

UNDERSTANDING OUR LEGAL RIGHT TO THE NAME OF



— by Kenneth Hagin

We are using for our text in this series the first few words of I Timothy 6:12, “Fight the good fight of faith...” If there is a fight to faith, it follows that there are enemies. And, as we have heretofore pointed out, the greatest enemies to faith are a result of a lack of knowledge of God’s Word. The Bible tells us that, “...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17). You can readily see that a lack of knowledge of God’s Word would be the greatest hindrance to faith there is.

In my own case, as soon as I found out what God said about certain things, then my faith was no longer hindered. The only thing in my life that ever hindered my faith was a lack of knowledge along certain lines of God’s Word. As soon as I got that straightened out, everything was all right. It will be the same with you.

We are studying in this series of lessons six big hindrances to faith. The fourth hindrance in this study is: a lack of understanding our legal right to the use of the Name of Jesus. Not understanding this holds us in bondage and gives us a sense of weakness. But knowing what the Name will do, we can defeat Satan and enjoy victory. I am glad that the Name of Jesus belongs to the Church. It belongs to every member of the Body of believers; even the least member.

INHERITED AT RESURRECTION

Let’s go to the Word of God, and find out what the Word has to say about Him and about His Name. The Word will then build faith into our spirits, into our hearts, into our inner man.

We will begin with the first chapter of Hebrews. This passage is speaking of Jesus. For

it says, “Who being the brightness of his (God’s) glory, and the express image of his (God’s) person...” (verse 3). Jesus is the brightness of God’s glory and the express image of God’s person. He is the very outshining of God the Father.

3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:

4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee: And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

6 And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.
-Hebrews 1:3-7

I want you to notice that this scripture shows us that He inherited His Name (verse 4). Now when did He inherit that Name? It was when He was made alive out of spiritual death; that is when He was raised from the dead. It was then that God said to Him, “Thou art my son, this day have I begotten thee,” according to verse 5. This does not refer to the birth of Jesus, because actually He wasn’t born. He just took upon Himself the flesh. He preexisted with the Father. The only time Jesus was ever born was when He was born again--after He had died spiritually and was raised from the dead.

33 God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.

-Acts 13:33

This verse reveals to us that it was at Jesus’ resurrection that God said, “Thou art my Son,

this day have I begotten thee.” Can you see that? Hallelujah! It was after His resurrection that He revealed all authority in heaven and in earth had been given unto Him.

IMBUED WITH AUTHORITY

Now we will turn to Ephesians 1:19-23. Oh, take long enough to meditate on these verses. Think on them. Feed on them until they become a part of your inner consciousness. Then they will do something for you. If you casually read them and let them get away from you, they won't mean anything to you.

19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,
20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,
21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:
22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,
23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.
-Ephesians 1:19-23

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.
9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:
10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;
11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
-Philippians 2:8-11

One translation of verse 10 reads, “Of beings in heaven and beings in the earth, and beings under the earth.” This means angels, men, and demons. Notice in the passage from Philippians that it was after his resurrection that His Name was conferred upon Him. It was when God highly exalted Him.

GIVEN TO THE CHURCH

Now let's consider this question: Why was this Name conferred upon Him? The Word says here that God raised Him up and gave Him a Name above all dominion and all authority and all power. It says that He has highly exalted Him and seated Him at His own right hand far above all dominion and all authority and all power, etc. Now why was this Name invested with such authority and dominion? Was that done for Jesus' benefit? No!

During the 2,000 years since the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and His ascension and seating on high at the right hand of the Father, He has not used that Name once! The scriptures do

not give us one inkling of any fact that Jesus Himself has ever used the Name. He has had no need to use the Name. He rules creation by His Word because He is on the equality with God.

Here is what I want you to see: at its every mention in the scriptures we see that the Name of Jesus has been given for the use of the Church, and every mention of the Name is in reference to the Body of Christ!

Let's go back and look again at what we just read in Ephesians, “...what is the exceeding greatness of his power to (those) who believe according to the working of his mighty power which he wrought in Christ when he raised him from the dead and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named....”

