

The Value of God's Name

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

It is often said in the world of successful businessmen, “It’s not *what* you know but *who* you know.” Connections make a difference, and a well-known name always brings a response—whether good or bad. People will even use a name they have no connection to because they recognize the authority it conveys. Eventually, however, an impostor will be exposed because he does not possess the nature of authority revealed by the name he professed to know.

One day soon, many, even those who are now outcast and lowly-esteemed people on the earth, will be highly regarded as kings and priests. When they believed in Christ, they were given a new name as they received a new nature. It is the name of the King of kings, Jesus Christ. And because of His name, Christians will reflect their true value as His Bride, binding the enemy and setting people free by the authority of God’s name.

Chapter One
KNOWN BY A NEW NAME

“*Ye shall know them by their fruits.* Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

“Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

“A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

“Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

“Wherefore *by their fruits ye shall know them.*

“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.

“Many will say to me in that day, *Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?* And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me,

ye that work iniquity” (Matthew 7:16-23).

Consider the sacredness and value of the name of our Lord. The Hebrew word for “name” is *shem*, a word that implies character and authority. God’s name produces an eternal nature. His name reveals the character of Someone who has no beginning and no ending.

In Matthew 7, Jesus preached, “You shall know them by their fruits.” What He said should be taken very seriously: A good tree brings forth good fruit, but a corrupt tree cannot bring forth good fruit. It brings forth corrupt fruit. It is impossible for a corrupt tree to bring forth good fruit. In other words, people who have been corrupted by Satan’s lies and projections cannot change, except when Jesus Christ comes into a person’s life. Then a marriage takes place, He gives His righteousness, and a change happens.

Previously, we were wedded to the old sin nature, and the Law was our counselor (Romans 7:1-3). But now, according to verse 4, we are dead to the Law (precious as it was) “...that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.” This marriage is the real thing.

There are those, even Christians, who are married to the wrong thing. For example, some people are “married” to sex in the wrong way, even though sex is very precious in the right context. Others are wrongly married to drugs or to a secret sinful life. This old sin nature is the initiator in these cases. The Law tries to give counsel, but all it does is condemn—for they are condemned already.

When a woman marries, she takes on the name of her husband. In Genesis 5:2, Adam and Eve were called “Adam”—one name. In Isaiah 4:1, women wanted to take on the husband’s name and come under his spiritual authority. So when Adam is our husband, we come under *his* spiritual authority, which is bound by the Law. The Law tries to counsel us so we will come to the end of ourselves, but it cannot help us. It is a law of sin and death (Romans 8:2*b*).

Embrace the Lamb

All of that changes when we behold the Lamb. We see the wounds, still fresh, in his hands and feet and side (John 20:27). We see His eyes and hear His tender voice as He is on the cross, saying, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). Our heart

embraces the Lamb, and we accept Him as our Savior.

Then, we take on His name. The disciples at Antioch were the first to be called Christians (Acts 11:26), because they had embraced the Lamb and became married to Another.

A fifteen-year-old girl hated her mother's looks. Behind the mother's back, the girl called her ugly because her face was scarred. As she grew more rebellious, she said to her mother one day, "I don't like your face; I'm ashamed because you're ugly."

Then, the mother told her daughter how the scars came about.

"When you were a baby, the blanket in your cradle somehow caught fire. I ran to pull the blanket off of you and the flames burned my face. There wasn't a scar on you, though."

The girl wept, embraced her mother, and asked for forgiveness, saying, "I love your scars."

And oh, we love His scars!

Living beyond Merely Professing the Name

Not everyone who says, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 7:21-22). In other words, according to Luke 8:18, the Lord

takes away what certain people *seem* to have but do not truly possess. If they have it, it is theirs forever. But He “takes away” what some “seemeth to have.” What do they have? They have the name of Jesus Christ, but they don’t have His nature.

They will claim to have cast out demons and to have uttered prophecies in Jesus’ name. They will say, “We have done many wonderful works—in Your name! We always used Your name; we always called on You, Lord. We professed Your name for salvation, and we preached in Your name. We even had miracle services—always in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

But Jesus will say to many, “I never knew you. Depart from Me, you workers of spiritual rebellion in your emotions toward the Cross. I *never* knew you, because you never really knew Me, and you never truly accepted Me.”

