

[Faith, Hope & Love_Part3](#)

In our study of the Kingdom of God we have learned that truth is its foundation and faith, hope, and love are the key building blocks. Faith, however, is the vehicle for accessing both hope and God's divine *agape* love; and when it comes down to it, the Spirit says that faith expressing itself in God's *agape* love is all that really matters (**Galatians 5:6**). Everything else—no matter how convinced and trained you are that it is good and pleasing to God—is just an expression of religion and some exalted view of man's worth and ability to “do something” for God; but either way when it comes to the Kingdom of God it is worthless. Faith expressing itself in God's *agape* love; that is what matters. Honestly, these are the kind of scriptures that should stop us in our tracks and cause us to take a serious and genuine look at our own lives in an attempt to understand if this kind of divine love is the fruit our lives—or not.

I want you to understand, however, that this kind of love is not a gift that God gives you, it is part and parcel of God's very personhood as God is love (**1 John 4:8**). So to the extent you have walked the corridors of death and put away your *Old Sinful Nature* and have given Him room to live in and dominate your life, you will exhibit His divine love. It just effuses from His being. If, however, you have given Him the room in your small finger, then the fruit of God's *agape* love in your life will not be very evident despite your efforts to be pleasing to God and despite all your sincere worship of God. As we studied last week, you will basically be a big tree with leaves that do not benefit anyone. To the extent you die you live and love. That is how it works in the Kingdom of God.

But once again, faith is the key. As we have studied, faith is always active and it is very practical. It is not mystical, it is not close your eyes and jump and hope for the best. No faith is logical, reasonable, and it applies to each and every aspect of our lives. Faith is betting your lives on the character and nature of God. In essence, Faith is a reasonable application of the facts which God has revealed about Himself through the Word, through the lives of others, and even through our own lives. God never fails to prove Himself, and that is a fact; He has given us plenty of reasons to completely throw ourselves at Him and trust Him. However, if we were honest, I think we tend to hold ourselves back from truly giving ourselves to God because we are just too afraid of experiencing things we don't like or don't understand.

Much of our holding ourselves back from God goes to this place where, at some level in our consciousness, we are bothered that He is "the Lord"—the one who is always in control of everything. I'm not talking theology here, I am talking practicality. I say this because we resist God and we don't really believe He is all that good because we don't think He has been all that good to us. We don't like what He has done in the past and we become scared thinking what He might have planned for our lives in the future. And then there is all this death talk. We don't like the fact that we have to die to what we want and all the wonderful ways we have learned to protect ourselves and be our own god. We don't like the fact that in order to be conformed into the image of God, there is certainly going to be pain involved. We don't like the fact that we live in an unseen Kingdom therefore we tend to favor that which we can see, feel, touch, and so on. We even have such a hard time believing that everything He does or allows in our lives stem from His *agape* love and that all the paths He leads us down are good, pleasing, and perfect.

And this is where faith comes in. Faith militates—or goes to war—against our foolish thoughts and emotions. Again, I am not talking about blind faith, but an application of the facts.

This brings us back around to our study on the character and nature of the kings who rule over the two kingdoms—specifically, King Jesus who rules over the Kingdom of God. And to get into this issue of the facts about our King, I want to return to the last line of the Word He spoke over our body which we talked about last week: **“Anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved. Know what this means. Behold, He comes!”** The Lord wants us to understand what it means to call on the name of the Lord, for the one who does will be saved (and He also wants us to understand what it means to be saved). I believe that both of these issues have been clouded and confused within the realms of Christianity or else the Lord would not want us to “know what it means.” I say that because it does not mean what we would naturally think. We have been conditioned and trained by evangelicalism that if a person goes down the aisle, raises their hand, and prays the sinner’s prayer that they are saved. This is our paradigm, this is our framework, churches and programs are built on this perspective; and if you have been wrapped in this perspective it is very hard to get out of it. We have been fooled by all those big trees with leaves; but as we learned last week, a big tree with leaves is not a sign of fruitfulness.

Tonight I hope to shake these notions up. But before we get to what it means, I want to approach this whole issue from another angle to get a foundation for what it actually means to call upon the name of the Lord and to be saved.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?

And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

The key points I want to pull from this text is that before Jesus gathers us together with Him in what we call the rapture, there must first be a falling away, an apostasy. This will come in the hour of testing as referenced in **Revelation 3:10**.

