

# ‘In His Name’ Means ‘In His Authority’

When the NT states “In his Name” or “In the name of Jesus”, it is not telling us to say those words, but to operate out of his authority. I’ve covered why not to use these as an expression as most Christians do, in a previous teaching.<sup>1</sup> When you look at the NT, the authority component of the expression becomes obvious.

The rulers, elders, and scribes, as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and many of the family of the high priest, gathered together in Jerusalem to investigate Peter and John’s teaching. They asked them:

**Acts 4:7b** (NKJV) – “By what power or by what name<sup>2</sup> have you done this?”

It is clear from this that these leaders were wanting to know the authority or controlling power source that these two men represented. Of course, they spoke in the name of Jesus the Messiah. Jesus himself acknowledged that the power behind him, the authority that he operated in, was his Father’s.

**John 5:43** (NKJV) – *I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.*

So, expressions similar to “in the name of Jesus” or “in Jesus’ name” represents the announcement of the source of authority being operated in. It does not represent a secret phrase that guarantees success, nor is it a magical statement that causes something to happen.

The use of these types of authorization expressions in the NT vary and highlight the futility of saying, “In Jesus’ name” whenever we want something to happen.

## Speak in the Name of Jesus

**Acts 4:17** (NKJV) – *But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name.*”

See also: Acts 5:28.

This shows that the religious leaders knew that a person spoke with authority that came from someone above them with more authority.

## Authority of the Name

Here are some references highlighting that **a person’s name represents their authority.**

**1 Corinthians 1:10** (NKJV) – *Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*

**Ephesians 1:20-21** (NKJV) – *which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.*

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1 – “Ask for Anything in My Name” ([canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/ask-for-anything-in-my-name.pdf](http://canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/ask-for-anything-in-my-name.pdf))

2 – Underlining in any scripture quotes has been added for highlighting purposes. [LDS]

**John 17:12** (NKJV) – *While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.*

## **Preaching in the Name of Jesus**

**Luke 24:47** (NKJV) – *and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*

## **Baptise in the Name of Jesus**

**Acts 2:38** (NKJV) – *Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

**Matthew 28:19** (NKJV) – *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

See also: Acts 8:16; Acts 10:48; Acts 19:5.

Again we should not baptise saying, “In the name Father, Son and Holy Spirit” because this represents the authority through which we baptise. This is made very clear in Paul’s statement to the Corinthians where he wasn’t able to save a person, so ‘in his name’ represents the authority to baptise.

**1 Corinthians 1:15** (NKJV) – *lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name.*

This verse is very clear.

## **Heal in the Name of Jesus**

**Acts 3:6** (NKJV) – *Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”*

This is most likely the reference we take as the model for saying, “In the name of Jesus”. However, what Peter and John were stating was that it’s the authority of Jesus the Messiah who brings about the healing of the beggar. It was most likely stated so that the local people would not elevate them as gods because of the miracle they performed.<sup>3</sup> It may also have been to have the name of Jesus attached to the healing. Or, Peter and John were careful in their early healings to humbly recognise where the authority came from.

## **Life in the Name of Jesus**

**John 20:31** (NKJV) – *but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*

Notice that we don’t go round saying, “Have life in Jesus’ name” when we bring someone into a born again experience.

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3 – See an example in Acts 14:11-18

## **Deliverance in the Name of Jesus**

**Acts 16:18** (NKJV) – *And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And he came out that very hour.*

Jesus the King has all authority in the natural and spiritual realms, so here is an announcement to the demon of who’s will must be obeyed.

## **Service in the Name of Jesus**

**Mark 9:41** (NKJV) – *For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.*

**Luke 9:48** (NKJV) – *and said to them, “Whoever receives this little child in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. For he who is least among you all will be great.”*

Notice that Jesus makes a different statement on another occasion:

**Matthew 10:42** (NKJV) – *And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.”*

Obviously, there’s no power in the name of the disciple, so what is he talking about? Read on.

## **The Name Represents the Person**

The reason for the difference in what Jesus said about serving in the name of a disciple is that a person’s name represents the person. This was very important in ancient time, but not for us – it is irrelevant in our Western culture. God puts importance on a person’s name, hence, why he changed Abraham’s, Sarah’s and Jacob’s names. Here’s a reference that highlights this point:

**Revelation 3:5** (NKJV) – *He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.*

The name being the representation of a person is further exemplified in the instances below.

## **Forgiveness Because of the Name of Jesus**

**1 John 2:12** (NET) – *I am writing to you, little children, that your sins have been forgiven because of his name.*

## **Faith in the Name of Jesus**

**Acts 3:16a** (NKJV) – *And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know.*

## **Believe in the Name of Jesus**

**John 2:23** (NKJV) – *Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did.*

See also: Matthew 12:21; Acts 10:43; 1 John 3:23.

## **Suffer for the Name of Jesus**

**Acts 5:41b** (NIRV) – *They considered it an honor to suffer shame for the name of Jesus<sup>4</sup>.*

## **Thanks to the Name of Jesus**

**Hebrews 13:15** (NKJV) – *Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.*

## **Honour of the Name of Jesus**

**Acts 19:17** (NKJV) – *This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.*

## **CONCLUSION**

‘The whole old thing’ is: A person’s name represents them to others when they are absent. This name, if it is of a person with authority, can be used to transfer authority to the person operating for them in their absence.

So, saying, “In Jesus’ name”, only has relevance when one needs to inform a person who you represent.

However, the spirit realm knows who you represent<sup>5</sup>, so there’s no need to make the statement to these beings. Your spirit bears witness to them who you are and who you represent.

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4 – M-Text reads *the name of Jesus*; NU-Text reads *the name*.

5 – See the example of the sons of Sceva (Acts 19:13-16)