

Episode 4

Jesus Has a Name

With God It's Always Personal – Part 2

In our last episode, we began our discussion about how with **Yahweh, it is always personal!** He gives us His personal name and He intends for us to know this name and to actively believe upon it. In fact, everything He does in our lives is personal. Nothing is random, nothing is arbitrary, nothing is capricious or a reaction to anything we have done. Rather, everything in our lives, even though administered through all manner of enemies, are cooperating with God in the singular purpose of transforming us into the image or likeness of the Son.

The truth is, we have no actual enemies, just tool after tool which God uses, each according to their nature, to assist in accomplishing our transformation.

When we left off, we briefly touched on the *Design Point*—that great declaration by Paul: I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who lives but Christ lives in me.”¹ The *Design Point* expresses the reality that Christ wants to possess our being. He wants to live in and through our lives such that others experience Him directly because He abides in us as we abide in Him. The *Design Point* is how the Spirit accomplishes His primary goal of transforming us into the image of the Son.²

The Spirit's means or His method to accomplishing the *Design Point* in our lives is crucifixion, death. Crucifixion is just a picture, and idiom; however, it speaks of the systematic and, quite often slow and painful, elimination of all that is in our being (our wrong belief and unbelief) which stands in opposition to His fully possessing us and expressing Himself through us. Simply said, we have got to die to live.

The remedy or the replacement for all our wrong belief and unbelief is the truth of His name. Thus, the process of crucifixion is intended to convince us **WHY** holding on to our ways and our views of life is foolishness when we have access, through His name, to His ways and to His view

¹ *Galatians 2:20*

² *Romans 8:28-29*

of life.

Personally, I know far too well how scary the *Design Point* can be. Another way to express this idiom of crucifixion (and really there are so many ways to express it), is that the pathway to knowing **Yahweh**, is discovered down the narrow road of tribulations, the road which so very few choose to travel.³ For the gate is small and the way is narrow (or literally squeezing) that is **now** leading to life, and there are **now** few who are **now** finding it.⁴

The pathway to life is found down this way of tribulation—this road squeezing. And with the use of the *present* tense, it is tragically clear that so few choose to get on this road and many, once they do, bounce, and get off as soon as it becomes too difficult for far too long. **Hence, there are now few who are now finding this road that is now leading to life.** Jesus came to give us life and to give it abundantly.⁵ We sure love that promise. But the pathway to that abundant life, well that is a different thing.

The reason so few know God in His abundance, where the Spirit of God effuses from their being, is because this road is so dang long, and it is ridiculously hard, and time becomes the fiercest enemy. It is the pathway of death to all that stands in opposition to **Yahweh** living in and through our being. Hence, down this road, the Spirit goes to war against all the deep seeded beliefs we have about our lives, our rights, our ways, our expectations, how we should be treated by others, how we should be treated by God, and so on. Anything that is not in alignment with His ways and His thoughts will eventually need to be put down.

The Spirit must transform all the ways we have chosen to define love and relationship as well as responsibility, so that we love as we have been loved, we are joined relationally to those the Father has sent for us to be joined to, and we do only what He wants us to do, when He wants us to do it, say what He wants us to say, when He wants us to say it, and only go where He wants us to go, when He wants us to go. By the way, this list could go on and on, but I think you get the

³ See **Matthew 7:13-14**, where narrow is first used to speak of nearby obstacles that are in the way, and then is used to speak of tribulation, trouble, or to literally to be squeezed or pressed upon.

⁴ **Matthew 7:14**. Note, “leads to life” and “find it” are rendered in the *present active participle*, and “are few” is rendered in the *present active indicative*.

⁵ **John 10:10**

point.

