

THE NAME THAT IS ABOVE EVERY OTHER NAME

A Bible Teaching by Jack Hartman

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For more than forty years I have held the name of Jesus Christ in reverent awe. Do you hold His name in reverent awe? How often do you speak His name? I pray that the following scripture references will be very helpful to you. (All Scripture references are from *The Amplified Bible*.)

THE BIBLE INSTRUCTS US NOT TO TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD LIGHTLY. “You shall not use or repeat the name of the Lord your God in vain [that is, lightly or frivolously, in false affirmations or profanely]; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.” (Exodus 20:7)

This Old Testament verse of Scripture refers to the name of God. It also includes the name of Jesus Christ. Please note the words “in vain” near the beginning of this verse. If you do something in vain, your efforts are fruitless. We are clearly instructed not to use the name of the Lord in vain. No Christian who loves the Lord should use His name at any time without speaking this name with reverent awe.

Please note that the amplification in this verse instructs you not to use the name of the Lord “lightly”. You also are instructed not to use the name of the Lord “profanely”. I cringe every time I hear someone use the name of God or the name of Jesus Christ in a profane way. This is *not* the reverent awe that the Bible teaches us to have for the name of the Lord.

TRUST COMPLETELY IN THE HOLY NAME OF THE LORD. “Our inner selves wait [earnestly] for the Lord; He is our Help and our Shield. For in Him does our heart rejoice, because we have trusted (relied on and been confident) in His holy name.”
(Psalm 33:20-21)

This passage of Scripture instructs you to trust, rely on, and have confidence in the holy name of the Lord. Do you have absolute faith in the supernatural power of the name of God and the name of Jesus Christ? Your heart will rejoice if you have absolute faith in the holy name of God and/or the holy name of Jesus Christ. The power of the majestic name of

the Lord is activated by releasing the faith that you have in your heart with your mouth because of your confidence and reliance on the holy name of God and the holy name of Jesus Christ.

THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST WAS NOT A NAME THAT HIS PARENTS, JOSEPH AND MARY, CHOSE. The following passage of Scripture explains how an angel came to Joseph to instruct him to name his son Jesus. "...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary [as] your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of (from, out of) the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus [the Greek form of the Hebrew Joshua, which means Savior], for He will save His people from their sins [that is, prevent them from failing and missing the true end and scope of life, which is God]." (Matthew 1:20-21)

The name of Jesus comes from God. The amplification in this passage of Scripture explains that the Hebrew meaning of this name is "Savior." "The name Christ" is a Greek name meaning "the anointed one." The name of Jesus Christ refers to Him as your Savior and the Anointed One.

This angel instructed Joseph not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife. The angel said that the baby who ultimately would be conceived in Mary's womb would not be conceived by Joseph and Mary. Jesus Christ was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit.

A SIMILAR PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE EXPLAINS HOW AN ANGEL ALSO CAME TO MARY TO CLEARLY INSTRUCT HER TO NAME HER SON JESUS. "And the angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found grace (free, spontaneous, absolute favor and loving-kindness) with God. And listen! You will become pregnant and will give birth to a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus." (Luke 1:30-31)

Mary was very surprised with what this angel said to her. "...Mary said to the angel, How can this be, since I have no [intimacy with any man as a] husband? Then the angel said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you [like a shining cloud]; and so the holy (pure, sinless) Thing (Offspring) which shall be born of you will be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:34-35)

Isn't it interesting to see how God sent angels to both Joseph and Mary explaining to each of them that the son who ultimately would become theirs should be named Jesus? This angel explained that Jesus actually was the Son of God, not just the son that he ultimately would be when Joseph and Mary were married and she gave birth to Jesus.

AFTER JESUS CHRIST WAS CRUCIFIED, HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD AND ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN. HE TOOK HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD. "...He sat down at the right hand of the divine Majesty on high. [Taking a place and rank by which] He Himself became as much superior to angels as the glorious Name (title) which He has inherited is different from and more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did [God] ever say, You are My Son, today I have begotten You [established You in an official Sonship relation, with kingly dignity]? And again, I will be to Him a Father, and He will be to Me a Son?" (Hebrews 1:3-5)

When Jesus left the glory of heaven to come to earth as a human being, He willingly gave up the rank, authority, and privileges that He enjoyed in heaven. Jesus actually was ranked lower than angels during His earthly ministry (see Hebrews 2:9). However, when Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, He took His rightful place where He was ranked higher than angels.

GOD HAS EXALTED THE POWER OF THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST BECAUSE OF THE SUPREME SACRIFICE THAT HE MADE BY LEAVING HEAVEN TO COME TO EARTH TO PAY THE PRICE FOR THE SINS OF ALL MANKIND. "...[because He stooped so low] God has highly exalted Him and has freely bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, That in (at) the name of Jesus every knee should (must) bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, And every tongue [frankly and openly] confess and acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9 -11)

Because Jesus Christ left the glory of heaven and "stooped so low" to die on the cross at Calvary, "God has highly exalted Him." God freely bestowed on Jesus "the name that is above every name". This passage of Scripture says that, at the name of Jesus, "every knee must bow in heaven and on the earth and under the earth."

THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST IS MUCH GREATER THAN ANY PROBLEM YOU WILL EVER FACE. Speak the name of Jesus repeatedly when you face a problem. Every person who has received Jesus Christ as his or her Savior has been given the privilege of using the name of Jesus often. Jesus said, "...I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, that My Father will grant you whatever you ask in My Name [as presenting all that I AM]. Up to this time you have not asked a [single] thing in My Name [as presenting all that I AM]; but now ask and keep on asking and you will receive, so that your joy (gladness, delight) may be full and complete." (John 16:23-24)

Jesus assured you that His Father "will grant you whatever you ask in My Name". Speaking the name of Jesus Christ with absolute faith in the supernatural power of this name is very important. Jesus instructs you to "ask and keep on asking" in His name. He said that you "will receive" an answer to your prayers if you persevere in faith praying in His name.

JESUS INSTRUCTED HIS DISCIPLES TO USE HIS NAME WITH DEEP, STRONG, AND UNWAVERING FAITH. Peter had great faith in Jesus. He prayed for a severely crippled man in His name. Peter said, "...Silver and gold (money) I do not have; but what I do have, that I give to you: in [the use of] the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk! Then he took hold of the man's right hand with a firm grip and raised him up. And at once his feet and ankle bones became strong and steady, And leaping forth he stood and began to walk, and he went into the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God." (Acts 3:6-8)

Peter was a simple fisherman. He was doing what Jesus had instructed him to do. He prayed in the name of Jesus Christ and the crippled man was miraculously healed. Jesus wants *you* to have the same unwavering faith in the supernatural power of His name.

YOUR FATHER DID NOT *SUGGEST* THAT YOU BELIEVE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST. HE HAS *ORDERED* YOU AND *COMMANDED* YOU TO BELIEVE IN THE NAME OF JESUS. "...this is His order (His command, His injunction): that we should believe in (put our faith and trust in and adhere to and rely on) the name of His Son Jesus Christ (the Messiah), and that we should love one another, just as He has commanded us." (I John 3:23)

Your Father has *ordered* you and commanded you to “believe in, put your faith and trust in and adhere to and rely on the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, the Messiah.” Do not ignore this important command from God. Some Christians use the name of Jesus very little, if at all. Other Christians use the name of Jesus only routinely as part of their daily prayers.

THE BIBLE INSTRUCTS YOU TO DO EVERYTHING IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST. “...whatever you do [no matter what it is] in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.” (Colossians 3:17)

Boldly speak the name of Jesus when you pray. Boldly speak His name with absolute awe many other times each day. The name of Jesus represents Jesus Christ Himself. You will be releasing enormous supernatural power if you consistently speak His name with deep and unwavering faith in Jesus Christ and in the power of His name.

JESUS CHRIST EXPLAINED THE SUPERNATURAL POWER THAT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU IF YOU TRULY BELIEVE IN HIS NAME. He said, “...these attesting signs will accompany those who believe: in My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new languages; They will pick up serpents; and [even] if they drink anything deadly, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will get well.” (Mark 16:17-18)

If you have deep and strong faith in the supernatural power of the name of Jesus, you will have the capability to drive out demons by boldly speaking His name. You will be able to speak in new languages. You will be able to pick up a poisonous snake without being hurt. You have been given the authority to lay hands on sick people in the name of Jesus Christ. These people will be healed according to your faith in the supernatural power of His name.

The book of Acts consists largely of the acts of the disciples after Jesus ascended into heaven. Any person who carefully reads the Book of Acts will see many examples of the supernatural power of the name of Jesus Christ. His disciples, who never had performed miracles before, performed one miracle after another in the name of Jesus.

Are *you* using the name of Jesus Christ consistently with deep, strong, and unwavering faith? The name of Jesus Christ has not diminished in power.

His mighty name is every bit as powerful in your life today as it was in the lives of His disciples as was reported in the Book of Acts.

WHEN CHRISTIANS ASSEMBLE TOGETHER WITH ABSOLUTE FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST AND SPEAK HIS NAME CONSTANTLY, DOING THIS BRINGS JESUS INTO THEIR PRESENCE. Every aspect of the early church revolved around their faith in the supernatural power of the name of Jesus. They prayed in His name. They preached in His name. They performed miracles in His name. Jesus said, "...wherever two or three are gathered (drawn together as My followers) in (into) My name, there I AM in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20)

You can bring Jesus Christ into personal action in your life to the degree that you consistently speak His name with deep, bold, strong, and unwavering faith.

This month I have shared with you many passages of Scripture pertaining to the supernatural power of the name of Jesus Christ. I pray that the Scripture references in this month's teaching will have a significant effect on your life.