



Power In The Name

By Dempsey C. Howard

Power in The Name

Have you ever noticed that when you are meeting a businessman...or a salesman he will greet you with a business card? He will say his name, but also his company name such as, "hello, my name is so and so and I represent such and such company". You don't really remember his name, but you more likely remember his company name. Most of the time when the conversation has ended you will ask, "and what was your name again?" It's not that his name was not important, but the company name stood out more because of the product in which he was selling. He represented them.

At this writing I have been away from Eastern North Carolina for twenty five years and not many of the ministers in my father's church affiliation would know my name as much as they would remember his. So, when I have in the past called one of them to discuss the possibility of ministering in their church, I would start by introducing myself with, "I am Ben Howard's son, Dempsey". Causes an immediate recognition. The possibility of getting a date scheduled with them in the church is greatly increased by my doing this.

The point to all of this is... There is Power in a Name. There is power in association with a name. It can be a good association... or a bad one. If a man comes to you and says... "my name is James and I am with the IRS", there is immediate fear because of the association! That is to some, a bad association! Or a man comes and says, "I am Jim a friend of your father's"... that is a bit easier to handle and the acquaintance is easier to make.

But in this writing, I come to you in the Name of Jesus. Let me share with you about the Name, Jesus and all in which that name contains. Discover from where and what is the power in the name of Jesus, what is the authority in the name of Jesus, and, what is the directive in the name of Jesus?

Is This the Beginning of the Name?

In the book of Luke, the angel appeared to Mary the night he gave her the news she had been chosen by God to be the mother of a baby born to the world for the

Luke 1:30 - 32 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call **his name JESUS**. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: (KJV)

This is the answer to foretold prophecy mentioned in the book of Matthew, precisely, Matt 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son *5207 huio* (*hwee-os'*); *apparently a primary word; a "son" (sometimes of animals), used very widely of immediate, remote or figuratively, kinship: KJV— child, foal, son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.* (KJV)

In looking at the word **interpreted** used in the afore mentioned verse, it is found to have several meanings. Understand, take, read, construe, take to mean, infer, read between the lines, Deduce. All these words are found in the thesaurus in reference to the word *interpreted*, above. So who interpreted this name? Was it Matthew, was it Isaiah who took this interpretation to this print? It really doesn't matter that much I guess as we have taken it to understand the word as we as individuals have read it in our hearts.

The following is a quote from Matthew Henry concerning Matt 1:18-25:

2. The truth proved by this sign is, that he is the Son of God, and the Mediator between God and man: for they shall call his name Immanuel; that is, he shall be Immanuel; and when it is said, He shall be called, it is meant, he shall be, the Lord our righteousness. Immanuel signifies God with us; a mysterious name, but very precious; God incarnate among us, and so God reconcilable to us, at peace with us, and taking us into covenant and communion with himself. The people of the Jews had God with them, in types and shadows, dwelling between the cherubim; but never so as when the Word was made flesh—that was the blessed Shechinah. What a happy step is hereby taken toward the settling of a peace and correspondence between God and man, that the two natures are thus brought together in the person of the Mediator! by this he became an unexceptionable referee, a days-man, fit to lay his hand upon them both, since he partakes of the nature of both. Behold, in this, the deepest mystery, and the richest mercy, that ever was. By the light of nature, we see God as a God above us; by the light of the law, we see him as a God against us; but by the light of the gospel, we see him as Immanuel, God with us, in our own nature, and (which is more) in our interest. Herein the Redeemer commended his love. With Christ's name, Immanuel, we may compare the name given to the gospel

church (Ezek 48:35). Jehovah Shammah-The Lord is there; the Lord of hosts is with us.

Nor is it improper to say that the prophecy which foretold that he should be called Immanuel was fulfilled, in the design and intention of it, when he was called Jesus; for if he had not been Immanuel- God with us, he could not have been Jesus-a Saviour; and herein consists the salvation he wrought out, in the bringing of God and man together; this was what he designed, to bring God to be with us, which is our great happiness, and to bring us to be with God, which is our great duty. (from Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: New Modern Edition, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1991 by Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.)

So... Jesus the mediator... being called Immanuel, and through his death on the cross, brought God and man back together in a one on one relationship.

When Jesus was on the cross... his blood being shed for the sins of man, his pain borne for the pains of death and he cried with a loud voice,... "Eli, Eli, Llama Sabak' Tenia'" saying.... In our words, "My God My God, why hast thou forsaken me...." The earth quaked, and darkness fell all over the earth. Some have said that it was God turning his back on the scene of his son on Calvary... but I believe the it was the elements of sin that ruled the earth shaking in fear and doing everything it could to flee the presence of the Almighty God as the mediator (Jesus, or Immanuel) brought man and God together once again and we had GOD WITH US!