If every truly born-again Christian, in grace and without condemnation, would start to make every issue right with God, then we would see miracle after miracle. This message is for people who love God but need to deal with some issues. If we have failed, we need to name our sin, repent, isolate it, and go on. If a congregation will take seriously the nature of Jesus Christ that

is revealed in His name, amazing things will happen.

His name means graciousness, mercy, long-suffering, lovingkindness, patience, and forgiveness (see Exodus 34:6-7). His name overwhelms me. Every place that God's name is recorded, He will bless (Exodus 20:24). If His name is in a marriage, that marriage will be experienced in His name. It will be a happy marriage, and it will last. If the children are reared up under His nature—not just in His name—those children shall be called blessed.

“I will set him on high, because he hath known my name (Psalm 91:14*b*). That means whoever has a personal knowledge and understanding of God's name (and, so, reveals His nature) will be promoted. He leads us in paths of righteousness for His name's sake—*because of His name* (Psalm 23:3). He pardons our iniquities *because of His name* (Psalm 25:11). He delivers us time and again *because of His name* (Psalm 79:9). Isaiah 48:9 says that God defers His anger—He keeps it back—*because of His name*. God saves us, not just regarding eternal life; but He saves us out of everything conceivable, *because of His name* (Psalm 106:8).

Chapter Two

THE REAL NAME IS REVEALED BY THE NATURE

In Isaiah 66:5, people hated their brethren and cast them out in the name of the Lord, saying, “The Lord be glorified.” *They used His name without having His nature.* But God sees the hearts of men, and His appearance brings joy to the outcast and shame to those who exalt themselves.

Many wrong things are done in relationships strictly because they are done in God’s name but outside of His nature. In Jeremiah 23:25-27, certain prophets misrepresented the name of God to Israel, and they didn’t reveal His nature. Instead of being faithful to preach the Word of God, they told their dreams and caused the people to forget God’s name.

A spouse can cause a partner in marriage not to know the name and nature of God when he stays married to his old sin nature. In this case,

no one will know the Name he is professing because the marriage isn't working. Likewise, if you live in depression, you are not revealing the nature of God because you are not receiving the nature of God for that problem. God's nature is grace, mercy, and love.

Psalm 78:41 says, "they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel." How can we limit the omniscient, omnipotent God? We limit Him by using His name but not living in His nature. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

To glorify God, I have to present my body to Him as a living sacrifice daily. The only body Jesus has on earth today—the only eyes, the only feet, the only hands—is *ours*. If we don't present our bodies to Him daily, but continue to use His name without living in His nature, we limit God! We limit His love, grace, forgiveness, reconciliation, and redemption. A husband limits God when he refuses to be spiritual. A wife limits God if she will not be reconciled to God to reveal

His nature. Soul-power attachments limit the human spirit from being controlled by the Holy Spirit.

Unto those who fear God, the Sun of righteousness will arise with healing in His wings (Malachi 4:2). There can be glorious healings and miracles if we begin to appreciate the meek Lamb of God and yoke up with Him. Jesus said, "Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask *anything* in my name, I will do it " (John 14:13-14). Anything!

A lovely lady who is paralyzed and in a wheelchair was at one of our conferences. When the message was over, I went to her and gave her a hug, and she thanked me. Then she said, "What saddens me most about being in this chair with my paralyzed arms and legs is that I can't use my body for the husband I love so much." She said, "I am so limited; I can do nothing. He is so kind. He does everything for me, and he treats me like a queen."

May God help us not to limit omnipotence in a man. Do not limit the Holy One of Israel by not responding to Him. In Ezekiel 18:4, God says, "All souls are mine: as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine." Our

souls are not our own; they are God's. So let's use our souls to glorify the One who purchased us, redeemed us, and now lives inside of us.

God's Helpmates on Earth

Through the Cross, we are espoused to Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2). According to custom when this was written, an engagement was just as sacred as being married, apart from the privileges of intimate physical contact. We are engaged to Him *now*—this isn't speaking of the future.

Romans 7:4 says that we are dead to the Law, "that ye should be married to another...." Our husband is Christ, not the old sin nature. We are on earth as His helpmates, serving in His stead with the nature of the Lamb (2 Corinthians 5:19).

