

ESF, Lord's Day Service Message
(International Festival Service- Filipino and Opening ceremony)
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The Power in the Name

Acts 3:110

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. ² Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” ⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

⁶ Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” ⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. ⁹ When all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Throughout human history, there have been people whose names are known as symbols of power and influence, such as Alexander the Great, Caesar, Genghis Kahn, Napoleon, Muhammad, Hitler, Marx, Mao. There’s no question that each of these names changed the lives of millions and evoked responses from worship to hatred. But there is another name which has more power than any of these names. It is the name “Jesus.” There is no name which has proved as powerful and enduring as the name Jesus.

Let's see why the name Jesus is so powerful and how we can receive power in the name.

What power does the name have?

1. The power of salvation for everyone

The name Jesus has power to save every man from the power of sin. After Jesus was conceived in the womb of the virgin Mary, God told Joseph: *"Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, ... She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."* (Matthew 1:20-21).

In the name Jesus, God has put the power to save all believers from their sins. There is no name but the name of Jesus through whom all men all over the world can be saved from their sins. There are many names which claim to be prophets, messengers of God or even the savior of the world. But there is only one name which can claim the power to save every man from his sins.

When Peter preached the name Jesus as the only Savior, the powerful religious leaders commanded him not to speak or teach at all in Jesus' name. They threatened him by stating that if he continued preaching anything in Jesus' name, they would kill him. But Peter boldly proclaimed before them, *"Salvation is found in no one else but Jesus, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by whom we must be saved."* (Acts 4:12)

If you have the name Jesus as the name of your Savior, praise God for that because you certainly have the power of salvation. You have the power which can lead you to a paradise where you can be set free from sin, where you can live in the presence of the living God. If you do not have that name as the name of your Savior, accept his name as the name of your Savior today.

2. The power of all authority in heaven and on earth

Jesus is the only person in human history that was raised from the dead. By being risen from the dead, Jesus proved that He has power to overcome death. There is no other name but Jesus in the universe that can rise from the dead. The prophet, Elijah raised a dead boy from the dead (1 Kings 17:17-24). Once Peter raised a dead woman from the dead (Acts 9:36-42). Paul also raised a young man from death (Acts 20:7-12). But they could not raise themselves from the dead. There is only one person who died and was risen from the dead and has been at the right side of God. His name is Jesus. With the power of the resurrection, Jesus claims that He has all authority in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18). In the power of the name, there is nothing impossible.

In the power of the name, there can be healing and transformation. Jesus promises his disciples in John 14:13, *“Whatever you ask in my name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”*

In this text, Peter and John had an encounter with a lame man who had been crippled from birth. Each day someone carried him to the temple gate called Beautiful. He begged from the crowds of worshipers who passed the gate. The lame man saw Peter and John approaching the gate, so he begged them for money. But Peter did not give him money but gave him power. The beggar never expected the power. But that day, through this power, his life was transformed from a crippled beggar to a healthy person. What is this power? It is the healing power in the name of Jesus. Listen to what Peter said to the beggar: *“Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk”* (Acts 3:6). Then Peter took the man by his hands and helped him up. The man was healed instantly. He jumped to his feet and walked around the temple courts praising God. This crippled man had

been made whole. What a blessed day! What a marvelous blessing to the man.

Also, in the name of Jesus, there is power to crush the devil and all evil spirits. The devil fears nobody's name in this world. He is the king of this world. But the devil fears the name Jesus, because in the name of Jesus exists the power of God's Spirit which can crush the devil. With the power in this name we can crush the power of all evil spirits operated by the devil. That is why the evil spirits fear Jesus' name. In Mark 5:6-8 we can see an example of how powerful the name Jesus is against the power of an evil spirit who was controlling and destroying a man. "When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!" For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!" The evil spirit was terrified by Jesus and surrendered to His command to come out of the man.

How can you receive the power in this name?

1. Let Jesus be the Lord of your life

To receive the power in Jesus' name, you have to surrender everything in your life to Jesus' Lordship. It means that you have to recognize that He is the owner of everything in your life. It means that the supreme purpose of your life is to follow His will and to worship Him. It means that the first priority in your life is to serve Him and to love Him.

