

## Jesus Has a Name

### Episode 5

#### Call upon His Name – Part 1

We have been talking about the implications of believing in the name **Yahweh**. I ended the last episode stating that our transformation into His image is His primary goal for our lives. He wants us to be like Him. He wants us to know Him in the same way that we are known by Him. One way to think about it is that He wants to save us from all that enslaves us, from all that is not God. As such, He wants us to know the absolute **unrestrained freedom** that is found in Him as we live as aliens and strangers in this world.

With that said, salvation (experienced through our transformation) is dependent upon our choosing to be willing to, now and continually, believe in (or bet our lives upon) His name. But this sort of willingness is not innate, it is developed as we learn to dig down deep in our soul and call upon His name and come to know Him, or experience Him, by His name. It is a learned process. Still, whoever will call on the name of **Yahweh** will be saved, set free, or made to be safe.

***FOR THERE IS MUCH POWER IN THE NAME  
WHEN IT IS ACCOMPANIED BY FAITH.***

In that vein, I would like us to spend some time discussing a pivotal but often mistreated passage that deals with this issue of our “salvation” and its connection to “calling on His name”. And that is the famous passage which says if we confess with our mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved...for whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved. This is one of the passages most used by preachers for altar calls. Yet, what this passage means does not align up with how it has been marketed to the masses. There is far more to it than simply uttering the “sinners” prayer and getting a golden ticket to heaven. Let us explore this amazing passage.

#### ***Romans 10:8-13***

But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART" — that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus **as**

## Jesus Has a Name

**Yahweh** and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER **BELIEVES IN HIM** WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same is **Yahweh** of all, abounding in riches for **all who call on Him**; for "**WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF YAHWEH WILL BE SAVED.**"

I utilized **Yahweh** instead of "Lord," since the underlying Old Testament passage being quoted uses **Yahweh** (the name of God) and not **Adonai** (His role as our Lord).<sup>1</sup> Now, the key concepts in this passage are 1) **to confess with your mouth**, 2) **believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead**, 3) **salvation**, 4) **righteousness**, 5) **no disappointment**, 6) **Yahweh of all**, and 7) **to call on His name**. Over the next few episodes, will address these 7 factors, one-by-one.

### Confess with Your Mouth

This word translated as "**confess**" is not the equivalent of a verbal acknowledgment, rather, the Greek word speaks of a solid and sworn profession or a covenant.<sup>2</sup> For instance, when God had sworn a promise to Abraham, this "*sworn promise*" was a confession.<sup>3</sup> In like manner, Jesus promises to *confess* before the Father those who now and continually overcome.<sup>4</sup>

This idea of making a confession with the mouth functions as a personal promise and a sworn confession, something that is deeply contemplated and considered. It is not a mere verbal response to an emotional appeal. In other words, we should not make such a promise unless we know what we are promising and can see our way to fulfilling that promise.

Thus, to confess with the mouth Jesus as **Yahweh**, means that we are making a solid and sworn profession or a covenant to be identified according to that profession. In effect, this is a strong profession that Jesus is more than the **I AM**, but it is personalized, He is my **I AM**. This is a confession of ownership and belonging because the name **Yahweh** is a personal name, unlike

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<sup>1</sup> **Joel 2:32**

<sup>2</sup> Greek: *homologeō*

<sup>3</sup> **Acts 7:17**

<sup>4</sup> **Revelation 3:5**

## Jesus Has a Name

**Adonai** (the Lord) which speaks of a role.

Declaring Jesus as **Yahweh**, as our **I AM**, brings forward all His personal promises into our lives (for instances, the “**7-I Will**” statements we studied in **Exodus 6**) and everything that is identified by His name. In effect, we confess (or make a sworn promise of) His ownership and possession of our lives, allowing Him to do as He wills. Now that is a scary confession with monumental implications. That is why Jesus once said:

### ***Luke 14:26-35***

If you want to be my disciple, you must hate everyone else by comparison—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple. But don't begin until you count the cost.

For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. They would say, 'There's the person who started that building and couldn't afford to finish it!'

Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him? And if he can't, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away. So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.

Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavor, how do you make it salty again? Flavorless salt is good neither for the soil nor for the manure pile. It is thrown away. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!"

