

# IN HIS NAME

**Colossians 3:12-17.** If you're not careful, you isolate verse 17 and it becomes a lone and deaf passages for authority, unaware of its surrounding. Typically, when we think "in His name", we translate that to only and always mean, "by His authority." No doubt we have passages like that. But many times that's not the idea, or at least, not the *only* idea.

What does it mean to do something in His name? It's a Hebrew idiom for what a person is, or is known to be. One brother wrote, "Often 'the name of' can be omitted and the sense remains." Peter (we'll see this in a bit) will heal a man "in the name of Jesus." Later on, he'll heal another man and omit "in the name of Jesus." He'll simply say, "Jesus Christ heals you." (**Acts 9:32-35**)

"In the name of"

- "in" = connection with in some way
- "in the name of" idiomatic for what that person is, or is known to be.
- Often "the name of" can be omitted and the sense remains.

"The name of a person stood for the person with **all** His attributes." *Truth Commentary*. I'm emphasizing "all." Listen, when you "call upon the name of the Lord", you're saying more than, "I'm calling on your authority or power." You're calling on Jesus. Calling on Him to help you because He's a Savior and you trust Him, need Him, believe in Him, etc.

"The period of our literature also sees—within as well as without the new community of believers—in the name something real, a piece of the very nature of the personality whom it designates, expressing the person's qualities and powers.

*Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., Bauer, W., & Gingrich, F. W. (2000). A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature (3rd ed., p. 712). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.*

When Elijah told for the Baal followers to call on their god and He would call on His . . . this was a showdown of the Gods. It's more than power or authority, brethren. Jehovah should be viewed as more than powerful, yes?

David wrote, "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord of our God. They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright." **Psalms 20:7**. They don't trust in the authority of chariots and horses. Its contrasting. It's more than God being powerful. It's what He does for His people - so they trust in Him. They trust in "His name."

**Romans 2:17-24.** Now, is God simply blasphemed among the outsiders because His people are going against His authority? Well, that's definitely part of it, but I think what's crystal clear is that they represent His chosen people, yet they do horrible things while claiming to be His. It reflects God. Is that who He is? Is He evil? Is He faithless? Is He a liar and hypocrite?

Paul, who wrote Romans, was to do what in **Acts 9:13-16**. He was supposed to spread Jesus' authority? Well, sure, but he was to spread the gospel message of Jesus. Paul, would suffer for His name. In other words - Paul would suffer for Jesus.

There are so many passages “in the name of. This phrase is used so often. One could throw out how many times it’s used and you’d get an idea, but it wouldn’t leave the impression that we need. So, allow me to show you some examples in order to leave an impression:

- Others would suffer for it.
  - Matthew 10:22 “and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”
  - Luke 6:22 “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man!”
  - Acts 5:40-41 and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.
  - 1 Peter 4:16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.
- People would leave everyone and everything for it.
  - Matthew 19:29 “And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life.”
- Discipline was carried out because of it.
  - 1 Corinthians 5:4 When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus,
  - 1 Corinthians 5:11 But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.
  - “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” (Matthew 18:20, ESV)
  - 2 Thessalonians 3:6 Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us.
- A world family was founded in it.
  - John 1:12 “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,”
- Life was found in it.
  - John 20:31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
- Everyone would be baptized into it.
  - Matthew 28:19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”
- Many would do mighty works in His name, whether good or bad.
  - Mark 9:39 “But Jesus said, “Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me.”
  - Hebrews 6:10 For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.

