

## CAYA Series – “Understanding the Purpose and Power of Prayer”

### CHAPTER 11 - “THE POWER OF JESUS’ NAME”

In conjunction with praying according to the Word, praying in the name of Jesus gives our prayers tremendous power.

#### **MAGIC FORMULA?**

We tend to think we can pray any type of prayer and then say, “In the name of Jesus, amen,” believing that the phrase alone is what makes our prayers effective with God. It doesn’t work that way.

Jesus’ name is not a magic formula or password that guarantees automatic acceptance of all our prayers. It’s not the word J-e-s-u-s but what the name represents that makes the difference. We’re not effective in prayer just by using the word *Jesus*, but in understanding the significance of who He really is and appropriating His power through faith in His name.

Example: Seven sons of Sceva (**Acts 19:13-17**) – This story reveals that someone can use the name *Jesus* all he wants, but he will still have no authority over the devil if **(1)** he isn’t in proper relationship with Christ, and **(2)** he doesn’t understand how to use Jesus’ name. We must be able to legally use the authority behind the power of Jesus’ name in order to obtain results in prayer.

#### **OUR COVENANTAL RIGHTS**

God does not owe us anything. We have no claim on Him outside Christ’s work of grace on our behalf. Christ redeemed us from our sins, or trespasses (**Ephesians 1:7**). When you trespass, you are doing something illegal. Similarly, someone who doesn’t know God or is not in proper relationship with God through Christ cannot legally do business with God. Yet, because of Jesus, we can be forgiven of our trespasses. He cancelled our sins through His sacrifice on the cross and delivered us from the power of sin, so now we can have legal access to God through His name.

The authority we have in His name through prayer is a covenantal authority; it is based on our covenant relationship with God through Christ. (**Hebrews 8:6**) We can pray to God in Jesus’ name because He has given us authority to do so based on the new covenant. (**Read John 16:23-27**) Because Christ restored us to our relationship and rights with both God and the earth,

His name is our legal authority—whether we are dealing with “heaven” (with God), or “earth” (with men), or “under the earth” (with Satan). In essence, Jesus’ name is our legal authority to transact spiritual business with God. “For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, to be a testimony in due time” (**1 Timothy 2:5-6**).

## **WHAT’S IN A NAME?**

Today, most people choose names for their children based on how the names sound or look. However, in the Scriptures, the name of someone (or something) usually symbolized the essence of his nature. It represented the person’s collective attributes and characteristics—his nature, power, and glory.

**1 Corinthians 15:41** “There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. The glory of something is its best expression of itself.”

Why does God put such emphasis on people’s names? It is because mankind is made in His image, and He places great significance on His own name. God’s name represents His collective attributes and characteristics—His nature, power, and glory. His name represents who He is, but also, it is who He is. In **Exodus 3:13-15** God was saying, “I am My name. Whatever I am, that’s what I’m called. My name is whatever I am at the time I am it.” God is our all-sufficiency, and His name differs depending on what our need is at a particular time.

## **THE NAME OF JESUS**

The name of the second person in the Trinity refer to all that He is, both as the Son of God and as the Son of Man—all of His nature, power, and glory. Jesus Christ is the revelation of God in human form. Because He is fully divine as well as fully human, He is ascribed a variety of names, just as God is. Like God the Father, the attributes that Jesus manifests reveal His glory and correspond to His people’s needs.

Here is the key: If we want God to meet our need when we pray “in the name of Jesus,” we must pray based on the divine name that meets our particular need at the time. This is how our prayers are answered. We don’t receive answers to prayer by merely speaking Jesus’ name, but by calling on His nature and attributes, which can meet our every need. God is telling us not to dwell on the problem, but on His attributes that addresses the

problem. It is important to understand that the name of Jesus is given to us to use in relation to our needs.

### **POWER OF ATTORNEY**

Everything we have discussed about the name of Jesus and the covenant authority that we have through Him refers to Jesus' "power of attorney." Legally, when you give power of attorney to someone, it means you appoint that person to represent you. Praying in the name of Jesus is giving Him power of attorney to intercede on your behalf when you make requests of the Father. **John 16:23-24** - "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."

When Jesus was on earth with the disciples, they didn't need to pray to the Father. However, because Jesus was going to the Father, they would no longer be able to ask Him for anything directly. They would need to pray to the Father, and Jesus instructed them to do so in His name. Why? It is because the Father works through Christ. After Jesus spoke to His disciples about praying in His name, He immediately began to talk about the Holy Spirit, because the Spirit continues Jesus' ministry on earth.

### **JESUS' NAME IS THE KEY TO HEAVEN**

One of the things Jesus emphasized is that "the Father loves the Son" (**John 3:35; John 5:20**). This is a crucial truth in relation to prayer because, if the Father loves the Son, then the Father will do anything the Son wants. If the Son is representing you, then you don't have to worry about your case being heard. If you want to do business with the Father, don't try to come without the name of Jesus, because His name is the key to heaven. No one but Jesus can be our legal channel to the Father.

### **CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD**

The Bible says, "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe (**Proverbs 18:10**). Whatever you need, call on Him to fulfil that need based on who He is. Use what He has given you: His nature; His attributes; the authority to pray in His name so you can ask the Father to manifest His power in your life and in the lives of others. Call on the name of the Lord.

## **PRAYER:**

Heavenly Father,

*"How majestic is you name in all the earth!" (**Psalms 8:1, 9**). Your Word says that at the name of Jesus, every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord over everything (**Philippians 2:9-10**). Jesus said if we ask for anything in His name, You will do it (**John 16:23**). We know that we cannot ask in Jesus' name unless we ask what is according to Your will. However, we also know that when we ask in your Son's name, He will present our requests to You properly. He will pray in accordance with Your will. He will pray for us when we don't know what to say. He will appeal our case. So, Lord, we ask that Your will be done. There is no other name by which we make our requests but the name of Jesus. We call on the power of His name to meet all our needs. We pray in the name of Jesus, whose name is above all names. Amen!*

## [Individual/Small Group Activity]

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## **CHAPTER 11 – “THE POWER OF JESUS’ NAME”**

### **BREAKOUT QUESTIONS**

**What information presented in Chapter 11 impacted/influenced each team member the most?** (It could be a principle, revelation, understanding, insight or obstacle, etc.)

1. What is the meaning of some of the names of people in the bible?
2. What are some of the names that described Jesus in the Old Testament?
3. Who gave Jesus his name? Why did He name Jesus?
4. Why is “living by faith” sometimes saying what seems to us like the strangest thing? Ex. “Let the weak say I am strong.” (*See page 212*)
5. Why would the Holy Spirit tell us not to pray for something? (*See page 215*)
6. Why is Jesus’ name the key?
7. What are some of the attributes of Jesus’ name that you need Him to manifest for you?