

A Good Name

by

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The power behind a good name is a mystery that every Christian should discover here on earth.

“A good name *is* better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth.”
Ecclesiastes 7:1.

All Scripture references in this writing are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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A Good Name

What's in a name? A name identifies a person or any created thing. A name confers power, strength, or weakness. Your name is associated with your reputation. Your name is precious, and causes others to remember good things or bad things about you, based on what images they have associated with your name.

“A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth.”
Ecclesiastes 7:1.

Your good name is so important that God spoke one of the Ten Commandments to deal with protecting the name and reputation of people. **“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.”** Exodus 20:16.

People will often tie your reputation, and who they perceive you to be, to your name. People often tend to believe what they have heard about you from other people, which may or may not be who you actually are. That is why the devil wants to taint your name, so that the image your name brings to other people is false and will tend to push others away from having anything to do with you. Rejection leads to all kinds of pain.

It is a common ploy, by people who do not like you, to try to sully or ruin your reputation and your good name. Some people get so caught up in what others think of them that they become slaves to continually trying to please others. There must be a balance between trying to win the acceptance of others and being the unique individual that God has created you to be. You can never please everyone or force others to love you, but instead you should please God by treating Him and your fellow man properly and with respect. If you act in this way, you authorize and allow God to be your defender. He will protect your name and your reputation.

God will protect you by removing wrong people from your life. Never fight to hold on to someone who God is trying to remove from your life for your own protection. He desires to bring the right people into your life.

Have nothing to do with someone who doesn't respect you or your name. **Disrespect shows that rebellion is active** in that person, and they are not qualified to judge you or be in your presence. You can not force people to accept or like you, but you can behave in a proper way so that those who are qualified will be drawn to you, and they will be people who will appreciate, like, and respect you. Surround yourself with the right kind of people and allow God to remove wrong people from your life. Life is too short to deal with wrong people!

A Name Holds Power

Whenever you sign your name to enter into an agreement or to transfer some of your possessions to another, there is an exercise and display of power that takes place. You execute a document when you sign your name. The signature of your name is a seal that you approve and make something valid. If someone else tries to sign your name without authority that is called forgery. They are trying to steal your identity or reputation.

A name can be checked to verify credit worthiness, or against criminal and employment records. All of these serve as background checks to see if a person can be trusted with something of value, based on their name and reputation. Names are tied to reputations, whether properly or improperly earned, and can be seen as being either good or bad. Names are like keys, that can either open up a door or serve to deny one entrance.

God's Word is powered by the Name of Jesus Christ, for He is the Word made flesh (John 1:14). It is backed by the full faith, power, and honor of God, through Jesus Christ. It can serve to open all doors, and provide entrance into all things that are beneficial. **"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."** Psalm 119:130. The Word of God has authority to unleash the power of God to be used for many things, including the power of God unto Salvation (Romans 1:16). Too many people do not fully know and realize that The Word holds the key and brings entrance to unleashing the Power of God.

We must be doers of God's Word, and not simply hearers of it (James 1:22). **"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** Romans 10:17. **"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."** James 2:26. The Word, when properly heard, and properly allowed to grow, produces faith. That God birthed faith should then be demonstrated by combining it with your works.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:18-20.

Jesus frequently referred to "In My Name you shall..." do something. **His Name is tied to His Word.**

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: **continue ye in my love.** If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. **Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.** Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: **that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another.**" John 15:7-17.

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. **Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. **But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man****

shall be blessed in his deed. If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion *is* vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world.” James 1:12-27.

Permission To Use Another's Name And To Act In Their Name

God's Name is above all powers and thrones here on earth. There is no other Name higher than His. He gave authority to His Son, and through Jesus Christ we now have all of Jesus' authority and access to the Father.

We are acting upon a royal, holy Power Of Attorney, where we can act in the Name of Jesus Christ here and now! He left us His Testament, and He administers His own written Word. He is waiting for His followers to gain hold of this authority and to properly exercise it. Authority not exercised is lost opportunity, and causes people to miss out on health, wisdom, and blessings.

We, as Christians, have permission to act in Jesus' Name! We can enter into contracts, summon heavenly forces, and have and do everything that Christ said we could. It is impossible for God to lie (Hebrews 6:18). His Word is either true or it is not. I believe it is true, and I will act upon it in faith as though every word is true. Too many people calling themselves Christians act like parts of God's Word are not true!

“**God is not a man, that he should lie**; neither the son of man, that he should repent: **hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?**” Numbers 23:19. “That by two immutable things, **in which it was impossible for God to lie**, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, *even* Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.” Hebrews 6:18-20. “But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” Matthew 4:4. “In hope of eternal life, **which God, that cannot lie, promised** before the world began;” Titus 1:2.

No wonder I love to equate God's Name with a precious ointment that heals and delivers those who believe upon the Name of His Son, Jesus Christ. “...thy name *is as* ointment poured forth...” Song of Solomon 1:3.

The Bible contains wonderful promises written for your benefit. It is a love letter written by God to you that documents His Love for all who would accept, believe, and serve His Son. If we accept the Son, then we also accept the Father. “**Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**” John 14:6. “**But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**” Hebrews 11:6.

