



THE POWERFUL NAME OF JESUS

BY SHAUN HICKEY

“And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.”

(Acts 2:16 - NKJV)

Peter and John were on their way to a prayer meeting when they were interrupted by a lame man who was begging for alms (money). This man was lame from his mother’s womb, and each day he would be left at the temple gate to beg those passing by for provision.

It was three o’clock in the afternoon, and it looked like it was going to be just another day for this lame man sitting in the heat of day; hoping for a few crumbs to get him through. But little did he know, this was going to be his day for a miraculous transformation and healing.

Peter and John were on their way to the temple. But these two men were no longer carnal men heading to another prayer meeting. After their encounter with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (see Acts 2) they were now two men *on fire* for God.

Peter and John came to the gate of the temple and as they were about to pass through, the lame man called out for some alms. Peter and John turned and looked at the lame man, and without hesitation, Peter, addressed the lame man with intention:

ACTS 3:4-10 ~ *“And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, ‘Look at us.’⁵ So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶ Then Peter said, ‘Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: **In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**, rise up and walk.’⁷ And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. ⁸ So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. ⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God. ¹⁰ Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him”*

Power entered the lame man’s body and in an instance the man’s life was changed forever. He then started praising God for the miracle he has received.

The people were amazed at what had taken place, after all, they had walked by this man every day when entering the temple, and here he was standing before them, miraculously healed, and praising God.

A confrontation begins...

A large crowd started to gather, so Peter began to address them.

Peter did not claim any fame, nor did he suggest that he, or John were anyone special. He did not have a social media account to add content to, nor a camera to prove his worth to man. His only intention was to point the people to Jesus Christ; the One these same people had denied and put to death on the cross.

Peter boldly declared that it was through faith ***in the name of Jesus Christ*** (the True and Living God), that this lame man stood before them healed and in perfect soundness:

ACTS 3:14-16 ~ *“But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you,¹⁵ and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.¹⁶ And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all”*

On trial for His name...

The people were greatly disturbed at what Peter was preaching - Jesus had been raised from the dead, that there was resurrection of the dead through Jesus Christ; that neither His name, nor His power could be contained by man, nor by death; that the scriptures, and the words God had spoken through the mouths of His prophets had been fulfilled.

Being greatly disturbed, they people took Peter and John, and locked them up (see Acts 4:1-4).

The next day the rulers, elders, scribes, and high priest gathered to question both Peter and John:

ACTS 4:7 ~ *“And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, ‘By what power or by what name have you done this?’*

They were eager to know who they claimed was responsible for this disturbance:

- Was it by some magic, and demonic power?
- Was this man cured by natural means?
- By what name and authority had they acted with?

Peter stood his ground...

Peter did not falter, he kept pointing them to Jesus Christ - the risen King - and the Power still available in His name:

ACTS 4:10-12 ~ *“Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.¹¹ This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’¹² Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*

Peter made it truly clear...

- It was through **the name of Jesus Christ** that the lame man was healed

- There is **no other name** through which man can be saved
- Their authority and power came from Jesus Christ, who had risen from the dead.

THERE IS RESISTANCE TO 'THE NAME'

The enemy tries to shut down the name of Jesus...

Peter spoke with such conviction, and his words were backed up by the miraculous truth with the lame man standing before them healed. There was nothing they could say to discredit Peter and John; the proof was staring them in the face.

So, to deal with the major issue that was facing them – these were the same people who had crucified Jesus – they severely threatened Peter and John and **actively tried to shut down the preaching in the name of Jesus Christ**, and His resurrection from the dead:

ACTS 4:17-18 ~ *“But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name.”* ¹⁸ *So they called them and **commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.**”*

You cannot stop me...

Peter and John, along with the Apostles, were men filled with the Power of the Holy Spirit, and nothing could hold them back anymore, and they continued to preach regardless of the consequences.

But in due course, they were further threatened and beaten for preaching **the name**, Jesus Christ:

ACTS 5:40 ~ *“...when they had called for the apostles **and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.**”*

Why did they try to shut down the preaching of the name of Jesus Christ?

