



# INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Dr. Peter D. Wyns

Entry 4 - 6

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## Finding Your Names

A name carries a person's identity. In ancient times, it described who a person was and what they did. Jesus has many names that describe who He is. They include; Deliverer, Messiah, King of kings, Savior, The Word of God, The Bright and Morning Star, The Lion, The Lamb and The Alpha and the Omega. God also has many names including: The Almighty, The Lord my Provider, The Lord my Shelter, The Lord my Defender, The Lord my Banner, The Creator and The Majesty on High. These are only a very few in a long list of their names, but they begin to tell us who God is and what He does. Each one of us has many names as well, but most of us have never discovered them. If you find the names that God has given you, you will find out who you are and what you are called to do.

Have you found your real names? If not, you do not know who you are. Your mother, father, spouse or pastor, do not know who you are, unless like with Mary, the mother of Jesus, God has told them. Only God knows who you are and only He has your names.

Names are so powerful and so significant. Each time your name is spoken a sound of glory or disgrace, strength or weakness goes into the air. It is a declaration, a proclamation and a confession of who you are. When you hear your name, does it inspire or shame you? If you are not inspired, you have not found your real name. When your name is spoken, you are not the only one who hears it. Other people hear it and so do demons and angels. It carries a message that holds you high, resists evil and welcomes angels or it carries a message that puts you down, lowers a spiritual expectation about you and encourages mistreatment.

Some people have great names but others have a name that is degrading. I have met many people who were given a godly name from their parents, but they are called by a derogatory nick-name that was spoken over them when they were young and the negative

nickname stuck. It may have seemed fun at the time, but unless it is positive name, it needs to go.

Leah, Israel's wife, wanted him to love her and she named her 4 sons accordingly. Three of them were named inappropriately. Reuben, her first son, means - See, I have a son. Simeon, means - I will get his attention now. Levi, means - Now, I am attached to him. She finally found the heart of God and named her 4th son Judah, which means - I will praise God. Some parents give their children names from God while others give names that are not God ordained.

When Jesus was born, the angel told Mary that His name must be Jesus. Again, God insisted that Zechariah's child was named John [the Baptist]. God caused Zechariah to be mute until he spoke the correct name.

Many people in the Bible had their names changed. God was giving them their real names. Abram means exalted father. His name was changed to Abraham which means exalted father of multitudes. The new name was prophetically larger than his first name. He was finding his identity.

Jacob means deceiver but God gave Him the name Israel which means, one who has prevailed like a prince. Saul was called Paul and Simon's name was changed to Peter. Jesus refused to call him Simon but instead He called him Peter, which means rock. Every time Jesus called him, He said you are a rock; strong and unmovable. From that point on, everyone called him the rock. Later, when Satan came to sift him like wheat, his new name waved like a prophetic banner over His life. He faltered but not to the point of ruin. His failure became a teaching experience that turned Peter into a champion of the faith and a godly example for generations to come.

I have renamed new converts in India who were inappropriately named after demonic, Hindu gods. After learning the meaning of their names, I told them they must not keep a name that welcomes demons. I remember one child who got saved along with his mother. With Holy Spirit authority and parental permission, I changed his name to John.

The apostles changed the name of one man. His name was Joseph, but they called him Barnabas which means, son of encouragement. His ministry of encouraging others was so excellent that a new name was

given to him. It came from God, through the apostles; they called him Barnabas, the son of encouragement.

I have many names. Scripture teaches us to receive a prophet in the name of a prophet and receive a prophet's reward (Mt. 10:41). Permit me to use myself as an example, for teaching purposes. Sometimes, I minister where people call me brother, other times I am called pastor and in some places, I am called doctor (teacher) or apostle. I find a different anointing flowing through me, depending on the way the host pastor and the congregation receive me. The name I am called is an indicator of how I am received. Even Jesus did not see many miracles in His own home town because they would only call Him names like, Mary's son.

Some people have been given slanderous names by an abusive father or by misguided friends; that is a curse. Some have cursed themselves with a negative name. When, after 10 years of struggle and loss, Naomi returned to Bethlehem, she told her friends not to call her Naomi which means pleasant. She told them instead, to call her Mara, which means bitter. It is good that God and her friends refused to call her bitter or else she would have become a bitter person. Naomi cursed herself but God did not allow her curse to remain. Be careful what you call yourself.

You have many great names that God has assigned to you. It is your place to find them and walk in the power that accompanies them. Only then will you know who you are.

Jesus has a name that is above every other name; He is King of kings and Lord of lords. That is who He is. He even has a name that no body else can know (Rev. 19:12). It is so great, that it is spoken only between the Father and Him.

You are destined to receive many names on your forehead, including the name of Jesus, the name of God and the name of the city of God. (Rev. 3:12, 14:, 22:4) You will also receive a secret name that will exist only between the Lord and you. You do not tell that name to anyone, it is your secret weapon. (Rev. 2:17).

#### **You may find your names by:**

1. Being God's close, personal friend. (It happened to Peter)
2. Excelling in your ministry gift. (It happened to Barnabas)
3. Wrestling until God blesses you. (It happened to Jacob)
4. Being an overcomer. (It will happen to those who are mentioned in Revelation) **A Ω**



## *Christians for Messiah Ministries*

**Instructions in Righteousness** is produced monthly by "Christians for Messiah Ministries." Dr. Peter D. Wyns is the Director of the ministry. After 35 years of extensive ministry in more than 30 nations, he is now living in the USA. This ministry continues because of your prayers and financial support. Your partnership is greatly appreciated. For information of Dr. Wyns availability to minister at your church, contact "Christians for Messiah Ministries."

Christians for Messiah Ministries PO Box 36324, Rock Hill, South Carolina, 29732

Office: 803-324-0739 or 704-608-7793 e-mail: [wynsusa@comporium.net](mailto:wynsusa@comporium.net) [www.peterwyns.org](http://www.peterwyns.org) [www.unexpectedfire.com](http://www.unexpectedfire.com)

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