With that said, let us go back to **Yahweh's** and Moses' conversation in **Exodus 6:6-9** where we find **Yahweh's** 7-**"I will"** statements. **"I AM Yahweh** and:

1. **I will** bring you out from under the *burdens* of the Egyptians,
2. **I will** deliver you from their *bondage*.
3. **I will** also *redeem* you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.
4. **I will** *take* you for **My people**, and
5. **I will** be *your* God; and you shall know that **I AM Yahweh** your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.
6. **I will** bring you to the land which I *swore* to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and
7. **I will** *give* it to you for a possession; **I AM Yahweh.**"

Yahweh's complete 7-**"I will"** statements of grace and deliverance were intended to calm the fear in the souls of these severely damaged people, to heal the pain of all their wounds, and give to them the ultimate perspective of **WHY** it was all necessary.⁶

He would be their **I AM**, their **Yahweh**, their ultimate and complete source of all that they would need, for He was setting them apart as a people unto Himself—His own personal possession.

And this truth is to work the same things in our lives: to calm the fear in our severely damaged souls, to heal the pain of all our wounds, and give to us the ultimate perspective of **WHY** it was all necessary. And this perspective has the power to bind us to Him in intimacy when we accept that it has all been necessary because He has set us apart as a people unto Himself, as His own personal possession.

Armed with this perspective of **WHY**, He wants us to freely choose to walk down the narrow road of squeezing. He wants us to keep walking and keep walking until we have been crucified with Christ and we discover the life—the abundant life—that He promised, and the Spirit has transformed us into the image of the Son.

⁶ See **Exodus 6:2-9**

And being **Yahweh**, He promises that down that road of trouble, He will be all that we will ever need to make it through. He will be our **I AM**. After all, the 7-“**I will**” statements of grace and deliverance speaks of His relieving our burdens, breaking our bondage, redeeming our lives, His ownership of our lives, our intimacy with Him, our provision, and the fulfillment of all His promises.

How incredible is this truth? To me it is a bit mind-numbing. This explains **WHY** everything we have gone through, has been necessary. How many people have walked through the narrow gate down the path of trouble and tribulation, and can declare, “it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me”? As He said, few are now finding this life. But He wants us to be part of the few who realize that it is down this pathway of crucifixion that we, now and continually, will find life, our true life, which is His life. This is the *Design Point*, and this is His desire for you and for me.

In this regard, I am reminded of one of my favorite scriptures that communicates to me the same confidence, assurance, comfort, security, and the ultimate perspective that comes with believing in the name **Yahweh**.

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

When we choose to believe in **Yahweh**, **it all becomes personal**, so very personal. He wants us, He sees us, He loves us, and He is literally obsessed with us. We were once not a people and we had no mercy, but now, those who believe in **Yahweh** (those who bet their lives on His name) are the people of God—His own precious possession.

We have received mercy. We are chosen. We are royalty, and priests of God, part of a nation that has been set apart by **Yahweh** for **Yahweh**. Hence, by definition, we are holy. That is our

identity. How beautiful and how comforting—we belong to a holy nation a people of God’s own possession. We belong exclusively to Him.

This leads us to the ultimate perspective we are to have about all things. To truly believe in **Yahweh** (again, to bet our lives on His name), we must be convinced that all things have been placed by the Father in subjection under the feet of Jesus. As such, He is the **Adonai**, and there are no rogue agents or random events (that is all just an illusion). Jesus has been **raised** up and now sits at the right hand of the Father far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come (including my name and your name).⁷

IN OTHER WORDS, THE NAME YAHWEH ASSURES US THAT HE IS ADONAI (THE LORD), COMPLETELY SOVEREIGN OVER ALL THINGS, WHETHER WE EXPERIENCE THEM AS GOOD OR EVIL OR WHETHER THEY OR RESULT IN PLEASURE OR PAIN.

Believe me, I know this is difficult to fathom, but this would, by definition, include all that you do that is good (all that comes from God), as well as all that you do, and have done, that is terrible and derives from the darkness of your *flesh*. None of it falls outside of the parameters of His name or His **Plan-A** for our lives. Otherwise, His claims of being **Yahweh Adonai** would not be true, he would be just a little god, like all those gods of Egypt that had no power against **Yahweh Adonai**.