- Because His name is truth; bears witness to the truth
- The name of Jesus speaks of resurrection power and redemption
- His name breaks through carnal control and oppression
- His name releases all power from heaven
- His name convicts of sin
- His name saves, and brings forgiveness
- The devil and his demons are afraid of Jesus Christ; hearing His name torments them
- Jesus Christ is the most Powerful Living Name (see Philippians 2:9-11)

MODERN DAY 'NAME' DENIAL

“The motto of all true servants of God must be, ‘We preach Christ; and him crucified.’ A sermon without Christ in it is like a loaf of bread without any flour in it. No Christ in your sermon, sir? Then go home, and never preach again until you have something worth preaching.”

(Charles Spurgeon)

There is such an assault on the name of Jesus Christ. Politically correct, and new age living detests the name of Jesus Christ. Many countries have closed their borders to the preaching of Christ, and many

people have lost their lives in honor of His name. This is all because the devil is continually trying to shut down **the resurrection power found only in the name of Jesus Christ** – It is all about His name!

But such denial goes much deeper than we like to acknowledge. The denial of *the name*, Jesus Christ, is present amongst some modern-day believers...

- The preaching of Christ, and Christ crucified, is left out of pulpits; to appease visitors and to be *seeker friendly*
- Modern day praise and worship songs leave out the name of Jesus; to appeal to a wider audience
- Prayers are offered up to *heaven*, void of the name of Jesus
- The name of Jesus is void, or found to be embarrassing among *some* believers when amongst non-believers
- The toleration that all religions serve the same God, but *just have a different way* of connecting to Him - This is absolute deception at its worst. There is only one way to the Father and that is through Jesus Christ (see John 14:6).

This modern-day denial of His name must change...

- We either believe in Him, or we do not believe in Him
- We either have faith in His name, or we do not have faith in His name

And we must remember the consequences that will come through denying His name...

- *“But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven”* (Matthew 10:33).

WE MUST CONTINUE TO PREACH ‘JESUS’

When we read through the Scriptures, we can clearly see the violence and resistance that comes against those who stand in faith of the name of Jesus Christ:

- Paul was to suffer for the name of Jesus Christ (see Acts 9:16)
- Paul was whipped, stoned, beaten, shipwrecked, starved... (See 2 Corinthians 11:22-28)
- The apostles were imprisoned for the name of Jesus Christ (see Acts 5:17-18)
- We are told we will be hated for the name of Jesus Christ (see Matthew 10:22)

***“Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed,
but let him glorify God in this matter.”***

(1 Peter 4:16)

Regardless of the suffering Peter and John would face, they refused to bow down to the threats of deceived people, religious leaders, authorities, and rulers, who wanted to stamp out the truth of Jesus Christ. They pressed on with no fear of the price they would ultimately pay.

In fact, they rejoiced, ***“that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name”*** (Acts 5:41)

Peter and John knew they must continue to preach the name of Jesus Christ, even if the environment they were living in fiercely denied Him and severely threatened them. So, they gathered their

companions, and called on the power of God that is available through the powerful name of Jesus Christ:

ACTS 4:29-31 ~ *“Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word,³⁰ by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done **through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.**”*

Amongst the persecution and threats, they refused to bow down. And Almighty God is more than ready to release His power when the **name of Jesus Christ** is under persecution:

- *“And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness” (Acts 4:31)*
- *“And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all” (Acts 4:33)*
- *“And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people...” (Acts 5:12).*

The name of Jesus Christ was always in the mouths of the apostles and the power of God flowed as a result.

We need to understand this; the Holy Spirit will glorify no man. He only comes to glorify Jesus Christ, and to see **His name** preached throughout the entire world.

