

## THE NAME OF JESUS

*Act 3:6 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."*

*Act 3:16 And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.*

As Peter and John were going to the temple to pray one day, they were stopped by a beggar alongside the way. He wanted money, but Peter had none with him at the time, so he gave him what he did have. Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have [on me], but what I do have, I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." The man instantly was healed and leaped up and followed them into the temple. What did Peter have that healed this man? He goes on to tell us. He told the incredulous crowd that it was the name of Jesus, and specifically faith in that name, that healed the man. **What Peter had was faith in the name of Jesus.** We all have heard that there is power in the name of Jesus. Many however, do not know why. Jesus before He left made these powerful promises

**Joh 14:14** If you ask anything in My name, I will do *it*.

**Joh 14:15** "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

**Joh 15:16** You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

**Joh 16:23** "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.

**Joh 16:24** Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

These verses are the scriptural grounds for Christians world around to end their prayers in the name of Jesus. However, many Christians use the name of Jesus either as a lucky rabbit's foot, a magical phrase that makes their wish come true, or as a simple sign off to their prayers! Peter said that the name of Jesus, but more specifically **faith in the name** of Jesus healed the beggar. Most modern people, especially in

the western world, do not grasp the meaning of a name. In bible times a name was very significant. Here is what some noted scholars have to say about what the word "name" meant in biblical language:

***International Standard Bible Encyclopedia-** The word for "name" in the Old Testament is *shēm*. Besides designating persons, the name also stands for **fame, renown, reputation, character gained** or expressed.*

*In the New Testament *ónoma* also has the significance of denoting **the "character," or "work" of the person***

***Joseph Thayer-** A name is used for everything which the name covers, it was used for one's rank, **authority**, interests, pleasure, command, **excellences, deeds**.*

In the bible times your name was comprised of your character and deeds. That is why when naming a child you would give the child a name of some desired character trait so that the child would grow into that or be guided and directed by it. Sometimes God would give the parent[s] the name to call the child, knowing their future character and deeds.

So, we see that a name is connected with the character and work of a person. Why is the name of Jesus so powerful? It is connected to Jesus' perfect character [holiness] and his work [the finished work of redemption]. When we use the name of Jesus, but more importantly and vitally, when we place our faith in the name of Jesus we are placing our faith in His perfect holiness and His perfect finished work on our behalf.

In bible times when you came in the name of someone, that meant you were using their authority. However, that authority was only as effective as the character, work, or achieved status of the one who sent you. If you came in the name of "Buzz the beggar" it

would not get you much! His character and work was that of a two bit bum. When we pray in the name of Jesus we are using His authority, but His authority is based upon His perfect character and His perfect finished work. The power and authority in a name was based upon reputation and reputation is based upon deeds. The name of the Lord Jesus is powerful because of what He has done at Calvary and His rising from the dead. When we come to God we are to come in the name of Jesus. When we do, we come in all of what Jesus finished work has accomplished and means to the Father. That is why I do not come before God in my own name, Rick. I would then be coming based upon my character and deeds. Believe me, if you are dying of some grievous disease you would not want me to pray for your healing in my name! That would be a sure death sentence! I am a great guy, but my character and deeds are flawed. I am a flawed individual! Do not laugh or judge- you are too!

What Peter had, we all have been given. We all have been given the name of Jesus. This encapsulates the character and finished work of Jesus. **However, Peter had something much more necessary than just the name of Jesus, which many Christians do not possess today. He had FAITH in the name of Jesus.** That is what healed the beggar beside the road. [His name might have been Buzz.]

We need to have the same thing to see the miracle working power of God go to work in the natural realm we live in. Faith in the name [character and finished work] of Jesus will release the power of the Holy Spirit to act based upon the finished work of Jesus and break the yoke of sin, sickness, lack, and oppression.

**Act 3:12** And when Peter saw *it*, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, **as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?**

Peter said that the beggar was not healed because of his own holiness. He did not pray for the man in the name of Peter. We all know Peter's character and his deeds! It was not Peter's holiness and good works that healed the man; it was the holiness and perfect work of Jesus, and faith in that work, that healed the man! It is vital to understand what is in a name.

We must connect the name of Jesus with His perfect holiness and His perfect finished work on our behalf. Every time we pray or command in the name of Jesus, we are praying and commanding based upon the authority, holiness, and finished work of Jesus. That is why when we pray for things that are outside the character, will, and what Jesus died for, we are not actually praying in the name of Jesus, even if we say, "in the name of Jesus" at the end of our prayers! **Also, if we do not have faith in the perfect holiness of Jesus and His finished work on our behalf as being the basis for God's answering our prayers, then we are not praying in the name of Jesus, even if we slap on "in the name of Jesus" to the end of our prayers.** So many Christians are saying the phrase, "in Jesus' name" but they are not experiencing the power that is in the name of Jesus. It is because they do not understand the name of Jesus and what it is based upon. Often Christians pray using the name of Jesus, but they really are trusting in their own performance [trusting in their own obedience and holiness] as the basis for God answering their prayers. This is actually despising the name of Jesus! We must use the name of Jesus, but most importantly, we must use faith in the name of Jesus and we will see the promises of Jesus realized.

I have listed below many scriptures that speak of the name of the Lord and its power. Meditate on these. This name is powerful because of the Lord Jesus' finished work and perfect holiness.

**Exo 34:5** And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and **proclaimed the name of the LORD.**

Exo 34:6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

Exo 34:7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear *the guilty*; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth *generation*.

Psa 9:10 And they that **know thy name** will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

Psa 20:1 <To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.> The LORD hear thee in the day of trouble; **the name of the God of Jacob** defend thee;

Psa 20:5 We will rejoice in thy salvation, and **in the name of our God** we will set up *our* banners: the LORD fulfil all thy petitions.

Psa 20:7 Some *trust* in chariots, and some in horses: but we will **remember the name of the LORD our God**.

Psa 23:3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness **for his name's sake**.

Psa 25:11 **For thy name's sake**, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it *is* great.

Psa 29:2 Give unto the LORD the glory **due unto his name**; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

Psa 44:5 Through thee will we push down our enemies: **through thy name** will we tread them under that rise up against us.

Psa 89:16 **In thy name** shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted.

Psa 105:1 O give thanks unto the LORD; **call upon his name**: make known his deeds among the people.

Psa 106:8 Nevertheless he saved them **for his name's sake**, that he might make his mighty power to be known.

Psa 115:1 Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but **unto thy name** give glory, for thy mercy, *and* for thy truth's sake.

Psa 116:13 I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon **the name of the LORD.**

Psa 118:10 All nations compassed me about: but **in the name of the LORD** will I destroy them.

Psa 124:8 Our help *is* **in the name of the LORD,** who made heaven and earth.

Psa 135:13 **Thy name,** O LORD, *endureth* for ever; *and* thy memorial, O LORD, throughout all generations.

Psa 143:11 Quicken me, O LORD, **for thy name's sake:** for thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.

Pro 18:10 The **name of the Lord** *is* a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.

Act 2:21 And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on **the name of the Lord** shall be saved.

Act 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you **in the name of Jesus Christ** for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Act 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is **none other name** under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Act 9:15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to **bear my name** before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

Act 10:43 To him give all the prophets witness, that **through his name** whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

Rom 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

(1Co 6:11) And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.