

First Harvest ministries

Presenting the Coming Kingdom

Doctrinal Position of First Harvest Ministries Concerning the Sacred Name

From the Desk of the International Pastor: Rev. J. Shane Vaughn

As we return to the ancient path and walk the narrow way, *First Harvest Ministries* (FHM) is committed to being restored to the faith of "The Fathers"—*Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob*.

In this process, we have been granted fresh insight into the Hebrew nature of the scriptures, leading us to a profound desire to reconnect with the Hebrew roots of our faith.

An essential aspect of this restoration involves recognizing and honoring the sacred names of both the Father and the Son, specifically **YHWH** (Yahweh) and **Yahshua**. These original names, rooted in the Hebrew language, reveal a depth of meaning that connects us to the very nature of the Father and the Son.

However, it is important to emphasize that FHM is not aligned with the movement commonly referred to as the **Sacred Name Movement**. This movement is often characterized by a strict, dictatorial approach to the use of the sacred names, insisting that terms such as "God," "Lord," or "Jesus" must never be used.

After years of research, we find no scriptural basis for such an extreme position. At FHM, we do not believe it is sinful to use these titles or names in conversations, particularly when speaking with those who do not share an understanding of the original Hebrew names. We reject any notion of policing language in this regard. Instead, we hope to foster a love for the true names of our Father and His Son within our fellowship, while avoiding the creation of fear or legalism surrounding the use of names and titles you may have used previously.

Our guiding principle is that we are judged not by the exact pronunciation of a name, but by the intent of our hearts. It is, therefore, the position of First Harvest Ministries that we have no doctrinal teaching forbidding the use of terms such as **God**, **Lord**, or **Jesus** in conversations with those outside our fellowship.

Nevertheless, within our assemblies and gatherings, it is our collective desire to use the true names that have been revealed to us. We also recognize that within our fellowship, there are varying understandings of the sacred name of the Creator, including but not limited to:

- **Yahweh**
- **Yehovah**
- **Yahovah**
- **Yahuah**

At this time, the leadership of FHM has settled on the name **Yahweh** but extends grace to those who have come to different conclusions. **However, in our assemblies and gatherings, we respectfully request that those who hold differing views use the poetic form of the name—**Yah**—which all agree upon.

As for the name of the Son, our current understanding is **Yahshua**, and we ask that this name be used within our fellowship.

Finally, let us be careful not to become like the Pharisees, imposing our understanding on others. When speaking with those outside of our fellowship, it is perfectly acceptable to use generic terms such as **God**, **Lord**, or **Jesus**. In fact, this can often lead to fruitful teaching opportunities. A good practice is to follow the generic term with the sacred name, such as saying, "God (Yahweh) tells us in His Word..."

More in-depth teaching on why we do not condemn the use of titles and names will be addressed in an upcoming video teaching. Until then, let us walk in love and grace, striving to honor the names revealed to us while extending understanding and respect to others.

Pastor Shane Vaughn
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