For those of you who don't know what this word actually means, "apostasy" is a formal renunciation, disaffiliation, and abandonment of one's religion. Thus, one cannot become apostate or fall away unless they first once believed they belonged. Therefore, those who fall away are going to be those who previously said they were Christians—those who seemed to call on the name of the Lord. **1 Timothy 4:1** confirms that in the latter days there will be a falling away from the faith as people choose to hold to a lie from the enemy and adopt what is in effect the doctrine of demons. Without question this apostasy will happen, but I want to make a point about to whom it will happen. And I will do this by first making a negative argument about to whom it will *NOT* happen.

In **Revelation 6:1-2**, with the opening of the first seal, we are given an image of a rider in white who goes out to conquer and he went out conquering. Throughout the Bible, and especially in **Revelation**, white is a color of holiness, purity, and righteousness; it is a symbol of the purity which comes only from God. In the book of **Revelation**, this color metaphor is never violated. So this rider of holiness and purity is sent by the Lord to conquer. **Matthew 24:14** says that the gospel about the Kingdom of God will be preached to all the nations and then the end will come. So we know that before Jesus returns, the nations, all the people groups on the earth, will be given a chance to hear the gospel of the Kingdom of God and accept or reject it. I believe this white horse and its rider is sent forth to accomplish this mission (we also see an angel going around the entire world preaching the gospel message (**Revelation 14:6**)).

Then in **Revelation 7:9-17**, we get a picture of all those who are saved from the preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom. John sees a great multitude which no one

could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne of God and before the Lamb clothed in white robes. The question was then asked as to who these people were. The answer was given, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” These believers bear the mark of holiness, purity, and righteousness. And I want you to consider that they are in heaven; which means that in just over a 3.5 year period of time they have been killed and now stand before God for they come out of the great tribulation.

The point being is that in the last days, there is going to be an unbelievable revival of people who give themselves to the Lord and this gathering will be from every corner of the world. But these people, who come to the Lord in that day, will choose Christ in the face of almost certain death. They will not make this decision lightly. They will have to make this choice in the face of the biggest lie ever poured out on mankind—in the face of a world that is posed to destroy them and kill them. Based on the numbers we see in heaven, it is clear that these are not the ones who will be falling away. They will come and most will die, and they will be before the Lord and be victorious forever. “For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes” (***Revelation 7:15-17***).

These believers are not those who fall away or become apostate; they choose Jesus and stand with Him regardless of what happens to them. In that day, calling

upon the name of the Lord will not be an easy decision for the entire world will be violently opposed to Christ. There will be no ability to do what is done today and that is to blend the kingdom of this world with the Kingdom of God. No, they come to Jesus knowing what will happen to them—knowing they will likely die.

If that is the case, then who is it that will fall away? Who will fulfill this prophecy regarding this great apostasy? Who will abandon the Kingdom of God? I believe that many who live today; those who attend churches, worship God, faithfully serve in their church, go out and evangelize others, are in the ministry, and so on. Those who choose apostasy will come from what we generically call the modern world of the religion of Christianity. It will come from, using the imagery from our study last week, the big fig trees with many leaves that simply do not produce the fruit of God's *agape* love. You see, raising your hand and praying the sinners prayer and doing all sorts of Christian things does not make one a believer. It can, but it doesn't guarantee that reality. The only way one can know for sure if they are a believer is if their life produces God's *agape* love. For the Spirit says in **1 John 4:7-8** that everyone who loves with God's *agape* love is born of God and knows God and the one who does not pour forth with God's *agape* love does not know God for God is *agape* love. **1 John 4:12-13** says that "if we love (*agape*) one another, God abides in us, and His *agape* love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit." and according to **Galatians 5:22** the fruit of the Spirit is God's *agape* love.

This is serious and this is intense and there is no way to politicize this issue or soften it to make people feel better. The falling away will come from those who believe they are Christians but who are not in fact the **Beloved**, for their lives have

not produced the fruit of His life in theirs—their lives have not been a vessel of God's *agape* love. Their lives bear the fruit of the "Me" as they truly love their lives more than they love His.

