

Worthy Women's Words

What's In A Name? *by Joella Pickup*

At times, we have all heard the phrase, “a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.” That may be true for a rose, but look in God’s Word and you will find that names often had special and remarkable meanings, many given by God Himself. The name, Adam, meaning man or human being, was given to the first two humans that God created (Genesis 5:2). The man Adam gave his female companion, woman, a special name, Eve, meaning “the mother of all living.” God changed Abram’s name to Abraham, Sarai’s name to Sarah and Jacob’s name to Israel at the turning point of each life. (The American Indian had this practice, I recall.) Saul of Tarsus became Paul when his ministry to the Gentiles became established. Today, this practice has pretty much fallen out of favor, but it was popular in olden days.

Yet, people and things must have names—common names or special names. Without names or designations of any kind, there would be chaos! From birth, babies begin to recognize situations they cannot put into words. So they express themselves by crying or smiling, soon learning the response each

of those gets! They express their feelings and needs very early in life ... to eat, to be loved, to have a sense of self and well-being or to need a diaper change. They learn to differentiate between people. (At six months, one of our grandsons still would not sit on anyone’s lap except his Mommy’s!) They begin to learn the names of things

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and people. They make sound syllables and then really learn to talk! Different emotions such as love, anger, jealousy and possessiveness begin to arise.

My nearly two-year-old great-grandson, Jack Qualls, was told by his parents that they were going to get Jack a little brother soon. Now that was something he didn’t see the need for at all. So when the time came upon them quickly, his parents left him, crying, with a Christian lady-friend,

overnight, to go get the little baby brother. Jack was angry and also fearful as he was taken to the hospital where his mother and the little baby brother were waiting. As he walked into the room, he saw his mother holding a strange-looking thing wrapped in a blanket and treating it like it was something special. Evidently disgusted, Jack turned around and walked back out the door! His daddy had to run get him! As Jonas’ big brother, Jack had much to learn from then on. His whole life had come to a turning point. He had to learn to love and help take care of his brother.

Question: That’s sweet, but why go into all that in this piece? **Answer:** The above paragraph explains in simple terms the total importance of different situations and their relationships, names and interactions together. When we know the names or relationships of people to specific things, we become wise in our dealings with them.

An example: We learn to use fire, but we also learn never to touch it.

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July 2009
Volume 3, Number 7

What's In A Name *concluded*

In the home, the name of God should be used reverently, never as a curse or a by-word, or a swear word. (Matthew 5:33-37; Matthew 13:4.) We must honor His name and obey His Teachings every day. He is our Creator. He has lived forever and will live forever. He controls our destiny and will not countenance impurity, because He is Purity, personified. The verse that truly humbles my heart is Isaiah 57:15, which says, "For thus saith the high and lofty **One that inhabiteth Eternity**, whose name is Holy; I will dwell in the high and holy place with him of a contrite and humble spirit." When Moses asked God at the burning bush what was His name, God really did not give Moses His Name, but gave him His eternal description, "I Am That I Am." The Old Testament word for God is "el"; so when you see "el" at the end of a name, it means "_____ of God." "Elohim" is both plural and

singular. "Jehovah" and "Lord" are now used interchangeably, "Jehovah" being a derivative of the Hebrew name for the Living God.

We teach our children not only about the name of God, but the name of His Son, Jesus. Man cannot rely on his own nature to overcome sin. Knowing this, God formulated a plan to send His Son in the form of man to take upon Himself the sins of all mankind, from the time of Adam to the future Judgment Day. God sent the angel, Gabriel, to the young woman, Mary, a virgin, whom God had chosen to be the mother of Jesus. The name Jesus means Savior or Salvation. He lived in Nazareth and grew as other children grew, but without sin. When He was grown, He began to preach the way of Salvation. The appellation, Christ, means "the anointed One," the "King."

In Peter's sermon to those who had crucified Jesus because He claimed to be the

Son of God, Acts 4:10-12 says, "...by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead. Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven, given among men, whereby ye must be saved." Paul, by the Holy Spirit, wrote in Colossians 3:17, "do all in the name of the Lord." (Did you know that is why we end every prayer with, "In Jesus' Name.?) See Ephesians 5:20.

Names and proper designations are very important. Jehovah, Himself, established that necessary tradition of mankind. Today, we tend not to consider the meaning of a name so much as how it sounds to the ear or whom it honors. But there is great merit in having a "good name" (good reputation). See Proverbs 22:1. Therefore, we must not let our actions or thoughts besmirch God's Name, or our own. Our eternal destiny depends on it. ✨

O Master *by Vanessa H. Dixie*

*I feel a mighty force within
He walks with me each day,
I sense His gentle pleadings
For me not to go astray.*

*He tenderly eases my mind
When worries and cares abound,
And says, my child I'm with you
Just lay your burdens down.*

*I try so hard to please Him
I pray His will be done,
I give my life to serve you
As you gave us your dear Son.*

*I ask for strength and wisdom
In all that I do,
Jesus, be my blessed guide
The example that I look to.*

*Thank you Lord for loving me
And giving me your grace,
A faithful servant I will be
And one day see your face. ✨*

