

## Prayer or Actions “In the Name of Jesus”, or, “In Jesus Name”

### Religious Clichés or Reality

On numerous occasions you may have heard well meaning people praying over others saying things like “I command you sickness, in the **name of Jesus** (which they usually shout loudly), to depart”, or, you may have heard them emphatically say “I bind you foul spirit of sickness and in **Jesus name** I tell you to leave this person alone”. But, sadly, in many such situations you may have noticed that nothing happened and the sickness or oppression prevailed in the person.

I remember years ago hearing a friend, Tim, preaching and saying how he had been out running when a big vicious dog came up to him barking and growling and with intent to harm him when he loudly rebuked the dog “**in Jesus name**” and telling it to go away. He proudly announced that the dog, on hearing the mighty name of “**Jesus**,” turned and ran away. His message that day was on how we should use the “**name of Jesus**” as a tool against the enemy. Well, I wonder if Tim’s shouting the “**name of Jesus**” had anything to do with the dog’s departure, but rather think that it was the stern voice and loud shouting had frightened it away. Over the years I recall many occasions, in meetings, on TV, or over the radio, where I heard “faith” preachers teaching and preaching on the subject of the “**name of Jesus**” where it was implied that by using the name of “**Jesus**” we could overcome sickness, evil and onslaughts of the devil. Speak out His name, they would say, for there’s power in the name of “**Jesus**”. Satan trembles at the name of “**Jesus**”. And on they would go, as if the very words themselves: “**in the name of Jesus**”, or the word “**Jesus**”, had some supernatural power in them when we spoke them.

I wonder how many people really understand what it really means to pray or speak out in the “**name of Jesus**”? I think there may be many who do, but I equally think there are many, like the seven sons of Sceva, who do not know. Have a look at Acts 19:13-16 where it says:

*“Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the LORD Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.”*

Did the use of the words “**the name of Jesus**”, by none other than the sons of the chief of the priests, prevail in that instance? I think not. In fact they were taking His name in vain, because they were trying to impersonate Him and use His name for their own selfish purposes. That is blasphemy.

So what does it mean to act or speak “**in the name of Jesus**”, or “**in Jesus name**”?

Well, first of all, let’s define “name”. What is in a “name”?

An “arm chair” is the *name* given to an object that typically has four legs, a padded seat, arm rests and a padded backrest and is used to sit upon with a little more support and comfort than

a “stool”, which, in turn, is the *name* describing something with three or more legs with a flat seat attached to the top of the legs, forming a very basic sitting arrangement. Similarly, a “spoon” is the *name* given to a metal, wooden or plastic utensil having a shallow concave part, usually elliptical in shape, attached to a handle, and is used for eating or serving food, stirring or measuring out food, or other similar uses.

We could also look at *name* in another way. We say that a person (John) or a business (Smith’s) has a “good” *name*, which is not saying that the name “John” or “Smith” in itself is something good but that their character or their integrity is great. Similarly, we say his *name* was pulled through the mud. Meaning his character was smeared. So whichever way we look at what a *name* is, a *name* describes the nature, character and attributes of the subject under discussion.

So what does the *name* “**Jesus**” represent? The *name* “**Jesus**” (which is the English rendition of the Greek name Iêsous or the Hebrew name Yeshua or Yehoshua) refers to the “self existent, eternal God who is Salvation. “**Christ**” (the English rendition of the Greek name “Christos” or Hebrew name “Maw-shee-akh”) means Messiah or Anointed One. So “**Jesus Christ**” means God our Saviour, the Anointed One. “**Jesus**” is a Person, the second person of the God-head. He is the Christ, the Saviour, the Word and the “Seed of the Father”. He is the revelation of the Father (Heb 1:3). For the “born-again” He is the “Seed of the Father” placed in us, who is Life, Salvation, Love, Righteousness, Peace and Joy in us. He is our life, our all in all.

The truly wonderful “**Jesus**” is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, Almighty, Anointed One, Apostle, Beloved, Chosen, Creator, Deliverer, Emmanuel (God with us), the Foundation Stone, Greater One, Healer, Holy One, the I Am, Intercessor, Judge, Just and Justifier, King of kings, Lamb, Light, Lion, Lord of lords, Maker, Mediator, Messiah, the One, Peace, Physician, Potter, Priest, Prophet, Propitiation, Purifier, Ransom, Redeemer, Redemption, Refiner, the Resurrection, Righteous, Rock, Ruler, Sacrifice, Salvation, Saviour, Seed, Servant, Shepherd, Teacher, Tree of Life, Vine, Water, the Way, Wisdom, Witness, Wonderful Counselor, and the Word.