A Name Can Be Changed

In the Bible, names were often changed to designate a change in the assignment, attributes, or reward of a person. Names can legally be changed by a person, by an action (such as by a court proceeding), **or by God.**

Often today, very little thought is given to naming a child to match his or her destiny in God. Parents tend to pick an interesting or creatively spelled name for their newborn child, without any real consideration for the unique person that God has created that little one to be. Much prayer should be put into picking a name. It is essential that you use the name given by God to designate who you are in Christ Jesus. I have changed my name legally to now use my given (birth) middle name instead of my first name given at birth, as I felt led of the Lord to do that in January 2000. We honor God by using the name He has reserved to be given us.

While changing a name may be unpopular with your parents, you must obey God and allow Him to rename you as He sees fit. A name can be changed based on your actions, achievements, or assignment, but should not be changed to puff up your pride or ego. Never try to make yourself into something you are not destined to be. Ultimately, your name should honor and glorify God.

Examples of name changes instituted by God in the Bible include Abram to Abraham (Genesis 17:4-6), Sarai to Sarah (Genesis 17:15), Jacob to Israel (Genesis 32:28, 35:10), Simon to Simon Peter (or Cephas) (John 1:42), and Saul of Tarsus to Paul, the Apostle.

“Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*” 2 Corinthians 5:17. For those who would believe in Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31), God writes a new name upon us, and He causes us to be **born again** in Christ. A new name symbolizes that old things are passed away, and that the old sin nature of a person is no longer alive, but is changed in Jesus Christ.

“...To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth *it*.” Revelation 2:17.

We must be born again, and receive a new identity and nature through Christ. “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.** Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. **Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.**” John 3:3-7.

“Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, *and* rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:18-19.

The changing of one's name due to the renaming by God is not really unusual. For years, monks and nuns have changed their names when they started their service to God and made vows to serve Him. Many people have changed their names because they believed God was calling them into a new life of His service.

Changing a woman's last name to that of her husband, when she gets married, is a sign that the two are no longer separate, but one. If a wife keeps her old name in American culture (also hyphenated names), she is showing disrespect, dishonor, and distrust toward her husband and his name. A new name shows a new identity, and a woman unwilling to take on her husband's name is showing that she does not want to really be associated with him or take on a new identity with him. She is seemingly trying to retain control of her life, rather than trusting her husband to properly love and respect her. Never marry someone who distrusts you.

“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.” “Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence *her* husband.” Ephesians 5:31,33.

Names Can Be Protection

“The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.” Proverbs 18:10.

If a king offers you his name for your provision and protection, you can make the statement to your enemies that the king will fight and defend you with all his wealth, power, and resources. There is no greater ally than having the King Of Kings on your side (Psalm 124 and Psalm 91) to defend and provide for you.

Not only can we do all things through Christ, but the Lord is on our side and will fight for those who are His.

“The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?” Psalm 118:6. “The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.” Exodus 14:14.

“For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: **So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap *their* hands.** Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD **for a name**, for an everlasting sign *that* shall not be cut off.” Isaiah 55:10-13.

The Lamb’s Book Of Life

Having your name written in the Lamb’s Book Of Life should be your ultimate goal. We should not rejoice in the things we see or do here on earth, but rather we should rejoice only that our name is written in heaven (in the Lamb’s Book Of Life). **“Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.” Luke 10:20.**

John the Baptist realized the importance of Jesus coming to take away the sins of the world. “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, **Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**” John 1:29. The Lamb’s Book Of Life belongs only to Jesus, and documents those who are His.

David cried out to God for the wicked to be punished and blotted out from the “book of the living.” “Add iniquity unto their iniquity: and let them not come into thy righteousness. **Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.**” Psalm 69:27-28.

Even Daniel realized that there was a time coming when people would be judged using a book which would signify life. “And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation *even* to that same time: **and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.**”

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.” Daniel 12:1-3.

Paul recognized some whose names were in the book of life. “And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and *with* other my fellowlabourers, whose names *are* in the book of life.” Philippians 4:3.

“And whosoever was **not found written in the book of life** was cast into the lake of fire.” Revelation 20:15. “And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: but they **which are written in the Lamb's book of life.**” Revelation 21:27.

Anyone whose name was not found written in The Lamb's Book Of Life, including those whose name had been blotted out by the Lamb of God, are doomed to eternal punishment and eternal separation from God. Only those whose names are found written in the Lamb's Book Of Life at the time of the Last Judgment will be counted worthy to escape the punishment, and be qualified to spend eternity with God.

“Therefore we ought **to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard**, lest at any time we should let *them* slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; **How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard *him*; God also bearing *them* witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?**” Hebrews 2:1-4.

Only through the blood of Jesus Christ, can the remembrance of our sins and the penalty for our sins be blotted out from God's records against us. “**Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.**” Acts 3:19. “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” Galatians 3:26-27. “But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God **which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe:** for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: **that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.**” Romans 3:21-26.

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, **that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.** For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” John 3:16-18.

“**He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.**” Revelation 3:5.