**THE NAME OF JESUS**

* For years, I had (what I called) a love-hate relationship with the Book of Acts. On one hand, there were some really great stories:
* In Acts 2, they get filled with the Holy Ghost ...
* Peter preaches his first sermon and 3000 people get saved.
* In Chapter 3, a notable miracle takes place at the Gate Beautiful.
* A chapter later, another 5000 souls come to Christ.
* And by chapter 5, even Peter’s *shadow* is healing people! (He’s not

 ministering to them! He’s just walking by!)

* By the time I read Chapter 5, any excitement I’d been feeling had been replaced with feelings of inadequacy! “What did *they* have that *we* don’t have? We’re part of the same Church. We’ve got the same assignment! We’ve got the same Holy Ghost, and the same Bible – (except they had a lot *less* Bible! Think: The only New Covenant truths they had were “Go into all the world and preach”, and “In my name you’ll cast out devils”. And with those two truths, they turned the world upside down!) From that moment on, I started reading Acts looking for the secret of their power.
* a.) The first thing I noticed was that they loved God. [But *that* didn’t explain their power. We love God, too!] b.) They prayed a lot. [So did we!] c.) They walked in unity. For awhile, I thought maybe *that* was the answer. But then, I remembered the Corinthians! They fought over everything! Yet, Paul said they came behind in no gift. (None of the 1st 3 observations explained the reason for their power.) d.) They placed a huge emphasis on the Name of Jesus.
* They called on the Name (2:21), preached (9:27), prayed (Jn. 16:23), commanded (3:6), acted (3:7), gathered (1 Cor. 5:4), baptized (8:16), spoke (9:29), did wonders (4:30), cast out devils (16:18), taught (4:18), magnified (19:17), suffered (5:41), were imprisoned and died (21:13).

*Col. 3:17 – “And whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of Jesus …”*

* For the first time, I couldn’t say, “We do that, too”. That was totallyforeign to me! As far as I knew, the Name was something you tagged onto the end of a prayer, to let God know you’re finished. (Kinda Like: “Over and out!”.) We *closed our prayers* with the Name, but we knew nothing of its power!

**The Five Most Important Things About the Name:**

**1.) There’s More \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ In the Name Than We’ve Realized**

* If you asked most Christians, “Does Jesus have any power?”, they’d say: “Of course He does! He said, ‘All power is given unto Me, both in Heaven and earth’! ALL power belongs to Him!”
* But, if you asked those same people, “Is there any power *in the Name*?”, they wouldn’t know what to say. But the Bible says a *lot* about the power in the Name of Jesus! (Phil. 2:9)

*Jeremiah 10:6 – “God, there is none like you. For you are great, and your name is full of power.”*

**How Much Power Is In the Name?**

* There’s enough power to save the worst of sinners. (*Romans 10:17 – “… Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”)*
* There’s enough power to make demons obey. (*Luke 10:17 – “… the seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us through Your name.”)*
* There’s enough power to cause miracles to happen. (*Acts 4:30 – “That signs and wonders may be done by the name …”)*

**2.) Jesus Gave Us the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to Use His Name**

a.) We Can Use His Name in Prayer. *(John 16:24) –* When you pray in His

 Name, you instantly have Heaven’s attention!

1. We Can Use the Name Against the Devil. (*Mk. 16:17 – “These signs shall follow them that believe. In my name, they’ll cast out devils.”)*
2. We Can Speak the Name to our Circumstances and We Can Use the Name in Ministering to Others. (Very seldom, in the Book of Acts, do you ever see them praying for the sick. Usually, they just used the Name.)
* There’s no record that Peter prayed for the lame man at the Gate Beautiful. He just said, “In the name of Jesus, rise up and walk.”
* Aeneas – “Jesus Christ makes you whole.” “Tabitha arise.”
* Fortune Teller – “In the name of Jesus, come out …”
* They used the name and so can we! We can use it in prayer, against the devil, against our circumstances, and in ministering to others.

**3.) The Name is the Key to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* There’s something in our hearts that longs for the supernatural. That’s why so many unbelievers are drawn to the occult, and why so many Christians long for the miraculous. Something deep inside tells us that we were created to walk in that realm.
* I don’t know if anyone has told you this lately, but you serve a God Who still does miracles! (Now, there are some who say, “Miracles passed away with the last apostle”, but they didn’t!) Mark 16 lists some of the miraculous things that can be done in His name.
* Others will argue, “You can’t use that passage in Mark! It wasn’t even supposed to be in the Bible.” (A few Bibles add a footnote that says, “Some of the oldest manuscripts do not contain verses 9-20.” And it’s true! Some manuscripts *don’t* contain those verses.)
* What they don’t mention is that those manuscripts are missing other verses as well. One in particular, is missing the first 46 chapters of

Genesis, 32 chapters of Psalms, 5 chapters from the Book of

Hebrews, and all of 1-2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, and Revelation. (No one can explain why *those* passages don’t carry the same footnote. But they don’t!) The fact is: Every phrase of Mk. 16:9-20 (except one) can be proven from the rest of the New Testament. Mk. 16:9-20 should *absolutely* be included in the text!

**4.) It’s the Name That Does the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* Too often, we’ve relied on our own ability to get the job done. We go to pray for someone, and all *some of us* can think of is our shortcomings and failures. But it’s the Name that does the work!

*Acts 4:30 – “… that signs and wonders may be done by the name ...”*

*Acts 3:16 – “And His name … hath made this man strong.”*

* Illustration: At times, we’ve all said, “I’m going out to start my car!”, but the truth is, *\*I\** don’t start my car. The *key* starts the car! (If you doubt that, leave your keys here, and go start your car.)
* The key starts your car, and it doesn’t matter who’s on the other end of it. Think: You could give your key to the smallest child in Kid’s Church who “gets” the concept. They could toddle out, put the key in the ignition, turn it, and the car would start. The key is no respecter of persons. In the same way, you could give the Name of Jesus to any member of the Body of Christ who “gets” the concept, and the results would be the same. It’s the Name that does the work! (So, why don’t we see more results?)

**5.) You’ve Got to Develop Your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ In the Name**

* You can’t just “parrot” the Name – (use it because you heard a message like this) – and get results. It’s *faith* in the Name that causes it to work.

*Acts 3:16 – “And His name, through faith in His name, hath made this man strong.”* Feed on the Scriptures that speak of the power in the Name, until the truth dawns on your heart. Then it will work for you!