

Names Written Down in Heaven

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¹⁸And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. ¹⁹Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. ²⁰Notwith-standing in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

Jesus tells us to rejoice, not because devils are subject to us in His Name, but rather because our names are written in Heaven. The more I have meditated on this scripture, the more I have come to realize what a miserable position mankind was in to receive anything from God before Jesus came to this earth.

The right-standing before God that man has attempted to achieve on our own through all the ages, God handed to us on a silver platter through the redemptive work of His Son on the Cross—and all He wants us to do is worship Him in return for His love. Above the fact that devils, disease, and poverty are subject to us, **God wants us to worship Him!**

The most difficult thing about Grace is to believe how incredibly free it is. But do not wait till you get into Heaven before you realize how incredibly free it really is! If we want to free our souls from condemnation, we must do what Jesus said and give God the only thing He really wants from us: our fellowship, worship, and praise.

Yes, God wants our faithfulness. He wants us to labor for Him. He wants us to go to church, to give, and to subject our entire lives to Him. The problem is, so many of us attempt to build a relationship with God by performing all kinds of works and functions instead of by coming into His Presence and worshipping Him first and foremost because we are saved—**BECAUSE OUR NAMES ARE EVER WRITTEN IN HEAVEN!**

God has freely given to us His own love through Jesus. Therefore all our works we do for Him, must be born out of a relationship based on knowledge that first of all, God has already completed the impossible. He has saved us. Now we can get to know Him by fellow-shiping with Him through worship. As we learn to walk with God in light of this vital truth, our souls will begin to look to Him for His Grace as a basis for everything we do and everything we receive.

Why would people try to build their relationship with God based only on things we do for Him? They always end up frustrated. No one can free his soul from condemnation by feverishly working for God. Freedom only comes through full surrender as a person lifts his hands and says, “Jesus, Your blood did what the blood of a hundred thousand sacrifices could not do. I am going to worship You and praise You “because my name is written down in Heaven!”

Those who do not understand the operation of the Spirit, soul, and body are at a great disadvantage. When commendation begins working on their emotions and tries to tell them they are not saved, they don't understand it does NOT come from their new nature placed within their spirits. They may sense the new nature manifesting itself in love. However, at the same time, they feel something warring against their emotions, telling them how no-good, low-down, and unworthy they are. Those who fall into this trap try to free themselves from never feeling good enough by adding more to the list of requirements for being saved. This is where **PENANCE** and **ASCETICISM** comes from.

Asceticism is the extreme use of discipline in the area of self-denial. All through the ages, believers have fallen into the trap of works versus Grace that is an integral part of asceticism. They try to rid themselves of condemnation not only by **DENYING** the flesh, but also by **PUNISHING** it through acts of penance. Those who are caught up in this spirit of asceticism believe the more extreme the sacrifice, the more pleasing to God their lives become. This does not, however, include those who give their lives freely as missionaries.

Once the list of works begins, there is no way in the natural to end it. Asceticism will then manifest itself in different forms, one of which is self-inflicted torture. People have allowed themselves to be whipped, have worn spiked girdles, crawled on broken glass, and, in some monastic orders, have denied themselves any kind of washing or bathing.

All these manmade attempts to reach out to God are unable to deliver anyone to the relationship we enjoy with the Father simply by raising our hand in and worshipping God; He saved us, and because of our salvation is such an incredible unearnable thing, Jesus simply tells us, “Rejoice because **your names are written in Heaven!**”

The devil wants us to maintain a relationship with God through works. But Jesus continued to set us straight in John 4:24 when He said, “God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must “worship Him in Spirit and in Truth”. We are not only workers of ministry to others; **we are the sons of God!**”

It’s like a man who has faithfully punched a time clock all his life but doesn’t know his boss. Through the years, he politely acknowledged the boss from time to time with a greeting that recognized the boss’s authority. But if that employer ever called this employee into his office and looked him square in the eye, the employee wouldn’t know how to act. He’d be uncomfortable because no rapport has ever been established. So, he really does not know his boss.

A person’s faith may be based on works and not on his relationship with the boss. In reality, this man would not know Jesus as “the Father”, finding it to be very difficult to worship God, in the privacy of his own home where no one else is there to interfere in any way; and this kind of worship is usually very successful in transforming the believer’s relationship with God. So, the more time put in by the worshiper, the stronger the relationship with the Master. He now bases his worship on faith alone.

