

# The Curse of a Good Name

Patrick D. Coats

Copyright ©2025 Patrick D. Coats

All rights reserved

First Edition



PDC Publishing  
366 Grampian Highlands Drive  
ST Johns, FL 32259

First originally published by PDC Publishing 2025

ISBN 979-8-9923104-0-5 (Paperback)  
ISBN 979-8-9923104-1-2 (Hardcover)  
ISBN 979-8-9923104-2-9 (Digital)

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®.  
Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson.  
Used by permission. All rights reserved.

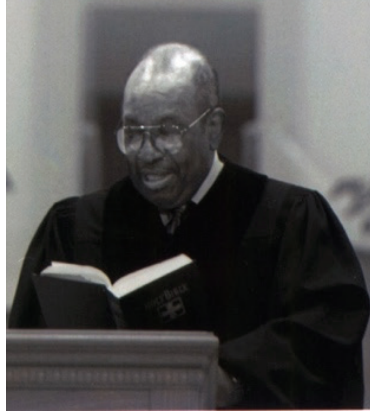
Printed in the United States of America

## Dedication

Growing up as a '70s baby, I experienced a pivotal time in

American history—on the heels of the Civil Rights movement, a period of change and great hope

for black and brown people. Like many other young black men, I grew up without my biological father, Ronald Ferguson, whom I only met once at the age of eight. However, it was God's plan for my maternal grandfather to take me in at just two months old and shape my life into the man I am today.



My grandfather was the late Dr. Joseph C. Coats, Sr. What a blessing it was as he was a prominent Baptist Minister who transformed a small Church plant of roughly 40 members and, under his leadership, became a thriving mega-church of about 5,000 members during the peak of his ministry in Miami Florida.

He retired in 1997 after 30 years of faithful service at Glendale Baptist Church in Miami, FL. So strong was his legacy across the nation that more than two decades after his passing, at the mention of his name, people from that era still speak well of him and long for the days of his leadership.

I have often felt a connection to the story of Moses, who, as a baby, was placed in a basket in the river near the Egyptian Pharaoh's sister's home. She took Moses in, and he became family.

He was used by God in the history of ancient Israel to deliver them from bondage in the story of the Exodus. Similarly, my grandfather took me in and gave me all he had—most importantly, his name. It is a name and legacy that I have been proud of, and I have made it my mission to honor it throughout my life. God has seen fit to call me to the gospel ministry, and His hand of favor has been on my life. I believe all of this is connected.

And in honor of the faithfulness of my late grandfather, I am also blessed to have a fantastic wife, Archalena Coats, and three loving children, Patrick II (PJ), Joy, and Faith. While I feel very blessed to bear a good name, it has come with its challenges, but I have learned that God's grace is sufficient in all things. I dedicate this book to my late grandfather, Dr. Joseph C. Coats, to my wonderful bride of more than thirty-one years, and three incredible children, but also to my deceased friend, James Melton, Jr., and paternal big brother Dr. John Isham Payne Jr., who has encouraged me to share my story with the world.

## **Foreword**

Reverend Patrick D. Coats is a generational man of faith whose life work is to spread the true and living word of God. His courage and unwavering belief in his purpose, paired with his extensive biblical knowledge, grants him unique indisputable abilities to motivate, counsel, encourage, pastor, and touch lives in a transformative way. I have come to know him as a master communicator, both verbally and nonverbally. Fortified with the spirit of God and a deep love for his savior, Jesus Christ, the visual sermons gained from observing the way he lives his life are louder than the audible sermons he delivers. His message and contagious spirit resonate deep in your mind, and heart long after his presence is no longer nearby.

The Curse of a Good Name is Reverend Patrick D. Coats freshman offering to the world and is sure to inspire, enlighten, and inform! This book provides eye-opening spiritual context about the power of a name and is a delicate constructed fabric of storytelling infused with biblical

knowledge, serving as the glue that holds the entire book together.

This book has no limitation of genre and provides major takeaways for all walks of life. A one-of-a-kind body of work that is sure to bless all who reads it! A must-have in your spiritual kit bag!

~DR. JOHN I. PAYNE JR., author,  
You May Not Be Who You Think You Are!

## Table of Contents

<b><i>Dedication</i></b> .....	<b><i>iii</i></b>
<b><i>Foreword</i></b> .....	<b><i>vi</i></b>
<b><i>Introduction</i></b> .....	<b><i>1</i></b>
<b><i>CHAPTER ONE</i></b> .....	<b><i>6</i></b>
<b>My Story</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Growing Up Under the Spotlight</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Joy, Loss, and Cementing My Place</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Moments of Defiance and Understanding</b> .....	<b>10</b>
A Picture Says 1000 Words .....	10
<b>Ministry, Marriage, and a New Chapter</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Continuing the Legacy</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b><i>CHAPTER TWO</i></b> .....	<b><i>14</i></b>
<b>What's in a Name</b> .....	<b>14</b>
When Grandma Calls! .....	15
<b>The Power of Meaning</b> .....	<b>16</b>
The Power of Favor .....	17
<b>A Name That Defines Identity</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>Biblical Perspective on Names</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>Names in Today's World</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>Names are a Foundation, Not a Prison</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b><i>CHAPTER THREE</i></b> .....	<b><i>24</i></b>
<b>A Name is Connected to a Life Story</b> .....	<b>24</b>
<b>The Layers of a Name</b> .....	<b>24</b>
The Great Question .....	26
<b>Rediscovering Identity in Christ</b> .....	<b>28</b>
<b>Unlocking Promises and Possibilities</b> .....	<b>29</b>
<b>Connecting the Dots</b> .....	<b>31</b>



<b>CHAPTER FOUR .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>The Gatekeepers .....</b>	<b>33</b>
Navigating Family Traditions .....	33
<b>Gatekeepers in Society and Faith .....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>The Transactional Nature of Gatekeepers .....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Living with Expectations.....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Breaking Through the Gates .....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>A Word of Encouragement .....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>CHAPTER FIVE.....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>The Curse .....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>The Burden of Misunderstanding .....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>The Weight of Expectations .....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Isolation of the Pedestal .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Finding Freedom in God’s Grace.....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Redeeming the Curse.....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Embracing the Journey .....</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>CHAPTER SIX.....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Overcoming Generational Curses .....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Practical ways that may help break generational     curses: .....</b>	<b>51</b>
1. Recognize the Curse .....	51
2. Confess and Renounce .....	52
3. Claim Your Identity in Christ.....	52
4. Replace Old Patterns with Godly Habits .....	52
5. Seek Community and Accountability .....	53
6. Speak Life Over Future Generations.....	53
7. Trust God for Complete Redemption .....	53
<b>CHAPTER SEVEN .....</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Reclaiming a Name .....</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>The Beauty of the Relay Race .....</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Surrendering to Purpose .....</b>	<b>61</b>

**Running Your Leg of the Race..... 62**

**The Power of Purpose..... 64**

**Passing the Baton ..... 65**

***CHAPTER EIGHT*..... 67**

**Charting a New Legacy.....67**

**A Name is a Starting Point, Not a Destination .....67**

**Building with Intention ..... 69**

☐ Defining your values..... 69

☐ Setting clear goals..... 69

☐ Breaking negative cycles ..... 69

☐ Investing in others..... 69

**Embracing the Challenges ..... 70**

**Leaving a Lasting Impact ..... 71**

**A Legacy for God’s Glory .....73**