The Authority of The Name

Authority is given in many ways. Today we have what is called a Power of Attorney to transact legally on ones behalf when they are not available. That authority is great and open to anyone who can achieve it. But the authority involving family is sometimes greater. As a more personal example, I have stood in the midst of people many times as a representative of my father either in the acceptance of something being given him, or being given on his behalf. I have gone to the bank under his authority and have gained entrance to the manager's office through and by his name alone. Today, we can see that Jesus, stands in the stead of his father God, who separated himself from physical contact with sinful man after the time of transgression in the Garden of Eden. From that time to this day, His physical presence was and is not tolerant of sin. His Son Jesus was in his stead, with his authority. In research of the word authority it was found to be the following meanings:

Exousia (ex-oo-see'-ah); (in the sense of ability); privilege, i.e. (subjectively) force, capacity, competency, freedom, or (objectively) mastery (concretely, magistrate, superhuman, potentate, token of control), delegated influence:

The KJV meaning is - authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength.

Huperoche (hoop-er-okh-ay'); prominence, i.e. (figuratively) superiority (in rank or character): The KJV usage is meaning - authority, excellency.

Epitage (ep-ee-tag-ay') an injunction or decree; by implication, authoritativeness: In the KJV it is used as - authority, commandment.

(Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright (c) 1994, Biblesoft and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

At the age of 12, Jesus, after being sought by his mother and father, they found him in the temple, teaching. When they had taken him back to the company of his family he asked them when hearing they had searched for him, he made his first known statement regarding his heavenly father and the reason he was born found in *Luke 2:49* *And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about **my Father's** business?* (KJV)

The earthy father of Jesus was Joseph who was a carpenter. He would learn the trade and become known as the Carpenter. He was noticed among his countrymen as such when in *Mark 6:3* (they asked) *is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.* KJV

God recognized Jesus as his son in the following verse:

Matt 3:16 - 17 *And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is **my beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased.* (KJV)

The power of The Name of Jesus can cause fear of loss of control by a empowered body.

Acts 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. (KJV)

Oh, what a great testimony did he give for Christ at that time when standing before the counsel. Such a stir as they had not seen in quite a while had been evident through his telling people of Jesus and all his power. People were gaining knowledge of the man they thought that upon his death would the continued spreading of his words be ceased. But Peter was giving testimony of the power of knowledge of Jesus in his life had preserved him to where he stood today.

Acts 4:18 And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. (KJV)

Acts 5:40 And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. (KJV)

Again we find teaching in Jesus name:

Acts 9:27 But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. (KJV)

To preach the name or teachings of Jesus at that time was a no-no. Many had already been commanded to not speak or teach in Jesus Name. His preaching was done in the authority of Jesus' name.

Why all the stir of one preaching in the "name" of Jesus? Lives were being changed, theologies were being expanded. With the new found knowledge of Jesus, and his works and teachings, people were changing the paths they had currently walked. Power was being seen, not only by the teachers, but by the ones who were learning.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (KJV)

Does this verse mean to us that the statement or directive made by Jesus before his ascension (the apostolic commission) is contradictory to what we do in the churches today? When Peter is preaching this message, he baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ he is saying; that is, “to firmly believe the doctrine of Christ, and submit to his grace and government; and make an open solemn profession of this, and come under an engagement to abide by it, by submitting to the ordinance of baptism; be proselyted to Christ and to his holy religion, and renounce your infidelity.” They must be baptized in the name (teaching and belief) of Jesus Christ.

When one is baptized as we know it today and even in the days of Christ, one is submersed in water. The word submersed, an adjective, is meant in this writing to be covered. The water totally covers the body and the one baptized comes out dripping wet with water flowing from them. The water eventually dries by either our hand or by nature and it is as if we have never been wet! Peter however is talking of a baptism of a different nature. Not just by being submersed in water, but to be immersed in Christ as a whole. When one is immersed in Christ or the Name of Jesus as a whole, he is totally engrossed or captivated while being so deeply wrapped up in His teachings.

Lets look at how Peter is preaching here. His first directive is to repent, which means to be sorry for, and ask forgiveness for and of your sins. He is saying to be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission (which actually means reduction) of your sins, means to be totally covered and understanding, as in dripping wet in the total doctrine of Jesus’ teachings, drenched in the being of Christ and his position of authority in our lives, making a public statement to this by being baptized in his directive. “No man comes to the father but by me”, was his words. He is our mediator and connection with God The Father. The Book of Life contains every act we have committed, every transgression we have made. When we come through Christ for remission of our sins, the acts are wiped away. One by one as we admit and confess of our sins asking to be forgiven of God and the acts forgotten as if they had never happened. The teaching of being baptized in water in the Name of Jesus alone is not false, yet, it is not the entirety of his preaching and directive. Yes this writer believes that many were that day and from days since have been baptized In The Name of Jesus Christ, yet some are baptized in the name only because they are told that is

how it should be done and not why. Why should we be baptized? Why should we even more be baptized in the Name of Jesus deeper than just water?