Now connect that with the verse in Philippians which says that God has given Him a Name that is above every name (verse 9).

Then go on back to the passage in Ephesians where we see that He is, “Far above...every name that is named in this world and in the world to come: and that (God) has put all things under his feet and gave him to be the head over all things to the Church, which is his Body.”

That Name belongs to the Church; the Body of Christ!

27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.
28 And God hath set some in the church....
-I Corinthians 12:27-28a

Notice that in this 27th verse, Paul says, “Ye are the body of Christ,” and in the very next verse he calls it the church.

Every mention in the scriptures of the use of the Name of Jesus has reference to its use by His Body, the Church. The Name was given to Him that His Body, the Church, might use it. That Name which is above every name belongs to me and it belongs to you. We need to realize that according to God's Word that Name legally belongs to us.

What are we doing about it?

It cannot be used like a rabbit's foot, or a good luck charm. Remember that old song we used to sing, “Take the name of Jesus with you, child of sorrow and of woe?” That's not us! One reason our faith is so hindered is that our songs have been embalmed with unbelief. And we've sung them so long we think they are true.

For instance the old song that goes, “Here I wander like a beggar through the heat and through the cold. . .” Well, in the first place, we are not beggars. The Bible says that we are heirs of God; sons of God; joint-heirs with Jesus Christ.

And in the second place, we are not wandering. We know exactly who we are and where we are going. Praise God!

We have sung some songs that really are unscriptural. And we've sung them so long we think they are the truth. But God's Word is truth. We are not children of sorrow and of woe. That's not me. I'm not a child of sorrow and of woe. I am a child of the King. Aren't you?

I think some have thought that you just take that Name along with you sort of like a good luck charm; that it would just sort of work like a rabbit's foot or a horseshoe hanging over the door. But it doesn't work that way. The Name is given to you for your use. You could take it along with you and never use it. And if you didn't use it, it would never mean a thing to you and would never do a thing in the world for you.

The Name is given to the Body of Christ. God has made an investment for the Church. He has made this deposit on which the Church has the right to draw for her every need.

19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. -Philippians 4:19

You see the Name, this Name, the Name of Jesus, has within it the fullness of the Godhead. It has within it all of the wealth of eternity. It has within it all of the authority and power over all of the powers of darkness. And that Name belongs to us!

ACCESS TO THE FATHER

Now let's talk just a little bit about how Jesus said we could use this Name. He says first of all that the Name can be used in prayer.

23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. -John 16:23-24

Jesus said this to the disciples just before He went to the cross. He began with the phrase, "In that day..." He was not speaking to them of the present hour in which they were living. He was looking forward to another day. In that day--after He would have...gone to the cross...died...been buried...been raised from the dead...ascended on high...sat down at the right hand of the Father. In that day--the day we are living in now...the day of the new covenant...the day of the New Testament.

"In that day," He said, "ye shall ask me nothing. (But) Whatsoever ye...ask the Father in my name, he will give it you." This promise is one of the most staggering statements perhaps that ever fell from the lips of the Man of Galilee. It is the charter promise given to us relative to our praying.

Jesus continued with the word, "Hitherto..." Hitherto means "up to now" or "until this time." You see, when Jesus was here on the earth no one prayed in His name to God the Father. It was only after His death, burial, and resurrection, when He was exalted that the power and authority in that Name was conferred upon Him. And so He said, "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask (Hallelujah! He told us to ask.) and ye shall receive that your joy may be full."

Jesus is saying that believers, the Body of Christ, the Church, you and I, have the right to come in that Name to the Father. We are to use that Name in prayer.

Also notice this, Jesus does not mention faith or believing here. He does not say, "If you believe; or if you have faith." He says, "Whatsoever you ask the Father in my name, He will give it you." You see, He has given us His Name. It is ours and what is ours does not take faith to use.

When you were born into the family of God the right and the privilege to use the Name of Jesus became yours. It did take faith to get into the family because, "by grace are you saved through faith." But once you get into the family of God, then everything that Jesus has bought and paid for, everything He has purchased, automatically belongs to you. It really doesn't take any faith to get it. It is all yours because you exercised faith to get into the family to begin with.