When Peter received the power in Jesus' name, he had surrendered everything in his life to serve Jesus. Following the will of Jesus was the first priority in Peter's life. Glorifying the name of Jesus was the supreme purpose in Peter's life. Right after Peter healed the crippled man; all the people who saw the miracle paid attention to Peter. They were amazed at the powerful performance of healing by Peter. But Peter

immediately clarified where the power came from. “*Men... why do you stare at us as if by our own power... we had made this man walk? .. It is Jesus’ name.. That has given this complete healing to him...*” (Acts 3:11-16). He was ready to give glory to Jesus at all times. He was even ready to die for the name. Because of this, Jesus gave him the power in His name.

When you recognize Him as the Lord in your life and surrender everything to His Lordship, He then brings the power in His name into your life.

Andrew Murray once said about this “Christ’s servants have the spiritual power to use the Name of Jesus only insofar as they yield themselves to live only for the interests and the work of the Master. The use of Jesus’ name always supposes the surrender of our interests to Him whom we represent.”

If you feel powerless even if you think you believe in Jesus, check yourself with these questions: *Is the first priority in my life to follow Jesus’ will? Am I pursuing His will as the first priority today? Do I truly recognize that I am not the owner but Jesus is the owner of everything I have? Is the supreme purpose of my life to glorify the name of Jesus?*

The power in the name will be given to you when you say yes to those questions. Say yes to Jesus’ Lordship right now. Then Jesus will say yes to giving you the power in His name.

2. Claim the power in Jesus’ name to serve people

Too often people think that giving money is the best way to help a person in need. Who does not need more money today? There is no one who says, “I don’t need money or I do not need any more money than I currently have.” But money is not the most important thing.

How wonderful it is to see in this text that there is a power which is more precious than money.

When the poor crippled beggar needed money, Peter did not have money. But Peter still could help the beggar by claiming the power in Jesus' name. Peter said plainly, "Silver and Gold I do not have" and then claimed the power in the name of Jesus to heal the poor crippled man. If Peter had not claimed the power to help the man, the man would have not received the power. To receive the power in the name we need to see that the power in the name can meet people's true needs. And we have to claim the power to act upon the needy.

→ Video clip <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zelqF0mamCw>

Nicky Cruz was the leader of the toughest gang in New York City. His Satanist parents abused him brutally, so he grew up a hardened man void of love and full of hate.

"I wanted to do to others what my mother did to me," Nicky says. "I used to feel good when I hurt people."

But privately, he didn't feel good.

"Privately. When I was alone, loneliness became like a seductive woman that crawled inside my chest and [ate] me. I was there twisting and fighting; I felt so lost."

Only two people saw the desperate condition of Nicky's heart. One was a psychologist.

"He told me about five times. 'There's a dark side in your life that nobody can penetrate. Nicky, you are walking straight to jail, the electric chair, and hell. There's no hope.'"

The other was a pastor named David Wilkerson. He risked his life to tell Nicky there was hope.

"I heard his voice: 'Jesus has the power to change your life.' I started

cursing loudly,” says Nicky. “I spit in his face, and I hit him. I told him, ‘I don’t believe in what you say. Get out of here.’”

Nicky never expected to heard what Wilkerson said next.

Wilkerson replied, “You could cut me up into a 1000 pieces and lay them in the street. Every piece would still love you.”

Nicky says, “It did damage. Good [damage] in my brain and in my heart. I began to question my life, and for two weeks I could not sleep thinking about love.”

Nicky and his gang showed up at one of Wilkerson’s rallies. One by one, they gave their lives to Christ. It was the crucifixion – Jesus’ death on the cross -- that grabbed Nicky.

“I was choked up with pain, and my eyes were fighting back tears but they began to come down more and more and I was fighting and then I surrendered,” says Nicky. “I let Jesus hug me, and I let my head rest on His chest. I said I’m sorry. Forgive me, and for the first time, I told somebody I love you.”

The love Nicky got in return radically changed his life.

“When I had opened my eyes, I got a new heart. I’d been born again. I’m a child of the Lord.”

The power in Jesus’ name brings blessings which money cannot buy. People are suffering from many different kinds of problems today. If we are trying to find resources outside of the name to help them, soon we will be hopeless. When we do not have the resources or answers for the problems of people, we still can help them if we claim the power in Jesus' name.

The answer to our crippled generation is the name of Jesus Christ, not silver or gold or self-help or positive thinking. As believers of Jesus’ name, we have the authority to call people to salvation. We have the authority to pray victoriously. We have the authority to resist the devil and make him flee. We have the authority to enforce Christ’s victory in

life and home and church and country. We have the authority to reach out to people all over the world and enlarge the church for the glory of the name Jesus.