“**Jesus**” is:

Jehovah-Jireh – our Provider (Phil 4:19)  
Jehovah-Rapha – our Healer (Matt 8:16-17)  
Jehovah-M’Kadesh – our Sanctification (1 Cor 1:30)  
Jehovah-Shalom – our Peace (Eph 2:14)  
Jehovah-Sabaoth – Lord of hosts (Matt 26:53)  
Jehovah-Elyon – God Most High (Mark 5:7)  
Jehovah-Ra-ah – our Shepherd (Jn 10:11)  
Jehovah-Tsidkenu – our Righteousness (1 Cor 1:30)  
Jehovah- Shammah – God is Present (Matt 28:20, Heb 13:5)  
Immanuel – God with us (Matt 1:23, Col 1:27)

Yes, the *name* of “**Jesus**” encompasses all those characteristics and attributes and even more, for that’s not an exhaustive list. Now, understanding the enormity, beauty and power of all that’s in the *Name* that is above all names, the most amazing thing is that we were “*chosen in Him before the foundation of the world*” (Eph 1:4). “*Christ in you, the hope of glory*” (Col 1:27). Christ in you and you in Christ. “*He that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit*” (1 Cor 6:17). So Christians or Christ-persons is who we are. We are containers of the Divine Nature (2 Pet 1:4).

Everything that is in the **name of Jesus** is contained in the Seed that was placed in us when we believed. He is our life, our all. He is the One whom we contain, and it is His nature, characteristics and attributes that are to flow out of us in our expression of Him.

Your “words” are the invisible, inner thoughts and intents that come out of you in an audible, tangible form. Your words are distinct from you yet they are part of you in a different form. Your words go inside the hearer and are assimilated and comprehended by the hearer. Your words communicate the real, inner you to the hearer. As a believer the real inner you is Christ (Gal 2:20 ... *“it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me”* ...), and it is Him you are to give expression to in your words and actions. Then, He who is the Word, flows out of you into the hearer to be received by them and to meet their need.

So, when we, the born again, pray **“in Jesus name”** it is really Christ (in all that is in that mighty name) in us, as us, speaking forth. It’s us as containers of the Divine Nature (2 Peter 1:4) in action. Gal 2:20 says quite clearly *“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me”*. It’s not a magical formula or just use of the words **“in the name of Jesus”**, or the word **“Jesus”**, or the words **“the blood of Jesus”** or any other similar words, or how loud you shout His name, or shake, or huff and puff, or anything else we do for that matter, that gets things done or has any significance. When you or I pray or act **“in the name of Jesus”** it simply means that we, as containers of the Person, Jesus, Christ, are the mouth piece, or hands, or feet of Him speaking out His words or carrying out His actions to release His power to address the situation at hand. It’s no longer just me as the old me standing there uttering some words, it’s Christ as me speaking as He gives me utterance so His will may be done, so that the Word and His power to heal, deliver or encourage may come forth. So when I come to you **“in the name of Jesus”** it simply means I come as a container of Christ; a vessel containing the Divine Nature, in obedience to His direction, presenting Him, His will and His words for the situation at hand.

When the Heavenly Father looks at you, a believer, what does He see? He sees Jesus! He sees Christ in you, the hope of glory! And He rejoices! So then, if the devil looks at you what does he see? Yes, he sees the same thing the Fathers sees. He sees Jesus. He sees Christ in you, the hope of glory and he shudders and trembles, because it is Jesus who has defeated him and Who is the Victor and he (Satan) knows he has to submit.

So now, if we go back to Acts 19:13-16, it is clear that the evil spirit knew who Jesus was and knew who Paul was because He who is the Seed, the Saviour, the Deliverer was the Life in the man Jesus of Nazareth and the Life in Paul. But when he looked at the others, who were simply using the words **“in the name of Jesus”** as a formula, he did not see the Christ in them, he just saw them for who they were, unregenerate sons of the devil, actors trying to impersonate Jesus, people with no Life, no Power, nothing, and he chased them because they were a bunch of nothings and they had no authority over him.