- Matthew 7:22 "On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'"
- Acts 19:13 Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims."
- Prayer was rooted in it.
  - John 14:13-14 Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.
  - Ephesians 5:20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
- People found unity in it.
  - 1 Corinthians 1:10 I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.
- Authority is in it.
  - Philippians 2:9-10 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
- Judgement because of it.
  - John 3:16–18 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God."
- Forgiveness is found in it.
  - Luke 24:46-47 and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem."
  - 1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.
- Many call on it.
  - Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'
  - Acts 2:38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
  - Acts 22:16 And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'
  - Acts 10:43 To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."
  - Acts 10:48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.
  - Acts 19:5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
  - Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"

At this time, it's good to point out some false conclusions. "In His name" isn't meant to be a formula. When Paul instructed "and whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." He didn't mean you have to literally say His name before you do anything. "In the name of Jesus I give this money. In the name of Jesus I counsel you. In the name of Jesus . . . I pray. You can say a prayer without saying, "In Jesus' name." Jesus came in His Father's name and He didn't do that ([John 5:43](#); [10:25](#)). There are some who believe you can't pray without ending it with that phrase. They're misunderstanding how it was used. Same thing with baptism. Some believe you cannot baptize someone without saying, "In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." The NT records those who were baptized "in the name of Jesus." To be baptized into Christ was to be baptized into the godhead. It connected the person to all of them. To become theirs. To be connected to their goodness, etc.

- We have a tendency to do this. Same principle of confession. One confesses that Jesus is Lord and is saved ([Romans 10:9-10](#)). This isn't some formula. The eunuch brought up baptism in [Acts 8](#). Philip said if he believed he may. He didn't ask for a confession. It's what the eunuch did. He, by nature, said He believed that Jesus was the Son of God. Take a confession before others, that's fine, but it's not required in the way we many times think of it. I know it would be weird to see, but you could have someone who has previously confessed his belief in Jesus. Then someone baptizes them "in the name of Jesus" and not before the whole church. Guess what . . . he was just saved. Then someone could say a prayer without ending it "in Jesus' name" and all would be good . . . though we may be freaking out. Listen, don't change what you're doing, but we need to have an accurate understanding.

Now that we've covered that. Let's restart.

There are so many names that hold weight in my life. Jordan would be at the top of the list. Ainsley, Jace, Braelyn and Cadence mean something to me. There are other names in my family. There are dear friends. You have these kind of names as well. There are also great names throughout history that have made an impact. Some for good, some not. Imagine all the names one could throw out there. Today, we're throwing, not one, but the one out there . . . Jesus.

### **His Name:**

- [Luke 1:26-33](#) Gabriel to Mary
- [Matthew 1:20-25](#) Angel to Joseph
- [Luke 2:22-38](#) Presented at the temple
- [Acts 3:1-12](#)
  - Sometimes there's not much to give someone. But one thing you can do is give them Jesus. If you've got food, that's wonderful. If you can help financially, give liberally. If you can lend a helping hand - roll up your sleeves. All of this is good. But more than anything . . . give them Jesus.
  - What is Jesus saying in the healing of this man? I like you? I love you? I care for you? I see you? What does God want for him? Joy? Yes. And the man leaps and praises God. He's not praising Peter (though, no problem when we thank and adore those who see us and help us. Listen, I would suppose if there wasn't anything pleasant about us then God wouldn't want to

spend eternity with us, yeah? After all - we're made in His image). He's praising God. This man's faith linked him to Jesus. Peter was offering Jesus to this man.

- Again, this isn't about doing something and then saying "in the name of Jesus." It's about doing so because of who He is!
  - You don't always have to bring Jesus up, either. Though it's good. God works through many people. Don't be overly humble. You appreciate those who can take a compliment without taking it too seriously. I suppose if you were to compliment my preaching and I went on thanking you, giving credit to God for giving me the time and ability to do so (because after all - it comes from Him), that you may be tempted to stop me and say, "Hey, don't be so humble. You're not that good."
  - No, what we're looking to do is GIVE PEOPLE GOD! We need to start with our own family. If you leave your children anything, leave them God. If your spouse has to live someone, let them live with someone who strives to look like Jesus. If we as a group give our communities anything . . . let's give them God. Let's do what we do in the name of Jesus Christ.