With that as our understanding, let's move on to what it means when the Lord says that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. In our studies in **1 Peter** we learned what it means to be saved: the putting to death of your *Old Sinful Nature* such that you can live and walk in the **New Creation** empowered by the Spirit of God. That is true salvation. It starts with being born-again and being given a new nature in which the Holy Spirit takes up His abode. With this new nature comes eternal life and the assurance or the guarantee that we will spend eternity with God. Then that new nature is stirred up by faith and it begins to become alive in our body, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and it starts to take territory in our body away from our *Old Sinful Nature*. The goal of the Spirit is complete domination such that the **New Creation** permeates every part of our existence—our heart, mind, soul, strength. The goal is the design point where we no longer live (that is our flesh) but Christ lives in us. And we know that is accomplished through death—through being "crucified with Christ" (**Galatians 2:20-21**), with crucifixion being a symbol or a picture of how violent our death to our flesh must be.

Our studies in **1 Peter** made this clear. We must allow God to bring our flesh under the flood waters of judgment and the Spirit is looking for the complete burial of our flesh; the obliteration of all of it (just like what happened with the flood in **Genesis 6**). The flood is just another way of imaging this need to crucify our flesh. Whichever word picture you prefer, the result of your dying will be that Jesus will

live in and through your life—through His Spirit—and He will come to possess the land of your soul. It is His land, He wants it, He loves it, and He desires to possess it. But that only happens when you allow Him that room in your life; He never forces Himself. He only takes the territory that you willingly give Him. As we studied last week, the millions of “worshippers” in Israel were simply not willing. They were willing to go through the experience of worship and feel great, but they were not willing to let God have His way with their lives.

Willingness: this means we must be willing, by faith, to go to war against the enemies in our land which stand in opposition to the name of God. These enemies tempt us to: trust in idols (ourselves really); listen to the lie of the king of this world; live in and even be consumed by fear, reject the Word of God or just make us feel as if it is not really all that necessary; make decisions by what we see, feel, and think; live from the wounds and trauma we have incurred in our lives; believe that we are better off with our coping mechanisms; fall prey to the religion deep in our soul which is ruled by the good child/bad child mentality we all have at the core of our being; and so on. You know what I am talking about. Those are the enemies against which we must war for they are the source of all our lofty thoughts which raise themselves up against the true knowledge of Jesus Christ (**2 Corinthians 10:3-6**). And here is the thing, we war with the name—the name of God. His name is our greatest weapon. And when we go to war with His name, it is then that we come to understand what it means to “call on the name of the Lord,” to truly believe and place our faith in Jesus Christ—to bet our lives on His character and nature. Personally, I think this is the piece that has been missing from Christianity for so many years. We have in effect equated raising our hands, praying the sinner’s

prayer, and worship with calling on the name of the Lord. But they are not equivalent and this confusion is why so many who now believe they are Christians will fall away and become apostates, just like what we saw in Israel during the time of Christ. There were millions who came to God and who “worshiped God;” yet, so few, so very few, who actually were willing to follow God.

And this is where this faith becomes very practical. I am sure you were wondering how I was going to wrap this back around to the issue of faith. Let’s consider what it truly means to call upon the name of the Lord (for those who do will be saved). I want to start with understanding His name and clearly state that to call upon the name would be to bet your life on the aspect of God that is revealed by the name. It is not enough to know the name, or even to say you believe the name, for true Biblical belief must be coupled with action for it to give life to faith. Remember, even the demons believe and shudder; they know the truth about God, but they do not put action to their belief so they do not live in faith (**James 2:19**).

The Lord’s name has been defined throughout the Bible so we don’t have to go far to understand the name and how it is used. The Bible uses 16 specific references to His name (8+8 or in Biblical numerology: abundant new life is given for those who call upon the name). Each name sets forth an aspect of His character and personhood and lays down for us the plumb line as to what it means to truly believe and to choose His name—or to call upon the name. As we go through the names of God, we will talk about what it looks like, practically, to call upon the name of the Lord. Therefore, as we go through these names, I want you to ask yourself whether or not you know God in this capacity; and when I say “know,” I am not talking about having an intellectual understanding of the names or even an emotional response

to these names. Honestly, ask yourself if you know Him by His name in your heart, mind, soul, and strength. Again, we are talking about betting our lives on the character and nature of God. The names that have been revealed to us are as follows:

1. El Shaddai – the Lord God Almighty
2. El Elyon – the Most High God
3. Adonai – My Lord, Master
4. Yahweh – Lord, Jehovah (I Am)
5. Jehovah Nissi – the Lord my Refuge or my Banner
6. Jehovah Raah – the Lord my Shepherd
7. Jehovah Rapha – the Lord that Heals
8. Jehovah Shammah – the Lord is There
9. Jehovah Tsidkenu – the Lord our Righteousness
10. Jehovah Mekoddishkem – the Lord who Sanctifies you
11. El Olam – the Everlasting God
12. Elohim – God
13. Qanna – Jealous
14. Jehovah Jireh – the Lord will Provide
15. Jehovah Shalom – the Lord is Peace
16. Jehovah Sabaoth – the Lord of Hosts

