



Homes of H.O.P.E. Prayer and Study Guide 9/23
Based on sermon: “Name Dropping”
Preached September 19, 2009

1. Read Acts 3:1-10. What impresses you about this story and why?
2. Why do you suppose Peter and John don't stop to pray first before attempting to heal the man?
3. Verse 2 points out that the man was “crippled from birth.” How is this man a symbol for all humankind? (See Psalm 51:5; Rom. 3:9-18, 23)
4. Consider the following statement: “Laodiceanism is spiritual narcissism bathed in contentment. (*I'm OK and you're OK.*) Instead of the church changing the culture, the culture has changed the church. And that makes it harder to heal ‘cripples’ today, because no one wants to admit their need.” How is this true?
5. Read Acts 3:6. In what way did Peter “have” the name of Jesus? And how could Peter “give” it to the beggar? How are we to do the same?

5. The NAME of Jesus is:

His character. (*on'-om-ah*) “Authority or Character – In the O.T., each time God gave His name, He revealed something about Himself. Read the following texts and write down the things God's name is associated with.

Psalm 25:11 (Exodus 9:16; Jer. 14:7, 9)

Psalm 31:3; 79:9; 106:8; 109:21; 143:11; 48:10

1 Sam. 12:22; Josh. 7:9; Isa. 63:19

Access to the throne of God. The name of Jesus is a “Master Key” that unlocks every treasure house door in Heaven. Peter could drop Jesus' name because 1) He was a friend of Jesus, and 2) He knew that Jesus' name would impress someone—God! (See John 16:23.)

Kingdom Authority (Matt. 10:1). This authority, or power, over the works of Satan is exercised in the name of Jesus.

Belonging. When you pray in Jesus' name, you are saying, “I was bought with a price and I am His. I know He will meet my need because He takes care of His own.”

Spiritual protection (John 17:11). Because all power in heaven and earth is invested in His name, and all spirits recognize His authority, when we pray in the name of Jesus we are covered.

Power (Philippians 2:9-11). All things are under Christ's feet and His name causes devils to flee.

His reputation. - In Jesus' name we bear the reputation of His Kingdom and love. To pray in His name is to ask that nothing be done that will bring God shame or reproach.

6. Read and discuss the following passage: **“For thy name’s sake’.”** This is, for the sake of your reputation, or, for the sake of your character. This phrase is full of meaning. Truly prayed, it indicates that the suppliant bows to the divine will and is willing to have the personal problems of his life merge into the larger program of God. He realizes that the honor of God is at stake in all the operations of the divine government, and believes that God would be dishonored if the present request were refused. God is pledged to answer such a prayer but only in a manner that is in harmony with the divine will, since whatever God does is a revelation of His unchangeable character.

“To pray ‘for thy name’s sake,’ when the elements for answered prayer have not been met, is presumption. It is, in fact, a request for God not to answer prayer. A favorable response under such circumstances would bring dishonor to God’s name and deny His word.—*SDA Bible Commentary* on Psalm 31:3, page 704

7. What are the results of bearing God’s name? (Jer. 15:16)

8. Knowing what we know now about the significance of the “name” of God, why is it important to pray “in Jesus’ name?” Are we ever guilty of using that phrase out of habit or tradition? How should our knowledge of the name change the way we pray and use that phrase?

9. What could you do to improve the way you glorify the name of Jesus?

10. Read Rev. 7:3, 4; 14:1; Ex. 33:18-19; Heb. 8:10; Deut. 6:1-8. What is the connection between God’s seal, name, character, glory and law?

11. Discuss the following: “Before Christ comes again there will be a time of shaking and sealing among God’s people. Some will lose faith and no longer live the name of Christ. Others will embrace and deepen their faith, and, like Peter and John, boldly proclaim that Name. This deepening of faith is known as the sealing. The work of the Holy Spirit is to write God’s law in our hearts. This work is also referred to as the “sealing” an act which occurs as a result of the infilling of the Spirit. (2 Cor. 1:21-22) Therefore, in order to receive the seal, name, character, and law of God in our forehead (mind), we must receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Only this experience will keep us from being shaken out when the heat is on.”

12. Read Acts 2:21; Prov. 18:10, and Isa. 65:24. What are the results of calling on the “Name of the Lord”? How will this teaching affect the way you pray “in Jesus’ name” from now on?