Jesus said, *“For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me”* (John 12:49, 50). Similarly, we achieve His will when we, **first**, set our mind on Christ, who is our only life, the One with whom we are one spirit, and listening to what He is saying and thinking, and, **then**, as

His containers, present Him in words or actions, through our voice or hands, to the situation at hand so that whatever He wants in that situation can be said or done. So if he wants to heal someone, we will stand there as His containers, containers of Jehovah Rapha, the Healer, having heard from Him and, in obedience, provide a channel for His life and power to flow out from Him who is our life and our all into the person in need, and in doing so we will have spoken, prayed, or acted in consistency with His nature, character and will. We will have spoken or prayed "in the name of Jesus".

Now let's go on, to further support this point, and have a look at Matthew 7:15, 18, 21-23 because Jesus is making it really clear here. He says, *"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves" ... "A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can the bad tree produce good fruit" ... "Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles"? And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness"*. This means that some may prophesy using the words *"thus says the Lord"*, or something similar, and go on to speak out something that they (not God) have concocted, and it may even be words taken from the scriptures. This clearly is blasphemy, because they are claiming they have heard from God and are delivering His word to you, when they have not walked in union with Him and have not taken the time to listen to Him. They are posing, acting, trying to be impersonators of God to you. This is blasphemy. It's blaspheming His name.

Now, whether the impostors use of *"the name of Jesus"* results in the casting out demons, or healing, or miracles taking place, is not the point here, the point Jesus is making is that these things did not happen as a result of an intimate union with Christ and an expression of His will for the situation at hand. Their actions were born out of lawlessness. He said, *"a bad (lawless) tree cannot produce good fruit"*. Jesus said *"apart from Me you can do nothing"* (John 15:5). A miracle or healing may have happened, yes, but if that "miracle", a supernatural occurrence, was not in the specific will of God, not His desire for that person at that particular time, because he had them in the school of circumstances and situations to bring them to Christ, then what has taken place is not "good fruit", it is the opposite in God's eyes. If what God wanted was for the person to first come to Salvation or to "learn Christ" through the tribulation they suffered, and only then, later on, to be healed or receive a miracle to sort out the hassle they faced, but they were delivered from their hassle prematurely, then the "false (lawless) prophet" who had delivered the miracle has clearly not acted *"as Christ"* or *"in the name of Jesus"* (in His will) and is clearly out of order. He has gone against the will of God in that situation and Jesus says, *"Depart from Me, I don't know you"*.

Oh what a cautioning and admonition that we abide in the Vine and carry His sap, His life, His will out in our "branch" to produce His "fruit" for recipients to partake of and receive His blessing. Romans 8:6-8 reiterates what Jesus said in the Matthew 7 passage, *"For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit (Christ within) is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; and those who are in the flesh cannot please God"*. When we act or speak out of our carnal soul-mind or feelings in accordance with what we think is good for the situation rather than that which comes from the mind of Christ, we produce death, not life, and this is lawlessness and sin.

What it truly means to speak (prophesy or pray) ***“in the name of Jesus”*** or act (doing things) ***“in His name”*** is for us to manifest His mind and express the Christ within. When the mighty, irrepressible One, who is Life wants to be expressed through us, His vessel, His means of expression, and in obedience to Him we yield our voice and hands to Him so He can speak or act, then we speak or act ***“in His name”***. There can be no other meaning to speaking or acting ***“in the name of Jesus”***. It’s not just words we speak that use His name (clichés), it’s a Person, Christ, within us speaking forth using our voice or hands to express Himself and His will. It’s Christ in us, as us, speaking out.

Jesus of Nazareth did nothing off His own bat. He did not just walk into the place and say the first thing or anything that came from Himself or His feelings. All that He had to say, all that He did, was given to Him by the Spirit from His Father, in order that the will, the plans and the works of the Father might be accomplished through or by Him. Anything we do or say in and of ourselves, even those things we say or do with good intention, is sin and is a work of the flesh, not an expression of the Christ within and not representative of ***“His name”***. We, the born-again, are not a separate, independent self walking through life with God out there next to us somewhere, but rather we are a Christ-person with Christ in us at all times. It does not matter what’s going on around us, Christ is the only life we have, we are ***“one Spirit”*** (1 Cor 6:17) and He is in us and our minds and our will are to be in subjection to Him and directed by Him, and by the Holy Spirit whose job is to reveal Christ in us and to us, and not to be directed by our carnal soul-mind. We are to walk in union with Him and express Him. To do otherwise is lawlessness.

