

Front Page - Aug 2026

For His Name's Sake

Introduction

Throughout my many years of listening to preachers and prayers, I have often heard the expression, “For His Name’s sake”. It may have been at the end of a gospel message or at the end of a prayer. It has been said concerning the acceptance of Christ as Saviour. For consideration, was it just the copied way to finish a message or a prayer? It is possible we have used that sacred name “like a magic expression to get things done without any pre-examination of the things requested, as to whether the things requested were according to His will”. To ask “in His name” is not tagging on the expression at the end of a prayer. It means asking in accordance with His will. Illustration: I cannot go to a Bank and ask for money in my son's or daughter's name. There must be a guarantee they have given permission to ask for that to be done. If there is then I will get the money; if not I get nothing. To ask in the Name of Jesus is to ask what He would ask for, therefore, is my request according to His will? John wrote, “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him” (1 Jn. 5:14-15). God cannot lie and therefore if we ask according to His will, He hears us and will answer. It may not be in our timing as with Zechariah and Elizabeth, who had stopped praying (Lk. 1:13).

Consideration

Praying, preaching the gospel, ministering the scriptures is not just compiling a few notes and because asked, one speaks for 20-40 minutes. If an individual wants to pray, minister, present the gospel for His Name’s sake, then that which is spoken must be His message, not just a thinking one has had, nor that which has not been lived by.

The preaching of sinners going to Hell is not something to be necessarily shouted out, but it should be spoken with the same tenderness and passion as if it were the preacher who was going to Hell. How would the Lord present the gospel? As he sat with Nicodemus (Jn. 3:2-15) or the woman at the well (Jn. 4:7-28), it is not only what is said but how a message is said. We all have heard many messages on which the matter of eternity were not really believed as a reality, for immediately after the meeting, folks were laughing, talking about the weather, and all the time Satan was taking away the good seed. “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Pet. 4:11)

The Expressions

The expression “In His Name” occurs in eight verses of the scriptures. The expression “For His name” is also used eight times referring to the Lord; “in His name” is mentioned eight times; “Unto His Name” is used four times, and the expression “For His name’s sake” occurs four times. What is meant by taking the Name of the Lord in prayer or preaching?

Some Musings

His name is connected with:

- a) Power
 - i) As illustrated by Peter and John when they said, “Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk” (Acts 3:6).
- b) Glorification
 - i) It is manifested by Gods glorification of Him. “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth” (Phil. 2:10).
- c) Comfort and blessing
 - i) It is associated with comfort and peaceful blessing. “He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake” (Psa. 23:3).

Front Page - Aug 2026

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d) Forgiveness.

- i) It speaks forgiveness to the individual burdened with the guilt of sins committed. “For thy name’s sake, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great (Psa. 25:11), but also consider the longings of his heart (Psa. 25:4, 15).

An observation is, “The Holy Spirit will never prevent any assistance or enlightenment to any activity, work, meditation, exercise of heart that is honestly seeking nothing but the glorification of Christ. God will never say he does not have the means to begin or maintain a work for the glorification of His Son.

God and Persons Names

The archangel Gabriel revealed to Mary that the Lord’s name was to be Emmanuel, which means, “God with us” (Matt. 1:23). It indicated the presence of God with them. God changed Jacob’s name to Israel (Gen. 32:28). However, it was not always good when God changed a person’s name for He changed Jechoniah’s name to Coniah (Jer. 22:24) indicating judgment. The first manifestation of God, it is more than a name, it is a revelation of Himself and His glory, “In the beginning God” (Gen. 1:1). This is the beginning of all wisdom and every aspect of truth finds its origin in Him. A correct consideration of God and the Son will give a true perspective on the things which are happening in the world. To have a true Rudder, God and the Lord must be the centre of every thought, word, deed and action. His glory must be the supreme goal of every prayer and the goal of every presentation of the gospel or ministry.

An ancient and modern erroneous perception

The ancient Greeks divided life into the ordinary or the secular and the spiritual. It was their consideration that nothing the body could do, or any wrong associated with the body, could never affect the spiritual. That is, one could steal with the body but it would not affect the spirit. This of course was wrong, yet we today have the same mindset. We divide life into the secular and spiritual. A major truth is we are not divided. That which is done in my body affects the spirit and that which is done by the spirit affects the body. Everything done, whither it is washing the clothes or making meals, has a spiritual dimension, and everything done in the Spirit ought to have an effect on daily life (1 Cor. 10:31).

There is, to my mind, nothing more serious than to stand before an audience of people and speak professing to do so in His name yet ad-libbing or just repeating a sermon that could be rhymed off without the help of the Holy Spirit. How will that be seen at the Judgment Seat? It is frightening.

. . . Rowan Jennings