1. **El Shaddai** – the Lord God Almighty. We spent so much time studying this phrase in our studies in *Revelation*. The “**Lord**” means that He is ruler and master

over everything, bar none. He is the one who has determined the most miniscule details of your life and He ordained and ordered each person, each event, each angelic or demonic intervention, and so on. He is it and there is no other. “**God**” means that He is the one who lives outside of time, knows all things, understands all things, is above all of creation (including the ruler of the kingdom of the world), is self-sufficient and needs no one and nothing and is therefore unchangeable, is truly incomprehensible except for what He reveals, and is everywhere all the time. The “**Almighty**” means that He alone has all power; and He can therefore do whatever He wants whenever He wants. Nothing and no one can thwart His will (**Romans 9:19**). Thus, with Him all things are possible—all things!

Thus in this phrase **El Shaddai**, we come to understand that our God is sufficient for all things and the one upon whom we must rely upon for all things and that is because all things flow from Him. As it says in **Lamentations 3:17**, can anything happen without the Lord’s permission? Obviously not. All things start with Him (He is the beginning) and they end with Him (He is the end); thus, He is the ultimate cause for all things and the one who completes all things. Thus, there is no where you can go that you do not come across our God. He is also the first and the last thus He knows the beginning from the end; He knows the outcome of all things. He directs the affairs of the human race as each new generation marches by (**Isaiah 46:10**). This name occurs 48 times in the Old Testament so I won’t go through each reference, but a simple search should land you on the occurrences.

If you truly believe in this name, it is enough to cause you to rest and be filled with confidence that everything in your life is always in control, always was in control, and always will be in control. If you believe in this name, fear will not be a factor in your life. In fact, this name delivers a death blow to fear. If you believe in

this name, it is enough to cause you to scoff at fear and to let go of the delusion that somehow you know better than God; that somehow the pathways you would have chosen for your life would have been better. If you believe in the name you realize that such thinking is a fiction and a fantasy—a lie. If you believe in the name you are one who is convinced that even if you don't understand it all, the things you have gone through all flow from His hand and are therefore good, pleasing, and perfect.

2. **El Elyon** – the Most High God. This name stresses the fact that God is strength, God is sovereign, and God is supreme. **Genesis 14:17** uses this name and says that He is the possessor of heaven and earth. This is important to understand in light of what we have studied about the king of this world. Remember, the devil's rule is a permitted rule and not a natural rule. He has no right in and of himself to rule this world; he only rules because the Most High God deemed it necessary in his love and wisdom to allow it for the time being. As one who was created by the Most High God, the devil is no challenge, and by no means a threat, to **El Elyon**. The possessor of heaven and earth will very soon rip the control out of the hands of the devil and will physically rule and reign on this earth. You can find other references to this name in **Psalms 9:2** and **Numbers 24:16**.

If you believe in this name you would so want Him to possess the land of your soul for if He is occupying your land then what can come against you? What can the enemy do to you? The enemy has no power over God; thus, your absolute cure to fear is God in you. And what can man do to you? **Hebrews 13:5-6** says: "I will never leave you nor forsake you," so we can confidently say: "the Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? The answer is a resounding "nothing!" Your

ability to know the protection of the Lord from man or demon is found in His possession of your body for nothing can come against, challenge, or even threaten the God Most High. If you have been afraid of the enemy, if you have been worn down by his attack against you, the solution is to die. The solution is to let your flesh be consumed under the waters of judgment in order that Jesus can fill you up. If He fills you up you will be more than safe, you will be protected by the God Most High and you will come to know Jesus as your protector. You see it is one thing to pray: “Lord deliver us from the enemy” and it is another thing to stand behind Jesus as the enemy flees from Him. You see, the enemy is not afraid of us, but He is terrified of Jesus in us. Thus, the answer to your fear of the enemy (whether man or demon) is the Design Point—Jesus possessing the territory of your soul.