When John was baptizing in the river, he baptized in repentance only. For up until that time there was no knowledge of Jesus and his “message”. John taught repentance and the importance of such for the entrance to heaven. With the knowledge of Jesus and all that he spoke in teaching man, man knew more than before which is why Paul said in Acts 19:4-5 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. KJV

It is so unfortunate that many churches today still do not emphasize the need for total knowledge of Christ and people believe that all it takes to get into heaven is being saved, and baptized in water. But to know the teachings of Christ in a personal manner, one on one makes us totally immersed in his knowledge and wanting to stay “wet” in him.

Take a washcloth, dip it in water making it sappy drippy wet and wring it out on the floor in front of you. See the results of the water coming from the cloth. It goes not only straight down to the floor but it splatters in all directions causing things close by to become wet as well. In time should that cloth remain out of the water, it will become dry and hard. There are so many today who are baptized in water who quickly dry off to rid themselves of the flowing water coming from them reaching others. Oh for the Christian believer today to be so totally immersed in the Name (teaching and power) of Jesus Christ, that when they walk in the world today and are wrung out by the world, they splatter Christ’s power to all around them! Being immersed in the Name of Jesus means never wrung out... never dry and so soaking sopping wet that they splash on those people and things around them daily.

Our churches today have been so acclimated to the tradition of the service. We have a restraint placed upon us in most all we do within the walls of the church that we see the empty pews, and wonder what program will bring them in. No program my friend will bring the people into the walls of the church for an extended period of time. It may for a small time frame... they will eventually see empty seats again and time for another program. But I

tell you, the program that will cause an increase of the church is one of a church that is immersed in the Power of Christ in such a way that whether you have a program, a special revival speaker, or singers, there is a continuous power evident in the church. Take notice of the churches or the revival services you have attended either recently or in the past. The pews are filled. Come regular services, no revival, no special speakers there are empty seats. That is a church that is beginning to dry out from being immersed in something good. How did our directive change? What happened to dry it out?

One of the leaders of the early church was once invited into the great church to see all that had been accomplished. He was shown the fineries of the building, and all that the church had to show for its well being in finances. Upon completion of his tour, he commented. No longer can the church say, "silver and gold have I none. But neither can the church say, "rise up and walk". (Acts 3:6) They had lost the power. They were no longer immersed in Christ as a whole as the things of the world took first place. They had failed to splatter on others!

Lives Are Changed in The Knowledge of Jesus Name

Acts 8:5-16 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city. But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. But when they believed Philip preaching the things **concerning** the kingdom of God, **and the name of Jesus Christ**, they were baptized, both men and women. (*Notice the word CONCERNING, and NAME, meaning a biography as a whole of this man Jesus.*) Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and

John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) KJV

Phillip preached ABOUT God's kingdom and ABOUT the man Jesus. Then they were baptized upon hearing and believing. Not only were they baptized in the knowledge of Christ, but in water. Yet in all this not one of them received the Holy Ghost which is why Peter and John prayed as they did.

Demons FLEE at the NAME OF JESUS!

Acts 16:18 And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour. (KJV) Paul had a knowledge of the power of the name. He had an understanding of the Name, for his whole purpose and reason was the name of Jesus. It was through this knowledge and the exercising in the knowledge of that name, he spoke to the spirit and was able to command the spirit to leave as it did.

Many times in the church we find those who are beaten down time and time again when going up against the spirits of darkness for they do not walk in total knowledge of immersion in the name of Jesus. They really do not fully understand how to use it in an authoritative manner.

Getting Deep Here Folks **Is God's name, Jesus?**

It was not long after beginning this writing I was to over hear some children in the church speak to each other concerning the name of God. One child quickly spoke and said... "God's name is JESUS". The other children were quick to distinguish and debate between the names.

Exod 3:13 And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, **What is his name?** what shall I say unto them? 14 And God said unto Moses, **I AM THAT I AM:** and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, **I AM** hath sent me unto you

15 And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: **this is my name for ever**, and this is my memorial unto all generations. (KJV) GOD truly here, established his name as being, **I AM**.

David in one of his times of tribulations and fears in calling out to God, speaks of God's promises to him. Ps 89:27 Also I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth.(KJV)

This is where David is saying that God had told to him that he, God, would make it so that from the line of David would be HIS firstborn son, the one whose name would be higher than any king on earth. And at that time, the name of the king was the name that was most recognized anywhere and anytime.

