

What's in a Name?

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We're gonna talk about **NAMES**

Names carry Something! Let me explain by this illustration:

- Month of September this year, Going to Federal Bank to get my FD done. My Dad was taking care of everything, by the end of the week, Dad just called me to go down to the bank and receive a certificate of the FD. He just told me to enter and tell the manager there my name "Denny". I enter and I go and visit the manager and tell I'm Denny's son, immediately her countenance changes and says "Oh yes, Denny sir, please enter". Within 5-10 minutes the entire process is done and I'm out.
- Just gives a small window into the power of a name.
- Names, well they carry something to it right? For example it carries meaning usually right? Like most of our names would mean something.
- Sometimes, it carries influence, for example when a statesman from a country goes and visits another country, they usually go in the name of the country, he's a representative of the country. Our Prime Minister has a name, and with it carries power, influence, authority etc. Names are powerful. Example, you're sitting in a class in college and the time table says this teacher and you don't care, but then early in the morning they say the Principal is coming and everything changes.
- Remember that old rap? Remember the Name?

What does a name carry? Here's a list of things it sometimes carries:

- The person's- personality, physical representation, character, ideals, values, activities, work, history, reputation and lifestyle of that person.

Usually along with a name we see there's something attached that comes to our mind.

(Activity, when I say a name here, let's see what comes to our mind)

God is interested in Names! In the Old Testament, we see God revealing to Moses Himself by His Name in **Exodus 3:14-15 & Isaiah 42:8 (The great "I AM")**. It was

blasphemous to even utter that name in those times so only the letters were written for them. That was the kind of relationship they had with God.

We see through the bible, God is interested in names, even in giving names:

Rewind with me to the Old Testament and we're going to see a few passages on this topic:

Right from the very beginning we see God in the business of names, even in changing names:

- Abram "Exalted Father" to Abraham "Father of nations" Genesis 12:2, Genesis 17:5; Sarai "My Princess" to Sarah "Mother of nations" (Genesis 17:5)
- God gave Jacob a name to Israel, meaning "Having power with God"

The New Testament:

- The apostle Peter (previously called Simon), remember when he answered Jesus' question in Matthew 16:15 who do you say I am? He says you are the "Son of the Living God". Jesus says flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but by my Father in heaven and from now I call you Peter, the Rock on which the church is built and the gates of Hades will not prevail!
- The great apostle Paul (previously called Saul). On the road to damascus in Acts 9, he is going on a mission to persecute the Christian believers and on his way he encounters Jesus and from Acts 13, he's called Paul the Apostle.

You see the change in name? We all when we were born were named and God calls us by His name. (Isaiah 43:1) - **I have summoned by Name and you are mine!**

We see God is really interested in our names, in Hebrews chapter 11, the hall of Faith. He mentions to us some names (Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Gideon, Samson, David and Samuel) as examples to us all on how to live a life worthy of carrying a name!

Now I'm sure all of us carry a name. Know this, when you are a follower of Christ, he gives you a name, an identity! It's our responsibility to carry that name and walk.

I want to make a transition:

Now let's look at the greatest name that's ever been named: **JESUS**

Let's look at what a few observations (4 to be exact) on what the name of Jesus is from God's Word:

- Firstly, It saves us

Acts 2:21- Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved!

Romans 10:13- Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved!

Acts 4:12- Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

- At the mention of His name, it allows sinner like me to come to His presence, using His Name we are made one with the Most High. The veil has been torn! (Hebrews 4:16, Ephesians 2:18)

- His name has the power to forgive us of our past, present and future sins

1 John 2:12- I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

- Focus on this point: There is **POWER** in His Name

Mark 16:17- And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues;

Acts 16:18 -"In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.;

1 Samuel 17:45- David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. (Meaning our battle is not with flesh but spiritual!)

Philippians 2:9-11, his name is above every name! Everything bows at His Name!

Do you know what's amazing? We've been entrusted and given this great Name, it is up to us to proclaim and carry this Great name: **John 14:13-14**

End with the story of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane: **John 18:4-11**

This is what I saw in the story, just as Judas and the soldiers came to arrest Jesus, it showed me that there's an assignment against your life! To bind you, to hold you captive, to steal your life because of what you carry and what you represent! And then the Bible says, as the soldiers approach, he stepped up in front and said "Whom do you seek"?, Jesus says "I am He"

At the mention of His name, the Roman soldiers could not stand on their feet!

But look at Peter's response. He took his sword out! And Jesus says to Peter "Put your sword away!" "Shall I not drink of the Cup the Father has sent given me"?

That's the gospel right there, What's your response been to your struggle? What's the situation your going through that no one knows about? We all got our swords out to fight this alone, but Jesus says let me take over, that's the very reason I even came!

We're going to put our swords away tonight and allow Jesus to take over!

Here's the good news: Allow the gospel to be a reality, Let Jesus take over. We're gonna allow Jesus to tell that thing "I am He", just as in John 18 (Isaiah 53:4; Colossians 2:13-15)

His Name is above every struggle you're going through! We're gonna use the Name of Jesus tonight...

I end with this: Here's our privilege, we carry the greatest name on this Planet. What are we going to do about it. There's responsibility for us to carry this great Name here on Earth. May we be good stewards of His Name till our last breath!

Going forward from here, may this be our Prayer and Mission:

Colossians 3:17 "And whatsoever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus."

Things to pray for:

- That every stronghold will be brought down in the Mighty name of Jesus
- That we would proclaim the name of Jesus, that we would be good stewards of the Name of Jesus in this generation. That the Banner of Jesus would be lifted high like never before!