An example that makes this matter quite clear is found in Acts 3:1 - 4:4.

Prior to His death, resurrection and ascension, Jesus Christ would have passed by this lame man on His way to and from the temple many times over without ever stopping to heal him. Why? Because He knew the Father had a larger plan not only for this lame man but for many others He cared for. Certainly Jesus would have noticed him and cared for him and probably wanted to reach out and heal him, but He did not because He was in tune with the Father and only acted in obedience to what He saw and heard from the Father. Acts 4:4 shows us what was in the Father’s heart and mind. The lame man was an instrument through which the Father would see many come to salvation. If Jesus had healed the man on one of His trips to or from the temple it would have deprived Peter and John from the opportunity to reach out and heal him in Jesus name (in obedience to the inner promptings of the Holy Spirit to do so) and from the subsequent opportunity to preach the gospel to the crowds. Had this not happened then the 5000 would not have heard the gospel and been saved. So the Father’s greater plan was for the man to be healed and for this healing to trigger the preaching of the gospel with the resultant saving of the 5000. This meant the Father’s time for the lame man’s healing and the saving of the 5000 would have to wait until the way or provision for salvation had first been accomplished (the death, resurrection and ascension of Christ).

John 15:7,16 wraps it up with these words: *“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you” ... “You did not choose Me, but I chose you (chosen before the foundation of the world to be in Christ, Eph 1:4), and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you.”* So speaking ***“in His name”***, praying ***“in the name of Jesus”*** is the reality of us as His “containers”, “branches” connected to the Vine, abiding in loving union with the Vine, one Spirit with Him, standing there as Him, having first listened to what He is

saying and what He wants, and then giving voice or action to His will. Doing and saying as He directs, in His time, and according to His will and plan.

The Holy Spirit is our teacher to seamlessly transform or change our minds to align with Christ who is our Life, the One with whom we are one spirit. Submit to Him so He can teach you Christ, so He can reveal the will of the Father to you, so you can go ***“in His name”***, Christ in you as you, a container full up and spilling out Christ, and see the Father answer with the results that bless the recipient, the Father and you. That’s praying, speaking or lifting your hands ***“in the name of Jesus”***! In doing this we present the reality of Jesus, not just clichés.

Knowing this will also bring fresh understanding to us when we sing in worship songs with lines that go like this:

*“Lord make me an instrument, an instrument of worship and I lift up my hands in Your name”* ... at which point most people raised their hands to God and consider this to be worshipping, and there is nothing wrong with that, however these words really mean that when our daily actions (the “lifting of our hands” to help others) are consistent with His name, his nature and character, and by acting in line with this we demonstrate the worth-ship in who He is and what He says. That is the lifting of hands ***“in His name”*** that is true worship, or;

*“in the name of Jesus, in the name of Jesus we have the victory”*... meaning: as ones who are born again, containers of the Seed, containers of the Divine Nature, the Victor, the Deliverer, The Healer, The Provider, as possessors of Him, Christ in us, as us, we are victorious, for which, in song, we praise our Heavenly Father, or;

*“God forgave my sin in Jesus name, I’ve been born again in Jesus name, and in Jesus name I come to you to share His love as He told me to”* ... meaning:

I am forgiven because He who is the Lamb slain from before the foundation of the world, the Propitiation, paid the price to set me free from my old sinful nature, and He, the Seed, was planted in me to be Life in me, so that He who is the Vine can let His Life sap flow out of me to be shared with others, so that He can be praised.

Take time to go through all the songs you sing and look at the use of ***“in the name of Jesus”***, or ***“in Jesus name”***, or doing things ***“in His name”*** and reflect on the true meaning of speaking, praying or acting ***“in His name”***. I trust this will give you a fresh perspective on the meaning of ***“Christ in you, the hope of glory”***! Christ in you, as you, bringing glory to the Father as you present Him to others in your words and actions.

“ ... Go in ***My name*** and because you believe, others will know that I live”.