But every single step in our lives, again, whether that step was for good and godliness or for flat our sin and evil, was from His hand aimed at crucifying our *flesh*.

THAT IS THE VERY DEFINITION OF THE NAME YAHWEH COUPLED WITH THE TITLE ADONAI, WHERE EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, IS FROM HIM, BY HIM OR THROUGH HIM, AND TO HIM (TO TRANSFORM US INTO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON).

Convinced of this truth, the name **Yahweh** becomes the very reason—the only reason in fact—we can live without shame and fear. When we know that all things are purposed for our transformation, even the terrible things that come from our lives, we can rest in knowing that He

⁷ **1 Corinthians 15:27; Ephesians 1:21-22; Colossians 2:10; Romans 8:34; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3, 2:8, 8:1, 10:12, 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22**

is just doing what He promised to do, and what comes from our lives, needed to come. It is the only way He can expose it to our choice to let Him crucify it.

With that said, the shame and fear which make their home within our soul are the two mighty antagonists to our living in faith, hope, and love. In fact, shame and fear are the fuel that empowers our pride—our belief that we can be good like God and do not really need to endure the pathway of crucifixion.

By the way, a little side point, if we do not have faith, we will not live with hope. And if we do not have faith and hope, we will not love with God's *agape* love. And the implications of this is staggering. **God's *agape* love, in and through our lives, is the only definitive proof that we know and love God and are not living in a religious delusion.**⁸

This means that this fuel for our pride (shame and fear), must be bled, from our lives—hence the crucifixion idiom. As they are slowly drained from our being, we will grow in faith, hope, and *agape* love, as Christ begins to take up more and more possession of our being and He begins to manifest Himself from our lives to others.

It is sad, but we tend to be easily deceived by the delusion of our own goodness and by our love for our religion. But as we have learned, such things are 100% meaningless to God. All that matters to God is His goodness (His *agape* love) being expressed in and through our lives.

THE SOURCE MATTERS, THE SOURCE IS EVERYTHING!⁹

Faith expressing itself in God's *agape* love is the definitive proof that we know Him by His name **Yahweh**. And this proof is meted out through the *Design Point*, through our transformation, which He personally orchestrates and effects through the pathway of death.

In effect, all that matters is faith expressing itself in *agape* love. To maintain this perspective, it is imperative to keep at the forefront of our minds the truth which Jesus' death on the cross definitively declares for every believer. Jesus, **Yahweh Yasha**, died to deliver us from every sin and stain, and to free us from every accusation of wrong, leaving no trace behind to which shame

⁸ **1 Corinthians 13:13; John 15:1-13; 1 John 3:10-18, 23-24, 4:7-21, 5:2-3**

⁹ **Galatians 5:4-6**

and fear can cling.¹⁰ No trace!

This truth is radical and so beyond comprehension that the Spirit tells us that Jesus presents us before Himself holy, blameless, and beyond reproach.¹¹ It is a phenomenon that is exceedingly difficult for our minds and our bodies to accept; after all, we know how much we “fail” Him day-after-day, hour-after-hour, and minute-by-minute. But, as a consequence of our choosing to actively believe in **Yahweh Yasha**, and our having been delivered or set free from every sin and stain, we can choose to live **FREE** from the bondage of shame and fear despite our sin.¹² Yes, despite our sin we can live **FREE!**

And since we were called to freedom, He desires us to now turn our freedom into an opportunity to serve one another through *agape* love, and thereby fulfill the commandment of Christ.¹³ However, and this is a big however, since **Yahweh** is *agape* love,¹⁴ this is clearly not something we can do. Fulfilling the commandment of Christ is only something that He can do as He comes to systematically take possession of our being, through our crucifixion which is necessary to effect the *Design Point* in our lives: It is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me.