3. **Adonai** – My Lord, My Master. This name speaks of God’s personal ownership over our lives; and it is plural, so it is to be understood as the “Lords,” picking up the fact that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are the masters over our lives. It emphasizes that we belong to them and they have the legal and legitimate natural right to determine the affairs of our lives. This name was often used in substitute of the most sacred name of Yahweh and it is used 300 times in the Old Testament. So this begs the question, do you recognize Him as your Lord—your Master? Do you live as if He gets to do what He wants with you whenever He wants to? Are you still arguing with God about His plans for your life, whether past, present or future? Well stop! He is your Master; you belong to Him. He has redeemed you and He is the one who gets to make the calls for your life. Besides, according to **Psalm 111** He has paid a full ransom for your life and this Psalm assures us that not only is He is gracious and merciful but all that He does is just and good

and reveals His glory and majesty. **Psalm 23:3** says that for His name sake He guides us on the paths of righteousness and **Psalm 25:10** says that all the pathways of the Lord are lovingkindness and truth to those who keep His covenant. Therefore, you must bet your life on this truth and settle with your **Adonai**. He is your Master; therefore, you must live as if He knows what is best because you don't! Learn to rest in this truth and your day-in-and-day-out experience will be peace and rest. If you don't have this kind of practical rest, if you live with stress and anxiety, then you don't believe in this name.

4. **Yahweh** – Lord, Jehovah (I Am). This is the sacred name of God and it occurs 6,828 times in the Old Testament. This is the name that was spoken to Moses on the mountain when he asked who it is that is sending him to Egypt (**Exodus 3:14**). It is also the name Jesus referred to when He said before Abraham was, I Am (**John 8:58**). Jews would not speak this name believing it to be too holy, but would choose to refer to it simply as “the Name.” This name captures it all. You can take every other name of God and wrap it up in this name. He is the I Am—the self-existent one who is everything we need all the time every time. What would it look like to trust that Jesus was truly your’ “I Am.” Would you need your self-protection or would He be able to protect you? Would you need your coping mechanisms or would some aspect of Him be enough to provide for you in those very difficult moments when you feel the need to cope? Would you need to live in fear or would He be big enough to overcome and conquer all your fears? Would you be so grieved by your loneliness or depression that you would have to go find relief, or would He be enough to fill even your deepest loneliness and deepest grief? Would you need your eating disorder? Would you need your pornography? Would you need your

selfishness? And so on and so on. The answer is obviously, NO! If you believe this name you would know and live as if He is enough, even for you.

In this name, we can understand that He is enough all the time every time: enough! If we truly bet our lives on this name, if we called upon this name, we would not look anywhere else for answers and solutions to what troubles us. We would only look to Jesus knowing and being fully confident that even though we cannot see Him and cannot touch Him, He can satisfy our need more completely than anything we can see, feel, and touch. Remember, anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved. Understand what this means. This world, the ruler of this world, cannot save you and can offer you nothing but a lie, or something that will not last and will not satisfy. That is it; the devil has nothing to give. But in Jesus we find all we need; but you must call on His name—you must bet your life that He is all you need. That is Biblical faith. That is the pathway to being in a relationship with God. That is true salvation. That is the kind of faith that pleases God.

With that said, I want you to understand something very important and I will use the emotion of pain and loneliness to explain it. If you call on the name of the Lord and turn to Him alone, your emotions will not necessarily instantly change. Sometimes I have experienced that, but not always. But that does not mean Yahweh is not working for you. If you call out to God and God alone, He will hear your prayer and He will meet your need as He sees fit and it will be perfect for what He needs to do in you and with you. For example, He might want you to learn the power that comes when you discover His strength to endure all things. He might want you to break that part of you that succumbs to idolatry and turns to yourself or something else when you don't feel good. Who knows, the possibilities are

infinite. But He is Yahweh, He is your I Am, and He will be enough if you are willing to choose Him, turn to Him and only Him, and rest in that decision and wait on Him regardless of what it feels like.

We are going to stop here tonight and pick up next week with the 5th name: **Jehovah Nissi**. I want you to think through these names. Study these names; meditate on them. I want you to start getting a feel for how light and easy your life could be if you were willing to live by faith and bet your life on the name of the Lord because **He who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved**. He will always be true to His name; it is what He does and who He is. But He does not force Himself, He wants you to want Him and to be willing to set aside all your clutter, all your distorted thinking, all your confusion, all your fear and doubt, and all your demands to do things your way and simply let Him be your God. And if you do you will be saved. This kind of faith slays apostasy; know what this means.

Behold He comes.

Let's Pray