

The Powerful Name of Jesus Christ

1. The name Jesus is derived from the Hebrew name, 'Yeshua', which means 'to deliver or rescue'.

The human name 'Jesus' was given to Mary by Gabriel, the messenger angel.

Luke 1:31 NKJV

"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS."

2. The name 'Christ' was a title given and not a surname!

The name 'Christ' is derived from the Greek word 'Christos'. This translates the Hebrew term 'Mashiach' (Messiah), which means 'the anointed one.'

Therefore Christ means 'anointed' or 'Messiah.' So Jesus became the 'Christ' or 'Messiah.' The title of 'Christ' was given to Jesus because it identified Him as King and Deliverer. In the Bible, Jesus was referred to as the Messiah" or 'Jesus the Anointed One.'

For example:

Matthew 16:16 NKJV

The Apostle Peter said: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Acts 9:34 NKJV

'And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately.'

3. Salvation from God to the world is through the name of Jesus Christ!

1 Timothy 2:5 NKJV

'For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.'

Acts 4:12 NKJV

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Respectfully, there is no other religious leader or founder whose name has been given by God for the salvation of humanity according to the written word of God.

4. The name of Jesus Christ has been lifted up above every other name!

Philippians 2:9-10 NKJV

'Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 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.'

5. Through the name of Jesus Christ, each believer has been granted authority over the enemy, sin, all sicknesses and disease.

Mark 16:17 NKJV

“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues”.

John 14:14 NKJV

“If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”

John 16:24 NKJV

“Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”

Acts 4:30 KJV

“By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of the holy child Jesus.’

6. The name of Jesus Christ cannot be used as a talisman or a magical word.

Acts 19:13-17 NKJV

‘Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, “We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.”

Vs 15

‘And the evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?”

Vs 16

‘Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.’

Vs 17

‘This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.’

7. The exercising of our faith must be applied to the name of Jesus Christ.

Whilst the name of Christ is the most powerful name, our faith activates the workings of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ name.

This is also true with our approach to the word of God.

Hebrews 4:2 NKJV

‘...but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.’

Peter speaks to the paralytic at the temple gate called 'Beautiful':

Acts 3:6 NKJV

'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."

Acts 3:16 NKJV

"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."

Miracles are not performed in the name of a certain church, priest, saint or religious leader.

The phrase, 'in Jesus name', is not a casual 'tag on' at the end of our grace or prayers. The name of Jesus Christ is the most powerfully legitimate, authorized, legal name that is recognized in the courts of heaven.

8. The name of Christ is a confrontational threat to the satanic kingdom that arches our world.

The powers of darkness deliberately try to shut down the hearing, spreading and usage of this name. Demons are opposed to anything that represents Christ the Saviour, as it is a terrifying reminder of their absolute defeat.

Acts 4:2 NKJV

'being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.'

Acts 4:17 NKJV

"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."

Acts 4:18 NKJV

'So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.'

Acts 5:40 NKJV

'...and 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.'

9. The title name of 'Christ' is recognized by Satan as belonging to Jesus of Nazareth, who is the Son of God.

Satan recognizes that Jesus Christ is not a messenger from God, but Jesus Christ is the message Himself who came to earth to demolish sin, sickness and Satan's power over humanity.

Colossians 2:15 NLT

'In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by His victory over them on the cross.'

Acts 10:38 NKJV

'how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil...'

1 John 3:8 ESV

'The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.'

10. The demonic world is in terror of the name of Jesus Christ, as it represents their present and eternal defeat.

There often is an 'antichrist reaction' in the atmosphere as soon as the name of Jesus Christ is preached and declared with faith and authority. Demons are brought out into the visible and defeated before human eyes.

Mark 1:23- 24 NKJV

'Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"'

James 2:19 NKJV

'You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!'

11. The name of Jesus Christ should be honoured and esteemed highly.

In the Ten Commandments given through Moses to Israel, God makes it clear how He feels about His name being dishonoured. In the third commandment it says:

Exodus 20:7 NKJV

"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain."

The word 'vain' means the flippant use of any of His names, including using His name as a curse word.

12. God reveres His name as Holy!

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus instructed His disciples on how to pray. The word 'hallowed' means to make separate, consecrate and make holy.

Matthew 6:9 NKJV

'In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.'

You will have noticed the name 'Jesus Christ' is utilized as a swear word. People do not use the name of Buddha or Muhammad or any other religious founder's name! Why is this?

Because Satan wants to degrade the name of Jesus Christ into a despised, worthless swear word. Satan knows Jesus Christ has demolished his temporary power and kingdom. When Christ returns, the devil and his demons will one day have their final place in Hell - the second death - tormented forever.

13. God's names and His character are completely inseparable.

God's name represents who He is and identifies His specific nature.

The Ezekiel verses show us that God scattered Israel off the land as judgement for blatant sin, which included idolatry and the shedding of blood. He then brought them back for His own namesake.

Ezekiel 36:20 NLT

"But when they were scattered among the nations, they brought shame on my holy name. For the nations said, 'These are the people of the LORD, but he couldn't keep them safe in his own land!'"

While the Lord was seeking to judge and teach Israel by dispersing them abroad, He also brought reverence to His name during the process.

Here is an example of the Lord's name signifying the attribute of His strength:

Proverbs 18:10 NKJV

'The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.'

How could a name be a strong tower? In this verse, Solomon identifies God's name and character are one.

How do we use God's name in vain?

1. We use His name in vain when we live a lifestyle and behave in a way that misrepresents His character, bringing dishonour to his name.

2. We treat His name as 'common' when we use it to justify our own opinion when we have not heard from the Lord. Often this is done to build our case and present ourselves spiritual and to manipulate our way forward.

Ezekiel 22:28 NLT

"And your prophets cover up for them by announcing false visions and making lying predictions..."

We dishonour His name when we express surprise saying 'Oh my God.' I believe even when we write our posts 'OMG', it displays a lack of reverence towards the awe of His name.

We dishonour Him when we view entertainment that blasphemes His name. We would not allow our children's name to be mocked or used as a swear word on media for entertainment. We are talking about the Most High.

We use His name in vain when we use His name for humour. As ministers, we need to set a high standard for how we use His name. Often we have heard jokes that are centred on His name. As believers, Paul warns us not to grieve or quench the Spirit.

Ephesians 4:30 NKJV

'And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.'

1 Thessalonians 5:19 NKJV

'Do not quench the spirit.'

To grieve means to 'cause pain, grief or distress' to the Holy Spirit because of our actions. To quench means to 'put out a flame'.

What should our response be?

If we have been guilty of not honouring and holding His name with reverence to in any form, we should go before the Lord in humility and confession and ask for His forgiveness and cleansing. Once we have done this we should seek to reverence His name as Holy and powerful.

Let's be more mindful when we choose our entertainment that dishonours His name. It is this name that has bought our very salvation.

Let us finally remember - it is an incredible honour to be born into His kingdom and to be able to use His name to advance His kingdom.

Amen!