A woman went looking for her adult son who was a hopeless alcoholic. She was a widow—her husband had died in a car accident. She worked very hard and was a great Christian. Her son left one day and never said where he was going. When he didn't come home, she went searching for him. A cousin found out where the son was, and the mother went to his door. She knocked and said, "This is your mother. Please let me in, I want to see you."

“Get away old lady!” he yelled in reply. “Get out of here! I don’t want to see you.” That mother went home, brokenhearted.

There are Christians who refuse to let Jesus get close to them. Oh, how many have said “Go away” to Jesus when He has come knocking at their heart? To the Laodiceans in Revelation 3:14-20, Christ said, “I would come in and sup with you, but you won’t let me in.” Ashamed or embarrassed by His scars (that should have been ours), they say “Go away!” They won’t let Him in because they do not love His scars.

But like that girl who now loves her mother’s scars, we desire to be so broken that we can honestly say, “Every time I see those scars, I see how my life was saved by sacrificial love.”

Chapter Three

OBJECTIVE WORSHIP BY THE POWER OF HIS NAME

God forgives our sins for His name's sake (1 John 2:12). "They went forth," speaking of missionaries who go throughout the world for His name's sake in 3 John 7. They preached that there is no other name under heaven by which men might be saved (Acts 4:12).

Think of the power we would have in our congregations to pray over the sick if we let Jesus' nature take over. We just need to confess our sins and make a determination—through grace, love, and mercy—to deal with everything that is not right in our lives, no matter how small. We are not perfect, but we deal with our imperfections without condemnation. We start a new trail of forgiveness toward others and begin living a life of power because we are espoused to the One who was raised from the dead.

Our counselor now is the Holy Spirit of grace.

The Spirit uses the Word of God to counsel us, and, through the Cross, we have a wonderful marriage. Now, we can enter in to objective worship because we recognize the value of the Object. "They that worship [God], must worship him in spirit and in truth [(an objective system of thinking)]" (John 4:24). Colossians 2:7 says we are "rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."

Objective worship is real worship. We can say, "God, I love you for your patience." Because we have been taught about patience and that teaching is now the basis for our worship, we can enter into a long time of worshipping the characteristic nature of His patience. Then, down on our knees, we can say, "Lord, we worship You for Your forgiveness. We are forgiven! I am forgiven!" We can keep saying it. "We worship You, our personal God of forgiveness."

Worship Him because you have been delivered. This is more than just praising God; it is objective worship. It goes deeper than corporate praise services, which are beautiful. If you come into a service and everyone is singing, it is wonderful, pure, and good. But, objective worship goes beyond this. It means to glorify God be-

cause of His name, which speaks of His character and of His authority over us.

God's Transcendent Love

We need to have a heavenly vision of God delivering many with an absolute grace deliverance. We can be released from something and never go back, because we are married to a new Husband. We have taken on His name, His thoughts, and His attributes, which we use to guide us in the choices we make.

To think of Him moment by moment is to worship Him. Oh, worship the God of all grace! The most beautiful thing in the world is to be so in love with Him that even the flesh cannot come in.

We are married to a new life (Romans 7:4, 6). It is something real that transcends sickness, death, and sorrow. It transcends heartaches, guilt, and fear. By God's transcendence, He is over everything in all of heaven and on the earth. His love goes beyond our transgressions because He died for us. With authority, we bring that love to the world as we go in His name.

CONCLUSION

Worship God in the Spirit of His nature. When a holy God convicts you of something that needs to change, write it down and deal with it through the Cross. It may not be a big thing that we have done, but we are now married to Another, and it is important that the fellowship remains pure.

If you are having difficulties, name your sin and return to the God of all grace, this God of power. Let Him turn your life around and give you a new kind of repentance (Jeremiah 31:19).

Let's thank God for each victory every morning, noon, and night. Confess that you are going forward beautifully with God, and watch as He proves Himself faithful.

When we exalt the name and the Word of the Lord, a genuine Word of God revival will sweep through our churches and our nations. If we fall, on the basis of faith and grace we just take a step toward God and see everything

made right. Then, on the basis of believing the Word and confessing the victory, we can live in continual victory to the glory of God.

Dear Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, whose name You have honored above every other name in heaven and earth, thank You for the victory You have given. Amen.