Consider those carnal Christians at Corinth. Paul calls them "carnal"; one translation reads, "body ruled." Most folks wouldn't think they could get anything from God because they were carnal. And yet, Paul said to them, ". . .all things are yours.. And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's" (I Cor. 3:21, 23).

"All things are yours." Notice that it doesn't say they are going to become yours. They already belong to you! But it is up to you to use what belongs to you.

We can see an instance of this in the story of the prodigal son. Remember the elder brother who came in from the field. He heard the sound of music and dancing because they were having a banquet. Evidently he had asked some of the servants what was going on and they had said, "Your brother, the prodigal, has come home and your father has made a feast for him. He has put a

robe on him, shoes on his feet, a ring on his finger; and has killed the fatted calf and made a feast for him." Well, he got mad about it and wouldn't go in. So his father came out and entreated him.

If that prodigal is a type of a sinner or backslider, and the father is a type of God, then the elder brother is a type of a Christian who has not strayed away. And when the father came out and entreated him to come in he said, "No, I am not coming in. I have served you faithfully all these years. I never went away from you. I didn't go off and spend your money in riotous living. But you have never made a feast for me. You have never killed any fatted calf for me. You have never let me invite my friends in to have a feast." And the father replied, "Why Son, all I have is thine."

Now it's strange, but that often falls on dead ears. What most people are praying for is already theirs if they just knew how to take hold of it through the Name of Jesus. And sometimes they are like the elder brother. Some backslider or sinner can come in and be blessed instantly and these folks will puff up and almost get mad about it.

One instance I remember in particular. Two Methodist ladies came in to a meeting we were holding in a Full Gospel Church. Doctors had given one of these ladies only six months to live. She wasn't healed instantly. They carried her into the meeting and then carried her out. But within two day's time, every symptom left her and she came walking back into the church. I saw her ten years later and she was still perfectly healed. Then her mother-in-law, who had had two strokes of paralysis and was in a wheel chair, came and was healed and walked out of the wheel chair.

One of the ladies in that Full Gospel Church came to me with tears and said, "Brother Hagin, can you tell me something? How come God healed those two Methodist ladies and He won't heal me? They ain't even got the Holy Ghost. They don't even speak with tongues. I talk with tongues. Why won't God heal me?"

Trying to get her to see the truth that healing already belonged to her I said, "Sister, God has done all He is ever going to do about healing you."

"You mean He's not going to heal me?"

"I didn't say that. I said He has done all He is ever going to do about healing you. You see, He has already laid your sickness on Jesus and Jesus bore your sicknesses; He carried your diseases; and by His stripes you were healed. As far as God is concerned, you are already healed."

"Well, I believe," she said, "that some time, some where, in God's own good way, when He get's ready, He is going to do it." She went down the road mumbling to herself. I don't mean to be unkind about it, but that is not the right road. Five years and then ten years later I saw her and she was still sick.

Now here were some folks who knew nothing about all this, but, like the prodigal. when they saw that it was their's, they came in and had a feast. The elder sister though, came in from the fields and got mad about it. And the Father was trying to say to her, "Why Daughter, all I have is thine."

All you have to do is ask yourself this question: Does God have it? If He has it, then it is already yours!

One preacher said, "I didn't think I was ever going to talk God into saving me. It took me three days and nights." Bunk and bologna! God's Word says in Ephesians that Christ was as a lamb slain before the foundation of the world. Here this fellow was trying to talk God into the notion of saving him and God had it all planned and figured out before the foundation of the world. That is why the lamb came.

Another fellow said, "I tell you, I thought God never was going to baptize me in the Holy Ghost. I like to never got Him in the notion."

Oh, my, my, my. It might be funny if it were not so pathetic. You don't have to talk God into the notion of anything. He has already made provision for everything you need. And He has given you the Name of Jesus to use. That Name guarantees an answer!

