

Living in Your New Name

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

It is very easy for people to take on wrong identities. For example, as a young person my teeth were not good, and we couldn't afford a dentist. In high school, I remember being intimidated and ashamed because some other kids made fun of my teeth. The name they had given me was "Poverty." That was my identity among the people in that group.

Eventually, I came to know Jesus Christ, and He gave me His name—the Name above all names. That is the name by which Christians are to live.

This booklet will expand upon the revelation, illumination, and inspiration of this fact: We have a new identity in Christ. As truth is formed within us (Psalm 51:6; Jeremiah 31:33), our association with God is enhanced. Therefore, when the devil tries to accuse us by calling us names—Loser, Liar, Cheater, Arrogant—the only name we will respond to is the name of

God, who is absolutely pure and guilty of nothing.

We are not to live by our old names, which speak of our identity in Adam and the old sin nature. We are to live in the new creation, created in the image of Christ, with a brand-new name and a brand-new identity (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Chapter One
WHO GOD IS

It is so important that we understand God's eminence, the greatness of His majesty. His eminence is represented in the fact that God is omnipresent; heaven cannot contain Him.

His eminence is seen throughout the universe—in the earth, the stars, the planets, and every facet of creation. All of it belongs to God. We need Him to sustain us, but He does not need to sustain Himself. God is, and He holds everything together by the power of His might (Hebrews 1:3).

In Genesis 17:1, He is called, "The LORD God Almighty"—*El shaddai* in the Hebrew text, which means "divine eminence."

In contrast to His divine eminence is God's condescension. The Son of God became human while remaining perfect in His hypostatic union—perfect God in perfect Man. Coming to earth, He was tempted in every single point as we are

tempted. Yet, He remained sinless—a fact that qualified Jesus to become the propitiation for our sins, to satisfy the holiness and justice and integrity of God the Father who could not look upon sin. He condescended for our sake, and the Just died for the unjust (1 Peter 3:18) for the Father's sake (2 Peter 3:9).

He Transcends All

After His condescension and crucifixion, God exhibited His transcendence. God the Son ascended to the right hand of the Father. It must have been quite an amazing scene when the Father received the Glorified Man who was also the only begotten Son, saying to Jesus, "I am well pleased with You. Your deity could not sin, and your humanity did not sin."

The Son is transcendent, reigning far above all the demonic world, all the principalities and powers of darkness. He has all power, all might, all dominion. His name is above every name that is named on the earth and below it (Ephesians 1:21). He is the head of the Church, and everything has been put under His feet (Ephesians 1:22-23).

By His authority, He transcends every sin and all guilt and the record of our failures. He

transcends everything, not imputing our sins, to make us complete in Him, the transcendent “head of all principality and power” (Colossians 2:10).

In every believer dwells God the Father (John 14:23; Philippians 2:13). He is the eminent One. He indwells us, and He has put every conceivable blessing in our portfolio. We have divine assets on record in heaven.

The Planner, the Provider, the Revealer

“The God of my mercy shall prevent me: God shall let me see my desire upon mine enemies” (Psalm 59:10).

“Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing: for God is my defense, and the God of my mercy” (Psalm 59:17).

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you...” (2 Corinthians 13:5).

“To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27).

“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father

will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him" (John 14:23).

Do you see how personal God is? The Father indwells us. He is our strength and our mercy. In Psalm 59:10, the word "prevent" means "to go before." Billions of years ago, the plan of God went before us. That plan was to receive us and that we would see the defeat of our enemies.

Any Christian anywhere in this world has the eminent Christ indwelling him. The Planner, the Provider, the Revealer lives inside of us. The Lord Jesus Christ, in His execution of the perfect plan, lives inside us. Before Him, not one single thing existed. The One who holds everything together by the word of His power is in us (Hebrews 1:3). He is in you; He is in me.

The Holy Spirit dwells in our temple (1 Corinthians 6:19), quickening our mortal bodies (Romans 8:11), leading us out of bondage and into our rights as adopted children of God. His Holy Spirit witnesses with our spirits (Romans 8:14-16), guiding us into all truth (John 16:13). When we are filled with Him (Ephesians 5:18), He brings the precise Word for the situation to our remembrance (John 14:26).