Jesus' words give this whole idea of “confessing Jesus as Yahweh” an entirely different meaning, one that what we may not have understood from all the altar calls we have heard. He

## Jesus Has a Name

asks us to consider the consequences, to count the cost, to contemplate whether we can finish and truly give up everything, hating all in this world that we have loved. He wants us to consider the fact that there are those who started this journey and in effect quit, and they have become a pile of useless salt, good for nothing but to be thrown away. Wow!

Clearly this confession is of great importance and not to be taken lightly. Therefore, we must understand it and carefully consider it. To declare that Jesus is **Yahweh** is to be a personal confession that Jesus is to be our sufficiency for all things all the time. It is a personal profession that He is the one who has brought all things into our lives, whether those things have been good or evil and have resulted in pleasure or pain. It has all been from the hand of **Yahweh** our **Adonai**; and it has all been purposed to teach us how to live as if **Yahweh** is our **I AM**.<sup>5</sup>

### Believe in Your Heart that God Raised Him from the Dead

To believe in our hearts that Jesus was **raised up** from the dead is not so much about His resurrection as it is about Him being **raised up** and ascending into the heavenly realms. Jesus' ascension to the Father's right hand is what proves that He is righteous and supreme over all of creation, over both the seen and the unseen world, far above all rule, authority, and power, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but in the age to come. Like Jesus, others were literally raised from the dead (though none of them were raised by their own authority<sup>6</sup>), but no other person has ever been raised up and seated at the right hand of the Father.

Jesus made this exact point when speaking of the Holy Spirit: "And He {the Spirit}, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and **concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father** and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged."<sup>7</sup> The ascension to the Father's right hand is the confirmation that Jesus, being righteous, is God, just like His Father. It is a statement on His deity.

Having ascended to the "right hand" of the Father, Jesus now sits in the seat of ultimate power

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<sup>5</sup> See **Romans 11:36**, "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things."

<sup>6</sup> **John 10:18**

<sup>7</sup> **John 16:8-11**

## Jesus Has a Name

and authority, as all things (**ALL THINGS**) have been put in subjection under His feet.<sup>8</sup> The “right hand” is an ancient symbol of a person’s power, strength, and authority. Thus, this image conveys to us that all the power and strength and authority of the Father is present in the Son, indicated by the location of His seat, or His throne. Thus, Jesus reigns supreme over **ALL THINGS**.

Therefore, who or what escapes His rule? No one and nothing. Who or what escapes His will or His providence? No one and nothing. Who or what escapes His detailed control of their lives? No one and nothing.

A person must believe in their heart that Jesus, the man who lived and walked among us, is the very one who is supreme over all things—**Yahweh Adonai**. As we stated in previous episodes, with **Yahweh** there are no rogue agents and there is no such thing as happenstance, where life just spins, as He watches occasionally tinkering here-and-there. There are no accidents, nothing is random or arbitrary, rather all things function according to His supreme direction.

Since we need to believe this truth **in our heart**, it must move from an intellectual understanding to an emotional understanding down into our very soul such that it becomes our personal truth and not just a truth. It must become a truth upon which we bet our lives.

### **Practically, what does this mean for our lives?**

A person who believes in their heart that Jesus was raised from the dead is to no longer live as a victim to the bad people, to the devil and his demons, to the world, to circumstance, etc. It means a person is to no longer live believing they have enemies (whether seen or unseen) of which they need to be afraid. Their so-called enemies are just tools in **Yahweh’s** hands, which He carefully uses to effect the *Design Point* in our lives.

It means that fear should no longer have a place of authority in our hearts, the fear which produces anxiety, despair, sadness, and depression. For if Jesus was raised from the dead and now sits at the Father’s right hand, we can be confident that He is righteous and good; therefore, all He does is good, for He is **Yahweh**, and **Only Yahweh is Good**.

Hence, the fear that is deeply rooted in our past, in what has been done to us and the wounds

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<sup>8</sup> *Ephesians 1:19-22*

## Jesus Has a Name

and trauma we have endured, needs to be reworked in our soul until we come to understand that what happened had to happen for **Yahweh** to establish us as His own personal possession. And that is a good thing. He only did what He had to do, no more and no less.<sup>9</sup> It was all necessary!

