

What Name?

I have been saved for 23 years now (feel like I am getting old), I have been an assistant Pastor for 6 years, and preached in various denominations over this time. I love God, and Jesus is my big brother! Recently I read a book by Stuart Gramenz titled “**How to heal the sick**”, and I have mentioned it before but want to go into depth in a particular area, and that is the area of the name of Jesus. Frankly it has become a Cliche! We all end our prayers - in Jesus’ name amen. Yet at the same time we don’t give a second thought to what we are actually doing or saying?

Did you know that one of the commandments says don’t take the Lords name in vain, have a look at **Exodus 20:7**. Yet, that is exactly what we are doing! *Vain - van: The adjective of “vanity,” and representing the same Hebrew and Greek words as does the latter, with a few additions (chiefly εὐαῖο, kenos, “empty,” and its compounds in the New Testament). And “vain” can always be replaced by its synonym “empty,” often with advantage in modern English (Job_15:2; 1Co_15:14, etc.). The exception is the phrase “in vain,” and even there the interchange can be made if some (understood) noun such as “ways” be added. So “to take God’s name in vain” (Exo_20:7; Deu_5:11) means simply to take it for an “empty” (“not good”) purpose. (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia).*

In other words don’t waste your breath on using the name of Jesus, make sure you are using it correctly and not loosely and without “forethought”. What did the Apostles and disciples do when they spoke the name of Jesus? They healed someone, set someone free, cast out demons, raised the dead, took authority over the devil and his evil ways. Jesus tells us in **Mark 16v17** on that we shall do mighty things in his name, never once do I see anyone in the Bible praying and at the end saying “in Jesus name amen”? If you find one, let me know, but my point is this, we have taken the name of Jesus and watered it down in our own thinking.

Have a look at some of the mighty men of God you have read about, they used the name of Jesus in the middle of what they were doing, praying for the sick, setting the captive free, or whatever, and they used it with **authority!** Jesus gave the disciples authority in **Luke 9v1**, the disciples in Acts and further on showed the world that they had **authority** with the name of Jesus and they were “unlearned men”. What happened to today? What has happened to that name? Ask an unbeliever do you know about the name of Jesus, and they will most likely look at you stupidly and ask “What Name”?

After I finished reading the book, I was talking to a friend about it who has a severe illness and reads this newsletter, they looked at me and saw that I had something or knew something that they didn’t. It was fresh in my mind, my friend could not get to me quick enough to have me pray for that illness using the name of Jesus to leave their body. I prayed and used the name of Jesus consciously in the middle of the praying, in the way I had been taught from the book, trusting that Jesus would do something, relying upon his name that His name had the POWER, and when I ended the prayer I almost said “in Jesus’ name amen” when the Holy Spirit stopped me and shut my mouth.

Instead, together we started thanking God for his healing power flowing through my friends body, we praised God for the name of Jesus and the power of it, we thanked Jesus for his sacrifice and that he died for us, we jut praised the Lord. The next morning, my friend awoke, rang me and said it was like a burden had been lifted off. From that day, my friend started getting better, they have not “yet” been completely healed, but they thank God frequently (I hope) for that healing power of the name of Jesus flowing through their body.

What have we done with the name of Jesus? It has become as common place as “giddy mate” to an aussie. The disciples were quite “*frank*” with praying for the sick, “in the name of Jesus, be healed!” “In the name of Jesus come out you unclean spirit”, In the name of Jesus rise up, carry your mat and go home”. I could go on, we all know the verses I think, but do we know the name? A little bit like if I mention the name John Howard, you instantly know his name and his position and authority. How about Moses, yep know that name, and what happened there too, Noah, yep know that one and what happened, pictures instantly come to our mind of the works and authority of the name. So how about now, “Jesus”?

If you are honest like me, I had a blank! Yeah sure, give me a second or two and I think, son of God, died on the cross, a few others maybe..... Sad isn’t it? Or am I the only one? When the name of Jesus is mentioned we should be automatically thinking, “look out here comes a Miracle, a Healing, Authority, Power, Peace, Love, and the likes of these things. Jesus, a beautiful name! When we read our Bible and see Peter, Paul or whoever doing a great feat in the name of Jesus, place yourself in their shoes. Start thinking, I can do that, because you can, it is all in the name of Jesus, not our righteousness, or how good we are, it is the Power of the Holy Spirit seeing us trusting and relying upon the name of Jesus to do something for us, He is the power behind the name, not our shouting, God is not deaf and neither is the Devil!

Sometimes we shout yes, that can be called boldness, then again it can be called hype too! “Hype is good” my Pastor told us the other week, he admitted he hyped up the congregation. Why, because they were feeling down, tired, bored, sick, getting over the Flu etc. and hey, if we can build someone up and make them feel good to the point where they meet with Jesus, is that wrong? It is giving them false hope you say, no, it is giving them a sense of well being, to take a look on the bright side of life. We are in Australia, not Uganda starving, or China being persecuted for our beliefs.

Think about it. Pray about it. Ask God to show you the reality of the name of Jesus, read the Bible, follow those that preceded us and succeeded, imitate Paul as he imitated Jesus. Take the name of Jesus and use it correctly, not flippantly! “In the name of Jesus amen” **is** (or can be) a tradition of man and it makes the word of God to no effect! Here are some scriptures for you to look up **Mark 7v13; Mat 15v6-8; 2Cor 4v2; Heb 4v12;** Bless ya, Roscoe.