

FAITH IN THE NAME

*Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to **believe in the name** of his Son, Jesus Christ, **and to love one another** as he commanded us. Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. - 1 John 3:21-24 NIV*

Jesus wants his disciples to have faith in his name, to trust in his word and in his authority and power for any situation which they may face. We see this in evidence when Peter and John were on their way to pray one afternoon. A crippled beggar saw them and begged them for money. The lame man's level of thinking was limited. He was just looking for a few survival coins for the day, but God had something bigger in mind for him, a life changing miracle! Peter was an available container through which God would release his powerful life changing contents. Peter boldly spoke these words to the beggar:

***Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you.
In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk. - Acts 3:6***

The lame man was instantly healed and began walking, jumping and praising God! The crowd that had gathered around was surprised by this miracle as they fixed their eyes on Peter and John. Peter immediately deflected the praise to the one who was responsible for the miracle. (He was merely using **a key** that had been previously given to him by Jesus. Matthew 16:19) The key is to bind and loose, forbid and permit, to use the authority that Jesus gives every believer.

Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we made this man walk? - Acts 3:12

It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that he has given this complete healing to him. - Acts 3:16

Peter had something more valuable than money.....**faith in the name** of Jesus, but not everyone did. The Jewish religious leaders **feared the name** of Jesus and the preaching of his resurrection. They put Peter and John into prison because of it and saw how the masses of Jerusalem were aware of this miracle and many were coming to believe in Jesus. They ordered the two apostles not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus, but Peter and John would not be deterred.

We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard. - Acts 4:2

Peter and John demonstrated great boldness:

1. They were not afraid to pray publicly for a man lame from birth.
2. They were not afraid to confront the religious leaders about their wickedness and their murder of Jesus.
3. They continued to preach boldly in Jerusalem even after being imprisoned and set free.

Boldness comes not only from faith in Jesus but also from living in his love, for perfect love drives out all fear. They had no fear of what others thought, no fear of disease, no fear of failure, no fear of persecution and no fear of death. Jesus had overcome all of these things and more and they were joint-heirs with Jesus and his co-workers in the great harvest.

They had the **name of Jesus on their lips**, but even more importantly, they had **Jesus living big in their hearts**. They had received Jesus and now they were releasing him into the world.

Victory begins with the name of Jesus on our lips, it is consummated with the nature of Jesus in our hearts.

Francis Frangipane

Jesus commands all of his disciples to have **faith in his name** and to **love another**. It will result in more healing, wholeness and happiness in the world!

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