

What does your name mean? Why did your parents give you the name that you have? Maybe you were named after a grandparent or another family member. Maybe your parents just liked how your name sounded with your middle and last name. Maybe they just wanted to be creative and give you a name that no one else would have, or a spelling that was unique. My children have names that were chosen with purpose because of the meaning of the name. Mayah means, "Close to God" and Malachi means, "Messenger of God". There are more reasons behind these names, but that is a story for another time. But whatever the reason for your name, your name has power. Have you ever been in a crowd of people in the mall or a busy street and heard your name? Even though there was no reason that someone would be calling you, you still turn to see if maybe it is you. Your name captures your attention and subconsciously leads you to respond. Names have power.

Last week, I lead a Bible study on Philippians 2:1-11 and the following verses (9-11) have been hanging out in my heart, "***Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.***" The name of Jesus is awesome and holy and thus it is to be exalted and honored; and called upon for, "***...there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.***" (Acts 4:12) Think about that. The name of Jesus has power to save because it is a name given and blessed by God to His Son who died and rose according to His plan to save sinners, you. There is no other name given in the history of creation that can do that. There is no other god that has power to give and exalt a name that can save you.

When I say particular names, certain memories come to mind depending on the name. Some names are just names and do nothing for me. But, when I hear the name, Jesus, I immediately see a cross. I remember that I am a sinner, and that Jesus took my sins to that cross. I see an empty tomb that screams "New Life!". I am reminded that my Savior is coming to bring me home. All of this from a name, Jesus. May the name of Jesus fill you with such hope and peace. May the name of Jesus create New Life in you. May the name of Jesus be exalted in you forever. To God be glory, praise and honor, always and forever, Amen.