

“POWER IN JESUS’ NAME”

Text: Acts 4:21-31

Subject: Why Is There Power In Jesus’ Name?

(In Acts 4 – Our text has an incredible back drop)

- The authorities have arrested Peter and John for preaching.
 - They’ve been commanded to quit telling people about Jesus (Ch 3 &4)
 - Upon their release, Peter and John rush to their fellow believers.
 - When the church hears the ultimatums and intimidating threats (notice)
- ◆ In v. 24, *“They lift up their voice to God and pray in one accord.”*
- ◆ In v. 28, *“They confess that God has turned evil into good.”*
- ◆ In v. 30, they pray for more signs and wonders **in the name of the holy child Jesus.**

Question: Is the name of Jesus that important in your life today?

(Listen with your spirit)

- (Exodus 20:7) *“Thou shalt not take the **name** of the Lord thy God in vain.”*
- (Micah 4:5) *“We will walk in the **name** of the Lord our God forever and ever.”*
- (Zechariah 10:12) *“I will strengthen them in the Lord, and they shall walk up and down in His **name** saith the Lord.”*
- (Colossians 3:17) *“And whatsoever you do in word or deed, do all in the **name** of the Lord Jesus.”*
- (Hebrews 1:4) *“Being made so much better than the angels, as He hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent **name** than they.”*
- (Philippians 2:9) *“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him and given Him a **name** which is above every name. “That at the **name** of Jesus every knee should bow.”*
- (Proverbs 18:10) *“The **name** of the Lord is a strong tower.”*
- (Psalm 76:1) *“In Judah is God known, His **name** is great in Israel.”*
- (Psalm 8:1) *“O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy **name** in all the earth.”*
- (Song of Solomon 1:3) *“Thy **name** is as ointment poured forth.”*
- (Isaiah 7:14) *“Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His **name** Immanuel.”*
- (Matthew 1:21) *“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His **name** Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins.”*

(Especially hear this)

- (Psalm 72:17) *“His **name** shall endure forever; His name shall be continued as long as the sun”*
- (Matthew 18:5) *“And whoso shall receive one such little child in My **name** there am I in the midst of them.”*
- (Ephesians 5:20) *“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the **name** of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*
- (John 1:12) *“But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His **name**.”*

Question: What does the name of a person represent?

Answer: The name of a person represents the personality, character, ideals, values, activities, work, history, reputation and lifestyle of that person.

Question: Why is this so important to you and me?

Answer: Because God speaks of "My name" 65 times in scripture.

- ◆ "Your name" is used of God 101 times.
- ◆ "Name of the Lord" 95 times.
- ◆ And "name" in references to Jesus (or God) 85 more times.
- ◆ So the Bible records the word "name" (in reference to God or Christ) **346** times!

(The question today is):

- ◆ What does the name of Jesus have to do with you?
- ◆ How does the name of Jesus affect how we live?
- ◆ Why do we pray in Jesus' name?
- ◆ How are people healed in Jesus' name?
- ◆ In plain vanilla, why is there power in Jesus' name?

I. There Is Power In Jesus' Name To Come Directly Into God's Presence

Question: How can we as sinners come into the very presence of God?

- ◆ (Luke 24:47) *"And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached **in His name** among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."*
- ◆ (Acts 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."*
- ◆ (Acts 2:21) *"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the **name** of the Lord shall be saved."*
- ◆ (Romans 10:13) *"For whosoever shall call upon the **name** of the Lord shall be saved."*
- ◆ (Acts 10:43) *"Through His **name**, whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins."*
- ◆ (I Corinthians 6:11) *"And such were some of you, but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the **name** of the Lord Jesus."*
- ◆ (I John 2:12) *"I write unto you little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His **name's sake**."*

(In other words)

- ◆ In Jesus' name (or through his accomplishments at Calvary) we have the privilege of coming into the very presence of God.
- ◆ We are no longer outsiders and strangers, but forgiven, washed and justified. We now have access into the very presence of a Holy God.

(How did it happen?)

- ◆ Through forgiveness in His name.

There is power in Jesus' name to be forgiven and come directly into the presence of God.

II. There Is Power In Jesus' Name To See Answers To Prayer

Question: How can we be heard and receive answers in prayer?

Answer: (John 16:23, 24)

*"Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My **name**, He will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My **name**; ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."*

(John 15:16)

*"Whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My **name**, He will give it to you."*

(I Corinthians 1:2)

*"Unto the saints in the church, call upon the **name** of Jesus Christ our Lord."*

Question: What does it mean to pray in Jesus' name?

Answer: It means to pray in harmony with His will and character. (It means):

- ◆ To pray out of a life that is obedient.
- ◆ To pray out of a clear conscience.
- ◆ To pray out of a heart surrendered to His will.
- ◆ To pray out of a will committed to God's purposes.