Therefore, we must "quench not the Spirit" (1 Thessalonians 5:19). "And grieve not the holy

Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption" (Ephesians 4:30).

Don't Live in a False Name

Perhaps someone has said to you, "You're stupid." Maybe peers have run you down. Don't take up the characteristics of that name in depression. That is not who you are.

If you have your name legally changed, it is against the law to operate in the old one. It is breaking the law because the old name is false. You can't live under a false name. Those of you who are living in the old name when you have a new one are living a false life.

We cannot afford to grieve the Spirit by living according to a false name. We can't afford to quench Him by allowing ungodly spirits in our homes. The Spirit is God (Acts 5:3-4). The Trinity—the Planner, the Provider, the Revealer of our salvation—lives in us. The Word of God, which reveals the mind of the Creator, dwells richly inside of us. We have the mind of Christ through the Word of God. We walk around in this world with everything we need inside of us.

The Father, who is the Planner, formulated the perfect Plan (Psalm 18:30). The Son, who is the Provider, has given us all things by making

us co-heirs with Him so that we can do all things (see Philippians 4:13, 19). The Holy Spirit, who is the Revealer, leads and guides us as He glorifies the Son and exalts Him (John 16:12-13).

Chapter Two

TAKE UP YOUR NEW NAME

“And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

“Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

“And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads.

“And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

“And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which

were redeemed from the earth.

“These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb” (Revelation 13:17-14:4).

“And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.

“Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.

“Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the LORD delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married” (Isaiah 62:2-4).

In Revelation 13, the mark of the beast is “666.” Man’s number is six, which falls short of seven—God’s number. God’s number stands for perfection, completion, and the Finished Work. Man’s number speaks of being self-centered in problems, of being human-centered in thoughts, of being circumstantially oriented most of the time.

In Revelation 14, the Lamb stands on Mount Zion and the Father's name was upon His forehead. His mind was God's mind. Verse 4 of Revelation 14 speaks of the followers of the Lamb. Their name is "Sacrifice." Their name is "Obedience." Their name is "Love."

God shall call you by a name. Out of His mouth, He shall name you with a new name. Every servant of God receives a new name (Isaiah 65:15*b*). No longer can we be called "Forsaken." Instead, we will be called "Hephzibah," which means God delights in us as His people.

The Power of Unconscious Identities

God has a special name for each one of us. There are many fine parents whose encouragement and edification help their children to recognize and live by "good names" with godly characteristics.

Some children, however, are told that they can't achieve certain things. Too often, parents give their children names such as "Failure." Labeled as a failure, children live by these names when they are discouraged. Parents give children a "name" when they mistreat them, or by not being good examples. The children take on the names they are given and pick up the char-

acteristics projected to them.

All of us inherited Adam's nature (Romans 5:12), and we all are made in the image of the first Adam (Genesis 5). For those people, the name they live under is Adam-lust, Adam-filthy, Adam-dirty, and Adam-unclean.

One of the biggest pornography producers in this country—he has made millions of dollars doing this—told of being molested as a child. Now it is as if he is saying with his life, "I will take revenge on others and make them filthy because I was molested." He has taken on the name of "Revenge" for his molestation.

This is why believers should take in as much of the Word and Finished Work doctrine as possible. New believers need to know about the cleansing power of the Word and the Spirit. It is vital to let the water of the Word of God cleanse our thought patterns. Here is why.

The unconscious mind becomes connected with what a person has been through in life. Especially when there have been traumatic events such as molestation, the victim will have "short-circuits" in his subconscious mind. For some, this may lead to a lust for pornography. Others will go into sexual perversion or an aversion to sex entirely. Something has happened to them

and they become charged in their unconscious. They enter into the vision of whatever is inside of them. This vision is then acted out in the flesh.

Leaving the Old Name Behind

“And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed” (Genesis 32:28).