THERE IS POWER IN ‘THE NAME’ OF JESUS CHRIST

“And He (Jesus) said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;¹⁸ they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

(Mark 16:15-18)

Power to cast out demons:

- *“And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, ‘I command you **in the name of Jesus Christ** to come out of her.’ And he came out that very hour” (Acts 16:18).*
- *“Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name” (Luke 10:17).*

Power to speak in new tongues:

- *“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:4).*

Power over all attacks of the enemy:

- *“But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand... ⁵ But he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm” (Acts 28:3&5).*

Power over sickness and disease:

- *“Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that **by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole” (Acts 4:10)*

Power over sin:

- *“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” (Acts 22:16)*

Power over death:

- *“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is **no other name** under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)*
- *“For ‘whoever calls **on the name of the LORD** shall be saved’” (Romans 10:13)*
- *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved” (John 3:16-17)*

Power to receive through His name:

- *“And **whatever you ask in My name, that I will do**, that the Father may be glorified in the Son” (John 14:13)*

Power to be transformed; justified in His name:

- *“And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified **in the name of the Lord Jesus** and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:11).*

THERE IS NO GREATER ‘NAME’

PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11 ~ *“God also has highly exalted Him and **given Him the name which is above every name**, ¹⁰ **that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”*

There is no greater name than Jesus Christ because Jesus gave everything, to bring honor to God, to defeat death and the devil, and to save us from our sins. This is the reason why there’s strong opposition to the preaching of His name. Even the slightest utterance of “Jesus” can draw attention.

But like Peter, John, and the apostles, we must not fear the consequences. We must trust in His name, and no longer deny His name. Because when you preach Christ, you have all of heaven behind you. When you share Christ, you have an army available to you. When you trust in Christ, you will be protected; you will never be left alone:

The apostles were imprisoned for preaching the name of Jesus. But the Lord delivered them from their captivity...

- *“But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, ²⁰ ‘Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.’” (Acts 5:19-20)*

The angel of the Lord broke them out of prison and urged them to continue preaching “the words of this life” - Jesus Christ!

The name of Jesus is KING and LORD...

There is nothing that can overcome or conquer His name. There is nothing that can destroy His name, and there is nothing that can compete with his name.

The name of Jesus has always been and always will be. He is Lord, He is King, He is Saviour, He is the Name above all names.

REVELATION 19:11-16 ~ *“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him **was called Faithful and True**, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. **He had a name** written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, **and His name is called The Word of God.** ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And **He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:***

***KING OF KINGS AND
LORD OF LORDS.”***

He is the Name above all other names...

- *“Their Redeemer is strong; **the LORD of hosts is His name...**” (Jeremiah 50:34)*
- *“For behold, He who forms mountains, and creates the wind, who declares to man what his thought is, and makes the morning darkness, who treads the high places of the earth— **The LORD God of hosts is His name.**” (Amos 4:13)*
- *“Inasmuch as there is none like You, O LORD (**You are great, and Your name is great in might**),” (Jeremiah 10:6)*
- *“**The name of the LORD** is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe” (Proverbs 18:10)*
- *“For where two or three are gathered together **in My name**, I am there in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:20)*

So what name are you putting above the name of Jesus Christ today?

Defeat, regret, oppression, sickness/disease, addiction, condemnation...???

Well, none of these names are above the powerful name of Jesus Christ, and there is healing, and breakthrough in His name:

- *“Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil **in the name of the Lord.** ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven” (James 5:14-15).*

Call upon the name of Jesus Christ and find:

- Forgiveness for sin and redemption (see Colossians 1:13-14)
- Release from all condemnation (see Romans 8:1)
- Healing for your body, soul, and mind (see Isaiah 53; Colossians 1:19-22)
- Breakthrough (Ephesians 3:20; Mark 11:23)
- Eternal salvation (see Acts 4:12; John 3:16-17)

And most importantly...

KEEP PREACHING ‘THE NAME’ - JESUS CHRIST!

“For ‘whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.’”

(Romans 10:13)

Shaun Hickey

shaunhickeyministries.com

contact@shaunhickeyministries.com

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