(To pray in Jesus' name)

- ◆ Means, we can't live in sin and just tack on the words "in Jesus' name" at the end of our prayers.
- ◆ We can't pray in faith while we live contrary to His will. **(In other words)**
- ◆ Prayer is only effective, to the degree that I live to please the Lord!!!
- ◆ Prayer is only beneficial, to the degree I support what His name stands for.
- ◆ Prayer is only militant against principalities of darkness when it is prayed in confidence.

III. There Is Power In Jesus' Name To Stand Up Against The Devil

Question: Is it biblical to use the name of Jesus to come against the powers of evil?

Answer: Listen for yourself.

- ◆ (Psalm 44:5) *"Through you Lord we push back our enemies, through Your **name** we trample our foes."*
- ◆ (Acts 16:18) *"But Paul being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the **name** of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour."*
- ◆ (II Chronicles 14:11) *"And Asa cried unto the Lord and said, ' Help us O Lord our God, for we rest on thee, and in thy **name** we go against this multitude"*
- ◆ (Luke 10:17) *"And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through Thy **name**."*

- ◆ (I Samuel 17:45) *“Then David said to Goliath, you come to me with a sword, a spear and a shield, but I come to you in the **name** of the Lord of Hosts.”*

Illustration

One morning a church member came in to see me. He said, “Pastor, I have a burden to see us have a recovery class, an over-comers class in our church for those in and outside of the congregation.” (He said we have the answer for everyone and anyone who is addicted...)

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| ◆ To drugs | ◆ To alcohol | ◆ To smoking | ◆ To gambling |
| ◆ To pornography | ◆ To overeating | ◆ To sexual sins | ◆ To every disorder |

Question: How many of you believe there is power in the gospel?

Question: How many of you believe that Jesus can overcome every evil stronghold?

Question: How many of you believe that (in Jesus’ name) the Lord can break the power of every sin?

IV. There Is Power In Jesus’ Name To Live Filled With the Holy Spirit:

- ◆ (John 14:26) *“But the comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things.”*
- ◆ (Acts 2:38) *“Then Peter said, repent and be baptized every one of you in the **name** of Jesus and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

(In other words)

- ◆ Jesus has promised to fill everyone hungry and thirsty with the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ Jesus (because of His accomplishments) is now filling millions with the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ Jesus said, in My name I’m sending the comforter unto you.
- ◆ And because Jesus said so, and put his name on the promise, in His name we can live baptized and full of the Holy Spirit.

Ask: Why do you want to be a spirit-baptized Pentecostal Christian?

1. Praying in the spirit **edifies the one praying** (I Cor 14:4)
“He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself.”
2. Praying in the spirit **allows you to speak directly to God** (I. Cor 14:2)
“He that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God.”
3. Praying in the spirit **strengthens your intercession** (Romans 8:26)
“The spirit makes intercession for us with groaning and helps our infirmity.”
4. Praying in the spirit **enhances your worship.** (I Cor 14:15)
“I will sing with the spirit.”

V. There Is Power In Jesus’ Name To Endure Any Affliction:

- ◆ (Acts 5:41) *“And the apostles departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer for His **name**.”*
- ◆ (Acts 9:16) *“For I will show Him how great things he must suffer for My **name’s** sake.”*
- ◆ (Acts 15:25, 26) *“Men that have hazarded their lives for the **name** of the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Ask: How many of you have had at least one affliction or one problem since you

were saved?

- ◆ (I Peter 4:14) *“If you be reproached for the **name** of Christ, happy are ye, for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you.”*
- ◆ (Hebrews 13:15) *“By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the first of our lips giving thanks to His **name**.”*
- ◆ (Matthew 10:22) *“And ye shall be hated of all men for My **name** sake, but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.”*

(In other words)

- ◆ You can put up with a lot for His name sake.
- ◆ You can forgive every offender for His name sake.
- ◆ You can walk through every valley for His Name sake.
- ◆ You can sacrifice without complaint for His name sake.
- ◆ You can endure every affliction for His name sake.
- ◆ You can stay sweet in a sour place for His name sake.
- ◆ You can tithe with joy for His name sake.
- ◆ You can be corrected and teachable for His name sake.
- ◆ You can suffer wrong and not retaliate for His name sake.
- ◆ You can be rejected and resisted, betrayed and forsaken, yet rejoice in His Name.

VI. There Is Power In Jesus Name To Be Healed Of Sicknesses

- ◆ (James 5:14) *“Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the **name** of the Lord.”*
- ◆ (Acts 4:30) *“That signs and wonders may be done by the **name** of the Holy Child Jesus.”*
- ◆ (Acts 3:6) *“Then Peter said, silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee, in the **name** of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”*
- ◆ (Acts 3:16) *“Through faith in His **name**, has this man been made strong.”*

(In other words)

- ◆ There is power in Jesus' name (His Person) to forgive sin, give grace to endure and heal broken bodies.

VII. There Is Power In Jesus Name To Be Changed In Any Area Of Your Life

- ◆ (II Timothy 2:19) *“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal; the Lord knoweth them that are His. And, let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”*

In Other Words

Faith in His name (or in His ability) can change any area of your life that needs to be changed!!! **TODAY!**

Amen! Bill Kirk