God asked a question of Jacob—He wasn’t trying to find out Jacob’s name so He could go visit him or call him. He was asking about what Jacob represented.

God said, “What is your name, Jacob? What are you like?”

“My name is Jacob—which means cheater,” Jacob said. “That is what it means, that is what I am.”

But God then said, “I am going to give you a brand new name: Israel, prince with God, power with men.”

Abram was no more Abram in Genesis 17:5—he became Abraham, the father of many nations. Sarai was no more Sarai after Genesis 17:15, she became Sarah, queen, adorable one, a mother of nations.

“Simon” means “thinking one.” I don’t know

why his parents gave him that name, and names really meant something back then. "Thinking one?" That's not how Simon turned out.

In Matthew 16:18, Simon was given a new name. "You shall no longer be called Simon, I am going to call you Peter, a rock."

There are people such as Jabez. His mother was in great pain as she gave birth to him. In 1 Chronicles 4:9, the mother said, "I am going to name you Sorrow-maker, because you have brought me such pain in childbirth."

Jabez, however, refused to become what his name meant.

"And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested" (1 Chronicles 4:10).

Jabez understood that he didn't have to live as Sorrow-maker. He became a Grace-taker and a Blessing-giver.

Chapter Three

AN IDENTITY OF CHRIST-LOVE

There are many godly people who have never dealt with their unconscious names. For this reason, they always seem to have problems, though they don't live overtly bad lives.

Researchers surveyed a variety of family-owned companies. The families that got along had prosperous businesses. Where there was division and bitterness within the family, their businesses went downhill and failed. That is the power of Adam-division, Adam-resentment, Adam-arrogance, Adam-pride.

For you who are in Christ, your name is now Christ-love. It is your new name. You can take up other names such as Christ-joy and Christ-contentment as you grow into it. You can be Christ-peaceful. You can live as Christ-forgiveness. This is your name with God. You are Christ-edifier. You are Christ-servant. You have a new name.

The Name of Victory

“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it” (Revelation 2:17).

The victorious ones will have a name that no one will know. Only God will know these names, because He knows them beyond anything that anyone else has ever known them by.

There was a television program about a woman who took in stray dogs. She trained them, cared for them, and started a ministry with them, taking them to hospitals to visit children with terminal diseases. The program has been such a success that doctors allow the dogs to accompany the children to all their treatments. Once, these strays were unwanted; now they are considered vital. This woman’s love and vision changed them. Change can happen to any of God’s creations.

The Father’s name is in our minds. To each of us, God says, “That’s My name on him. That person has My name.” We are brand-new creations cleansed from all the names that others

have given us.

Cleansing Faulty Circuitry

Thank God, the blood of Christ can cleanse the circuitry of Adam in our unconscious minds. When that happens, the short-circuits stop. A vision for lost souls, loving others, building up others, and praying for others can reign instead. We have a great treasure in our earthen vessels that can quicken us (2 Corinthians 4:7).

A wonderful woman in our church had a husband who went home to be with God after a long, painful battle with cancer. She has often told me how apprehension, unresolved worries, and lingering pain can sometimes rob her of the promises of God.

“Death is too real, it separates us from loved ones that are so dear to us,” she has said. “But no matter how clouded my eyes are with tears, and no matter how overcome I seem by fears, I still have a hope, and I live in that hope.”

Surely, this lady knows her name, and she knows she belongs to the One who conquered death. What’s more, she has grown into a living example as one who triumphs over the darkness of grief by walking in the Light.

CONCLUSION

We begin to experience our new creation and our new name by putting on the new man. This new man is to be renewed continually, causing us to grow up and to receive new strength and vigor through the intake of the Word of God (Colossians 3:10). When we receive the Word by faith, we become stronger and stronger in our new identity.

Don't live under a false name. Adam has been crucified (Galatians 2:20). Live in the name of Jesus Christ. Even when you fail, you are a new creature in Him. Don't call yourself "Depressed." Don't call yourself "Sad" or "Lonely." Call yourself "Pure" and "Forgiven." Let your name be "Joy." See yourself as Christ sees you: brand-new in Him.