

THE NAME OF JESUS

Christian prayer is often concluded with the words; 'In Jesus' name' or 'In the name of Jesus'. It is not just the use of the name of Jesus that is important, but what that name represents. You could name your child 'Einstein' but they would not become a genius unless they were born with that capacity. Vain repetitions can lead to ineffective prayer but knowledge is power, therefore let us explore the significance of the name of Jesus. What is the substance and reality behind the name of Jesus? First of all, it is not only relevant in prayer but in all areas of our life.

Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. - Colossians 3:17

In the culture of Biblical times, a name often represented the character, nature, ability or purpose of a person. Those who bear the name Christian are to display the nature and behavior that Jesus walked in.

What is a person's name? It is a word or expression in which a person is represented to us. When I mention or hear a name, it brings to mind the whole man, what I know of him, and also the impression he has made on me. The name of a king includes his honor, his power, his kingdom. His name is the symbol of his power. And so each name of God embodies and represents some part of the glory of the Unseen One. The name of Christ is the expression of everything he has done and everything he is and lives to do as our Mediator. - Andrew Murray

The name Jesus was a common Jewish name which is Yehoshua or Yeshua in Hebrew which means, Yahweh (God) is salvation. He came to save his people from their sins and the wrath of God against sin was satisfied through his blood sacrifice. (It should be noted that Christ is not the name of Jesus but a title given to Jesus which means he was the promised anointed Messiah of God. There have been and will be many so called Christs, but only Jesus is 'The Christ'.

Access: Jesus has given us free entry to the throne of God. Prayer is our great privilege to effect earthly change through our appeal to heaven. The Bible gives about 700 different names and titles in respect to the person of Jesus. The more of these that we know, the more faith and fruit we will have in our prayers.

Those who know your name will put their trust in you. Psalm 9:10

There is one name that sums up best who God really is, for he first revealed it to Moses.

God said to Moses, **"I AM WHO I AM"**..... this is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation. - Exodus 3:13-15

The Jewish religious leaders asked Jesus.....Who do you think you are?
- John 8:53. **Jesus answered**Before Abraham was born, **I AM!** - John 8:58.
This was the exact wording God used to identify himself to Moses.
Jesus revealed that he was God. Later when Jesus was arrested in the garden, he proclaimed who he was with the same words: **I AM** (this is the Greek words 'ego eimi' which were also used in John 8:58 and in the Greek version of the Old Testament in Exodus 3:14) When Jesus uttered '**I AM**', the soldiers, and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees drew back and fell to the ground! - John 18:6. There is power behind that name. (I have experienced this in my life)

When God revealed himself as '**I AM**', he was revealing **his self existence** for he has no beginning nor end. **He is self sufficient and independent.** God is the ultimate reality and source.

We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, because You have taken your power and have begun to reign. - Revelation 11:17 NKJV

*Who has ever given to God that God should repay them? For **from him** and **through him** and **to him** are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. - Romans 11:35-36*

In the gospel of John, Jesus reveals himself in seven different ways as I AM. In John 6 he proclaims.....**I AM the bread of life** Just previous to that he had turned 5 loaves of bread into enough to feed 5000 men plus their families which was multiple thousands more. After that, he revealed to his disciples that he was the bread for spiritual life too.

In John 11, Jesus revealed himself with these words.....**I AM the resurrection and the life.** This was right after he had raised Lazarus from the dead! Jesus was the ultimate teacher. He practiced 'show and tell'.....he taught what he practiced. Luke wrote about this:

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began to **do** and **teach**.....Acts 1:1

All preachers and teachers could learn from this example. The main classroom where Jesus taught was in everyday life in the world. The most effective professors of theology are those who have had real world experience and have seen Jesus, the great I AM, doing his stuff through them and others. The gospel of Jesus is not just words.... but power on display. The book of Acts could be called the book of ACTION. **Whatever need we may have, Jesus is the I AM for it.**

Adrian Rogers used three words to clarify what the name of Jesus means: Approval.....Authority.....Acclaim. Let's take a closer look.

Approval: What we do or pray should be something that Jesus could put his stamp of approval on. Celebrities are often asked to endorse products in order to make them more popular. Jesus does not endorse sin, selfishness and wrong motives - James 4:3. However, he approves behavior and prayers based on His Word and nature. (Soon we will examine the importance of the king's signet ring in another message).

Authority: Jesus displayed his power and right to authority through his life, death, burial, resurrection and ascension to the throne of God. We cannot expect Jesus to authorize or empower anything which he does not endorse or approve. We must first come **under** God's authority before we can expect to exercise authority **over** the devil and his evil forces.

God opposes the proud, but gives grace (favor and empowerment) to the humble. Submit yourselves, then to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
- James 4:6-7 NIV

Acclaim: Everything should be done to bring honor and acclaim to Jesus and not to ourselves.

If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and power for ever and ever. Amen
- 1 Peter 4:11 NIV

When we pray, does our life and do our words match up with the character and nature of Jesus? If we call ourself a Christian, does our life truly represent him to the world as he truly is or is it false advertising? Have you ever seen a car with a Christian bumper sticker on it and yet the person was driving like the devil?! **If we bear the name of Christ, we should bear the fruit of the Spirit.** Jesus had to put up with some foolishness from his first disciples, but he had faith in them and was patient. just as he is with us. He has a lot invested in us and seeks to bring us to a place where we trust him fully and have faith in his name.

Blessings to you in Jesus' name!
johnbeckerink@yahoo.com

jesusreigns.net