AUTHORITY OVER SATAN

12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

-John 14:12-14

Though we have used these verses in connection with prayer, they do not refer to prayer. Here He says, "If you ask anything in my name, I will do it." In John 16:23-24, which does have reference to prayer, Jesus said, "Whatever you ask the Father in my name, He will give it you."

However, here in John 14, Jesus says, "Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it." And the Greek word translated "ask" here means "demand." "Whatever you demand in my name, I will do it."

An example of this is seen at the Gate called Beautiful. Did you ever notice that the early disciples did not pray for folks to be healed? People can be healed through prayer, but the disciples didn't pray for people to be healed. At the Gate Beautiful, Peter said, "In the Name of Jesus, arise and walk." Peter asked, or demanded, that the man get up and walk in the Name of Jesus.

"Whatever you demand in my name...in my name...in my name..." (Let that soak in on you just a little bit.) "I will do it." Do you see that? He is in that Name! And when we use that Name, it is just as though He were here Himself. All power and all authority that is invested in Jesus is in that Name! Hallelujah!

You see you are not demanding anything of the Father. It wasn't God the Father who made that man crippled or bound him. (The devil had done that.) You are demanding it of the devil. That Name belongs to you and you have a right if Satan attacks you, praise God, to demand in the Name of Jesus that he leave you alone. If pain comes to your body, demand in the Name of Jesus that it leave you. Whatever you ask or demand in His Name, Jesus said, "I will do it." That Name belongs to you.

DELEGATED TO THE BELIEVING ONES

In Mark's Gospel, just after Jesus had said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel

to every creature.. ." He then said:

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe (the believing ones); In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. -Mark 16:17-18

He delegated the power and authority in that Name to the believing ones. Some have sort of relegated this to those specially used of God in discerning of spirits, or gifts of healings, for instance. And it does belong to them because they are in the Body. But this isn't just talking about evangelists, or pastors, or somebody with some special power or gift; this is talking about the entire Body of Christ--the believing ones. These signs shall follow them that believe...."

There is authority invested in the Name of Jesus. There is authority invested in the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ upon the earth. Some of us have touched that now and then. None of us have been able to abide in it like God wants. But I thoroughly believe and am convinced that in these last days, just before Jesus comes, there will arise a body of believers who will learn and will know how to take advantage of that which belongs to them--and will learn and know how to use the Name that is above every name!



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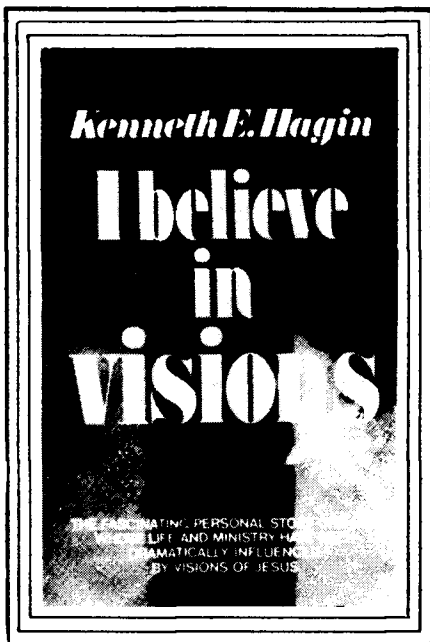
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"Then I heard footsteps coming down the corridor toward my room. Someone dressed in white came through the door and I supposed it to be a nurse.

As I looked closer I saw it was Jesus. It seemed as if my hair stood straight up on end. Cold chill bumps popped out all over my body, and I couldn't say a word. Jesus approached my bed and sat down on a chair. He seemed robed in white and had some sort of sandals on. The Lord began His conversation with me by saying ...

... As Jesus finished His conversation with me He said, "Be faithful, fulfill your ministry, for the time is short." Then He got up from the chair and walked around the foot of the bed. He walked to the door, opened it, and stepped outside. Leaving the door slightly ajar, He walked on down the hall. I heard His footsteps fade away down the corridor, just as I had heard Him approaching nearly an hour and a half earlier."

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