

# PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path"  
Psalm 119:104*

August 6, 2017

## The Name

by Frank Himmel



The Bible often attributes an action or an effect to someone's name. While that sounds awkward to modern readers, it is merely an ancient society's way of speaking. To say one's name does something is just another way of

saying he did it. In one of his essays on David, F. B. Meyer explains:

Throughout the Scriptures a name is not simply, as with us, a label; it is a revelation of character. It catches up and enshrines some moral or physical peculiarity in which its owner differs from other men, or which constitutes his special gift and force (p. 47).

This use of one's name is especially applicable to God. "Thus the name of God... stands for divine attributes and qualities which combine to make him what he is" (Meyer 47). The Bible says God's name protects (Psalm 20:1), saves (Psalm 54:1), is a fortress (Proverbs 18:10), etc. Likewise, to call on the name of the Lord or sing praises to His name or seek His name or glorify His name is to do these things to Him.

Now consider a New Testament event in this light.

Peter healed a lame man at the temple. He did so with these words: "In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk!" (Acts 3:6).

An amazed crowd gathered around them. Peter would take no credit for the miracle. He explained, "And on the basis of faith in His name, it is the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know" (Acts 3:16a). The healing power was Jesus' personal divine power, not the verbal formula which Peter spoke when working the miracle. And the faith in view was Peter's faith, not the lame man's.

Peter was arrested in connection with this incident. The next day he testified in court, "Let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised—by this name this man stands here before you in good health" (Acts 4:10).

The Apostle went on to make the application. "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved" (v. 12). In other words, Jesus is the only Savior. The same "name" that healed the lame man is the **only** source of healing for sinners.

To act in the name of Jesus is to act together with Him. In light of that, could anything be more incongruous than to take some activity which Jesus has never associated Himself with, verbally attach His name to it, then claim that it honors Him and will be successful because we are doing it in His name? Read Matthew 7:21-23. ■

# Rejoice in the Lord

by Frank Himmel

“Rejoice in the Lord, always; again I will say, rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4).

This simple verse might be taken in a couple of ways. The point may be to rejoice in the Lord as *an object*: that is, rejoice in who and what He is and what He does for us. Jesus is our savior, our king, our lord, our atonement, our high priest, our mediator, our shepherd, our guide, our hope... our everything. God “has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3).

Alternatively, the point may be to rejoice in the Lord as *a sphere* or *a realm*: rejoice in the Lord and your relationship with Him as opposed to your beauty, your achievements, your wealth, your societal status, your position at work, and so forth. “Thus says the Lord, ‘Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me...’” (Jeremiah 9:23-24).

Both perspectives are needed. And don’t overlook the little word *always*. As one writer put it, “Therein lies the difficulty; there, too, lies the blessedness.” ■

# Persecuted

by Frank Himmel

“But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed” (1 Peter 3:14a.)



The book of 1 Peter is about suffering. Some suffering is the common lot of mankind; that is not particularly Peter’s emphasis. Some of it is self-imposed, the consequence of our own bad choices. Thus the Apostle cautions, “Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler” (1 Peter 4:15).

Ironically, sometimes we suffer for doing right. When that happens, it is a sinful world’s reaction to exposure of its wrong (1 Peter 4:4), whether that exposure comes by means of words or a better example. Jesus said the world’s problem is not with us but with Him in us (John 15:18-20); and the world’s problem with Him is that it does not know His Father (v. 21). Paul noted that this kind of opposition is inevitable (2 Timothy 3:12).

When we are persecuted for doing right, for taking a stand for right, it is actually a blessing. Though unintended, it is a compliment. “If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you” (1 Peter 4:14). ■

## Service Leaders for the Week

	Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Wednesday Evening
GREETER	David Gray	Carlos Garcia	Howard Moore
SONG LEADER	Carlos Garcia	Gary Hagler	John Baucom
OPENING PRAYER	Howard Moore	Brian Wilson	
LORD’S SUPPER			
BREAD	Gary Hagler	Gary Hagler	
CUP	Mark Clifton	Mark Clifton	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	Rawland Daniel		
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Frank Himmel	Steven Turner
CLOSING PRAYER	Justin Candella	Adam Gibson	Ian Brown