declares a wonderful truth about the New Covenant.

“If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory” 2 Corinthians 3:9-10.

THE UNVEILED GLORY

The Veil has been taken away in the New Covenant

The glorious truth of the New Covenant we have come into in Christ is that the veil has been taken away! The moment Jesus died on the Cross God got hold of the veil in the temple and ripped in two - from top to bottom!

“And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom” Matthew 27:50-51 (also Luke 23:44-46).

As He hung on the Cross, the Lord Jesus *became* the veil that separated us from God, the Father! All our sin, all our guilt, all our shame died in Him.

“For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been set free from sin” Romans 6:6-7.

There is nothing now separating us from the Presence of a glorious God! Heaven is now open! We have free access!

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience...” Hebrews 10:19-22.

THE HUNGER TO KNOW HIM MORE

Moses not only received from the Lord the four revelations of the “I AM” that were necessary to bring the Children of Israel out of Egypt, he also experienced a dimension of His glory on Mt Sinai (Hebrews 12:18-21; Exodus 19:16-25). This created in him a hunger to know Him more. He again goes in to the Presence of the Lord (Exodus 33:12-21). This time expressing a personal longing...

“Then Moses said, ‘Now show me your glory’” Exodus 33:18.

What Moses was requesting was to see God’s Face...in other words, the fullness of His glory...everything God is! Seeing His “Face” is like when we meet someone. We do not look at their hands and their feet to greet them. We look at their face...into their eyes. There we see the full expression of who that person is. This is how it was for Moses. He had seen God’s “hand” at work in the miracles He had performed. He had seen God’s “feet” as He had led them out of Egypt. But Moses wanted to see His Face - the full expression of Who He is. But God, in His love and mercy, said “no”.

“...you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live” Exodus 33:20.

It was not possible because the Cross had not yet taken place. It would have destroyed Moses. The wonder of the Gospel is that, for the believer in Christ’s finished work, there is now no barrier!

THE IMPARTATION OF WHO HE IS

God hides Moses in the cleft of a rock and, passing by Him with His hand “veiling” him from seeing Him, takes it away to allow him to see the trailing off of His glory (Exodus 33:21-23; 34:5-8). Moses, coming down from the presence of God in the mountain, had to cover his face with a thick veil to hide the limited glory of God that had been revealed to Him (Exodus 34:29-35; 2 Corinthians 3:13). Paul contrasts what it is now like for the believers in Christ. There is no veil over our faces.

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV).

Two glorious truths are now ours in the New Covenant

- ➡ **The is no veil separating us from the full glory of God!**
- ➡ **There is no veil on our faces hiding from others the glory revealed to us!**

This is what the early disciples experienced. A great example is when Peter and John prayed for the crippled man begging at the Temple gate.

“...fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, “Look at us.” So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God” Acts 3:4-8.

Look at what Peter declared...

“WHAT I DO HAVE I GIVE YOU. IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST OF NAZARETH, RISE UP AND WALK” !

Peter was not just speaking mere words. The Name is all that Jesus *is* - His love, mercy, power and authority - and because this was reality in the life and experience of Peter - it was his to give and he could impart the healing to the needy beggar. It was the “living water” of the Spirit flowing from him. So it is for believers today. The continuous revelation to us of the Lord so transforms us we become the revealers of His glory to others. When we pray for others we represent Him and impart to them who He is in the area of their need.

This is what it means to pray
“in His Name”!

I HAVE -- I know Who He is

I GIVE -- I impart to you Who He is