

In the Name of Jesus

by Leroy Surface

Jesus told his disciples, "...whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." John 14:13. The language Jesus used could not be clearer, saying, "Whatsoever ye shall ask...." The word "whatsoever" is all-inclusive. Some would use this saying to prove the Bible wrong. They would ask for the moon, or other ridiculous things to prove their point. The phrase "whatsoever ye shall ask," however, is qualified by the phrase "in my name."

King Solomon, said, "The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe" Proverbs 18:10. In these words, we discover that "in the name of Jesus" are not magic words, but rather a dwelling place for the people of God.

The Greek word which was translated as "name" is "onoma," which means "character and authority." With this understanding, we can see that the phrase "in the name of Jesus" speaks of those who possess both the character and authority of Jesus Christ. Let's consider the following passage.

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person...."
Hebrews 1:1-3.

Jesus is "the brightness of God's glory." We understand this through the rising of the sun in the morning. No one must look at the sun to see if it is risen. We know by the brightness which the sun gives that the sun has risen. No one has seen God, but those who "see Jesus" have seen "the brightness of God's glory."

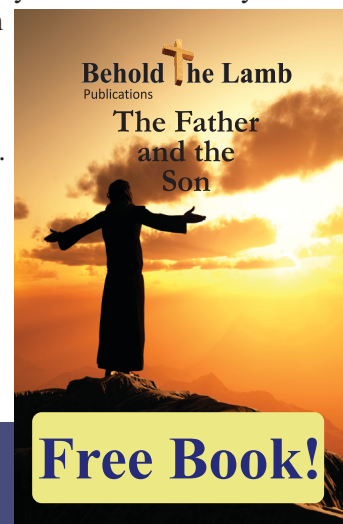
The words "express image" were translated from the Greek word "charaktēr," and is best understood by the letters on an old-fashioned typewriter, which are called "characters." The character of each letter leaves the exact same image every time it strikes the paper. Jesus is the "express image" of all that God is. He is the character of God.

The Bible says, "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Romans 8:9. The "Spirit of Christ" is not the Holy Ghost, as many teach. To the believers at Galatia, Paul wrote, "...God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father" Galatians 4:6. The Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of God's Son are the same Spirit. They are the character of God in us. The Apostle Paul wrote, "And

if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness." If Christ lives in you, you are not a sinner, because with Christ, you have received the "character of Jesus," but the body is still "dead" because of Adam's sin. In the next verse, Paul wrote, "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you" Romans 8:10-11.

The "Spirit of Him (God) that raised up Jesus from the dead" is the Holy Ghost. If the Spirit of Christ is the character of Jesus, the Spirit of God is the authority of Jesus. Those who have both the "Spirit of Christ" and the "Spirit of God (the Holy Ghost)" living in them are those of whom Jesus said, "...whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do," because they are abiding "in the name of Jesus" with His character and authority.

I am 86 years old as I write this. I was saved and baptized with the Holy Ghost on March 9, 1958, and was called by God to preach the gospel in 1962. In full disclosure, I backslid in 1976, was lost and would have been damned if I had died, but God was longsuffering with me and brought me to repentance. He restored me to salvation and ministry on March 2, 1980. I married my wife, Christine, four days later. She is now 90 years old. On July 2nd of this year, Christine was rushed by ambulance to the Methodist hospital in Woodlands, Texas. The next morning, when a nurse came into her room, my wife was not breathing. Code blue sounded, and about eight or ten doctors and nurses rushed in and got her to breathing again but could not wake her up. My grandson, who was at the hospital, called me, and through much sobbing told me, "She's not responding! They can't wake her up." When I arrived about ten minutes later, they asked me to sit in the hall while they worked with her. After about two minutes, I walked into the room, asking to pray for my wife. They all honored my request and stepped back. I laid my hands on Christine and prayed, "My most wonderful heavenly Father, I come to you in the name of your precious Son Jesus." Then I spoke to my wife, "Christine, in the name Jesus Christ, WAKE UP." Instantly, her eyes opened. A nurse broke into tears, and eight to ten doctors and nurses witnessed firsthand the power of God towards those who are "in the name of Jesus."



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