When this kind of believer is confronted with a situation that is out of his control, such as cancer, he is like a fish out of water. It is the most difficult thing for this believer to just stand there—humiliated, confidence shaken, stripped of his own ability—and to try to get to know a God for whom, in his own estimation, he has faithfully worked and served. Much of the time while praying in tongues, his mind is left out of the process as the Holy Spirit creates a supernatural language for him. This can be frustrating to the intellectual whose relationship with God is based on works because he can’t seize control of the situation and therefore feels like he is wasting his time. He doesn’t understand the apostle Paul’s statement in 1 Corinthians 14:4: “**For if I pray in an unknown tongue my spirit prayeth but my understanding is unfruitful.**”

Please don’t misunderstand me. By all means, serve God faithfully; work your fingers to the bone for Him. Offer your talents, and utilize all the ability you have to promote the Kingdom of God. Give faithfully and abundantly to further the gospel; but do not let your faith stand on a relationship that is based on these works alone. God appreciates all you have done for Him. Nevertheless, **faith is not based on what you do for God, but rather on what He has done for you.**

If I wanted to get to know my Father on a more intimate basis, First, I would find a private place where I could spend time alone with ‘My Father’. Then I would enter into His Presence by lifting my face toward Heaven and saying, “*Lord, I have come into Your Presence to fellowship with You, and to worship with God, my Father. I just want to tell You how much I love You and appreciate You.*”

I would use that time to Praise God “**because my name is written in Heaven**”. I would tell Him over and over again, saying how much I love Him.

When you first begin to take these steps into private worship, you may feel like you are a small voice at the end of a long tunnel calling out, “Is anyone out there?” It may seem as if you are speaking to yourself; but no

matter what you feel, DO NOT STOP. Remember, the blood of Jesus has purchased the right for you to enter God's presence, and your new nature makes it possible to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.

Worship has the most incredible cleansing effect on the soul. It will tear down the walls between you and God. That is why it is so critical that you drag your senses through the veil of the flesh and present them before God for cleansing for subjection to His Word.

What Worship Can Have on Your Faith

Remember when you were in High School or College, and you haven't prepared for an exam? You dreaded going into the classroom because you knew you weren't ready. Now think about how it feels when a trial comes your way—overwhelming bills, disease, etc.—that you're not ready for. It's the same feeling, isn't it? You want to believe God, but you somehow have the feeling that you're not quite prepared for the test. On the other hand think back to the times in school when you studied and studied until you knew that you KNEW you were ready. Do you remember how anxious you were to get to class and take the test? The confidence you had affected your entire attitude and mood.

Worship will affect you the same way in the midst of your testings and trials. It will help bring your entire being into fellowship with God until you are filled with confidence and faith in His Word. People who are not filled with faith and confidence in God are always betrayed by their actions. After the prayer of faith, they go on to make plans for failure. Even though they don't mean to do it, their doubt subconsciously comes out of their mouths, governing their actions.

But you can avoid this destructive pattern of doubt and failure from operating in your own life. How? Through a lifestyle of worship. You see—**ESPECIALLY PRIVATE WORSHIP—WORKS ON THE PART OF YOU WHERE THESE NEGATIVE PROGRAMS COME FROM.**

Suppose a multimillionaire handed you a check for fifty thousand dollars and said, "Here, this is yours." As you held that check in your hand, your mind would race a thousand miles an hour. You would absolutely be elated!

Now suppose that same multimillionaire returned five minutes later and said, "You will have to hold that check for two more weeks for tax purposes, and then it will be yours" That wouldn't make any difference to you because You'd know that, even with the time delay, the money was yours. That wouldn't make any difference to you because you'd know that the check was still good. For the next two weeks, your planning would be different and your countenance would be changed. You would talk differently, act differently, shop differently, and make plans to travel where you've never been before; because you would know that, **EVEN WITH THE TIME DELAY, THE MONEY WAS YOURS.**

Money is a concept we all understand, whether we are ten of fifty or a hundred years old. It is also an easy area for us to get into works.

Most of us asks God to bless us because we really need the things we are asking for. But in order for our faith to be truly free to **RECEIVE** from God, it must first be free to **GIVE TO HIM.** As we mature in God, we must talk on the role of servants in our lives and our faith, for mature faith was designed to serve as well as to receive.