Yes, His good, pleasing, and perfect will for our lives is to transform us into the image of **Yahweh** such that when people encounter us, they meet and experience Him. In fact, this is exactly the sort of relationship that Jesus expressed He had with His Father. He plainly stated, “He who sees me sees the One who sent me.”¹⁵ Then later He explained this dynamic to Philip.

John 14:8-12

Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? "Do you not believe that I am in

¹⁰ ***Colossians 2:8-15; Psalm 103:10-12***

¹¹ ***Colossians 1:22; Hebrews 10:10; Ephesians 1:4***

¹² ***Galatians 5:1, 13***

¹³ ***Galatians 5:13-14; John 15:12***

¹⁴ ***1 John 4:8, 16***

¹⁵ ***John 12:45***

the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.

In this light, we will find that as Jesus is given access to live in and through our lives, we will extend mercy, compassion, and grace towards others who do not deserve it. We will sincerely forgive, from the heart, all who have hurt us.¹⁶ We will love others with His *agape* love. In addition (and this is glorious) fear will no longer dominate our lives.

In fact, let me just say something of which you may not have thought. When we choose to believe in **Yahweh**, when we choose to accept the comfort and assurance of His name, we eventually must let Him set aside our fear, or we will always be going back and forth between belief and unbelief, between freedom and condemnation. And it is this back and forth that gives room for fear to rise up in our being, and from fear, anxiety, sadness, depression, and all sorts of physical and emotional maladies.

Therefore, the work of transformation (through the means of crucifixion) pinpoints the location of our fear in all the deep dark places in which it resides in our soul. Once the Spirit reveals it to our consciousness, the Spirit presents us with the choice to let Him remove it from our lives or to keep it. We cannot remove it, only He can. We can only be willing to let Him.

If we let Him remove our fear, we will start to live free. And if we live free, it means we will have embraced the narrow pathway of tribulation, which so few find. We will be those who, in effect, lay down their lives for their friends, as we let the Spirit of God kill (or crucify) every part of our being that opposes Him.

**AND THERE IS NO GREATER LOVE THAN
LAYING DOWN OUR LIVES FOR OUR FRIENDS.¹⁷**

Transformation is His goal. Another way to say it is that the salvation He desires to bring us is

¹⁶ **Matthew 6:15**

¹⁷ **John 15:13**

unrestrained freedom. However, our salvation (experienced in our transformation) is dependent upon our choosing to, now and continually, bet our lives upon His name, **Yahweh**, believing that He is our **I AM**. That His 7-“**I Will**” statements of deliverance and grace will be our provision, our strength, assuring us that He will do everything He promised, it is just a matter of time.

And if we do bet our lives on His name, we will come to understand what it means to call upon His name, **Yahweh**.

This was a lot. These last 2 episodes have been mind-blowing in terms of the implications of genuinely believing upon His name. The name **Yahweh** brings a death blow to our religion, to our love for ourselves, and to all the ways we have tried to survive without Him.

We must simply remember, that **with Yahweh, it is always personal!** Therefore, all that He has brought into our lives and will bring into our lives is, to Him, very personal. And everything has been, and always will be, aimed at our transformation, our coming to know Him as we are known, our allowing Him, to crucify our *flesh* until we can declare:

**I HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST, IT IS NO LONGER I WHO LIVE BUT
CHRIST LIVES IN ME, AND THE LIFE WHICH I NOW LIVE IN THE FLESH, I LIVE BY
FAITH IN THE SON OF GOD WHO HAS BEEN LOVING ME AND GIVING HIMSELF
UP FOR ME.¹⁸**

Let us stop here and meditate on this truth (I know it has been a lot). We will pick up in the next episode as we start to understand what it means for us, practically, to Call upon His Name.

¹⁸ **Galatians 2:20.** Note: “loved” and “gave” are both rendered in the *aorist active participle*.