It is through the knowledge of the name of Jesus that we can see many things accomplished and done in our lives.

John 14:6-7 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. (KJV)

The meaning of the above verse, as taken in the study of and preparation of this writing, Jesus is saying to the following to the ones gathered with him. *If you understand me in what I am teaching you, then you understand and see the ways of the Father. In this understanding of my words and teaching you as I do, you will and now do have a better knowledge of him: even momentarily have seen his being in me through my words and nature.*

An Old Testament book gives a great relationship to the believer or follower in gaining access to the Father. That book is Esther. In this book we see a prime example of The works of the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost.

Holy Ghost pneuma (pnyoo'-mah); a current of air, i.e. breath (blast) or a breeze; by analogy or figuratively, a spirit, i.e. (human) the rational soul, (by implication) vital principle, mental disposition, etc., or superhuman) an angel, demon, or (divine) God, Christ's spirit, the Holy Spirit: KJV— ghost, life, spirit (-ual, -ually), mind.

Do we as the church today debate the trinity? Unfortunately, Yes. Do we debate the “evident triune” (and I use these words carefully) power of God as in God being the Father, Jesus being the Son, and the Holy Spirit being our comforter? NO! If we do... we debate the other aspects of God as well.

Have we been wrong in our church services when we have said in a moment of spiritual ecstasy that “Jesus is walking among us and HE is here now to do for you that which you desire...”?

Think on this and challenge the mind for a moment if you will:

God created the earth, then man, and walked with man. Man sinned. GOD DEPARTED FROM MAN AND SIN.

Jesus came, lived, taught, performed miracles, died, rose from the dead and ASCENDED TO THE HEAVENS with a promise to return, confirmed that he would return to take us away to be with him. He promised us a comforter to be SENT until then.

The Holy Spirit came and gave and still gives unto those who do receive him, comfort, guidance, and power. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THAT WHICH REMAINS.

When we speak of a presence in our services... what do we speak of being present? It is the Holy Spirit, which is the presence among us. A unique one given to us by God, in which serves us as our closest companion in our continued education as a child of GOD. The spirit is the one which we operate in and through when praying for the sick and they are healed. The spirit is the one in which speaks to our inner man teaching us the things we do not understand in God’s word. We pray in and by way of the spirit who takes our prayers to Jesus our intercessor who in turn takes our request and supplications to the throne of GOD for the answers we desire.

Three times has man been in the presence of Godliness. Once in creation (GOD), again for a way of salvation and healing (JESUS), and thirdly, in comfort, teaching, and presence (THE HOLY SPIRIT). The next time we see and feel the true presence of Jesus Christ will be when he returns to this earth to claim that which is his and that being a church that knows and works in all of his name.

We are not wrong when we pray in the name of Jesus for our salvation. For he stands as our intercessor and when we are fully immersed in the knowledge of his name, when he too knows us. When Jesus asked the disciples who the people said he was, they gave him an answer saying “some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He asked them again who the people said he was, and Peter replied, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God” (KJV). He gave to Jesus the answer he was looking and waiting for in his saying this and Jesus returned saying, “It is for this knowledge given to you by my Father in Heaven you know who I am. And I know that you are Peter. (You know me and I know who you are.) Upon the very foundation of this knowledge will I build my church. Power comes to the church in knowing the name of Jesus (being immersed in it) and the gates of hell will not stand against it!

He was saying to them that it was not by his power, but by the power given to us by Jesus and just the mere mention of his name in command that life return as it should be.

The Name of Jesus can raise the dead!

When Jesus stood just outside the tomb of his dear friend Lazaraus, he simply spoke with authority... “Lazaraus, COME FORTH!”. The voice of the master was heard and acknowledged. He came forth from the grave. He knew the one calling him and he responded immediately.

When we think of raising the dead, we think of one who is without life being raised from the grave such as the case of Lazaraus. It is a reality in saying that we as believers, with power given by God, can literally see the dead raised this day and age. But there is another dead which needs raising more so than those whose physical life has departed them. When the church acknowledges the name of Jesus in the services as in the messages, the spirit, and the love being shown, a dead church can be raised to reach the community.

When we as ministers, laymen, and just plain Christian believers begin to exercise the name of Jesus daily in our lives in other than our 5 prayers daily (morning, breakfast, lunch, dinner, and bedtime) we will see life restored to

all that is around us. Our jobs will be easier and full of life, our families will be more enjoyable, our churches will know peace and will have evident power. Face it, we have many dead churches today that need to be raised. Examine your church, and your life. Where is it spiritually? Dead or alive? Speak to it the name of Jesus... and live life and worship to it's fullest!