In addition, the fear that is rooted in the future, surrounding all that is unseen and unknown, must be subjected to our solid and sworn profession that Jesus is **Yahweh**—our **I AM**. That He has given us everything we need for life and godliness, and that all His marvelous and wonderful promises have been brought forward into our lives. For by them, we get to participate in His divine nature. Hence, it is by these promises that He comes to possess our being, fulfilling His goal of our transformation into the image of the Son.<sup>10</sup>

But take note, it all comes through the **true knowledge** of God and our Lord Jesus Christ, who, as we have been learning, is vastly different than the impotent God we have created for ourselves.

The truth that Jesus is **Yahweh Adonai**, and that **Yahweh** is Good (2 of the 3 things we need to believe), needs to become the banner of **Yahweh** which we fly over our lives. But you might ask, “How will we come to know that we ‘believe in our hearts’ and not just our heads? How do we keep from being deceived and living in delusion?”

When the fear of our past and the fear of our future is quieted, such that we can be like a weaned child at **rest** on his mother’s lap, with our hope placed firmly in **Yahweh**, we will know we believe with the heart.<sup>11</sup> In contrast, anxiety, despair, sadness, and depression is a byproduct of our fear. When we come to believe in our hearts that Jesus is **Yahweh Adonai**, and that **Yahweh** is Good, we will experience a corresponding declination in the power which fear exercises over our lives. We will know true salvation, or freedom, from our anxiety, despair, sadness, and depression.

I know it all may seem a bit unrealistic to experience that sort of rest. And personally, in all honesty, the whole thing seems like a big gun to my head. It seems to convey that if we do not

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<sup>9</sup> See **1 Peter 2:9-10**

<sup>10</sup> **2 Peter 1:3-4**

<sup>11</sup> **Psalm 131:2-3**

## Jesus Has a Name

muster up the strength and determination to believe these truths and get them down into our soul, then we are doomed to be ruled by our fear, swallowed up by anxiety, despair, sadness, and depression. But do not fear, there is hope in **Yahweh**.

### The Pathway of Belief

Going back to our passage in **Romans 10:8-13**, we are told that “...with the heart a person **believes**, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he **confesses**, resulting in salvation.” That dynamic between believing and righteousness and confessing and salvation has always been problematic for me. However, this translation is inadequate as it does not address the use of the *passive* voice. It would better be translated: “with the heart a person is *now caused* to believe, unto righteousness, and with the mouth a person is *now caused* to confess unto salvation.”<sup>12</sup>

The use of the *passive* voice indicates that someone is acting upon us, causing us to believe and causing us to confess. Therefore, these are not choices we can make independent of this third party acting upon us; rather, it is a fruit or a result of the one who is acting. It is a work of the Holy Spirit.

Let me explain, a person who is **willing** to allow the Holy Spirit to cause them to believe will allow the Holy Spirit to cause them to confess Jesus as **Yahweh** (their **I AM**) and cause them to believe that Jesus is **Adonai** (the Sovereign), the one who sits at the Father’s right hand and reigns supreme over **ALL THINGS**.

Being in the *passive* voice, indicates that our part is simply to be **willing**—to allow the Holy Spirit to *cause* us to believe and to *cause* us to confess. Wow! This is a much lighter burden to carry and much less of a threat. Being “**willing**” does not feel like a gun to the head in the same way that having to believe with the heart does.

This is amazing news. If we are willing, He will do the work. Truly, His yoke of control is easy, and His burden is light.<sup>13</sup> He will not force us, but if we let Him, the Spirit will cause us to, now and continually, believe. Yes, we will be found believing. By the way, in this last rendering, “believe” is the *present active participle*. Thus, the role of the Holy Spirit is to get us to a place

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<sup>12</sup> **Romans 8:10**, “believe” and “confess” are both rendered in the *present passive indicative*

<sup>13</sup> **Matthew 11:30**

## Jesus Has a Name

where believing is our now, it is active, and it is our ongoing experience. That is His job.

Let me state this again. A person must be **willing** to now trust **Yahweh** just enough to allow the Holy Spirit to cause them to now be believing. And if they are now believing, they will not be disappointed or literally, they will not be put to shame.

The implication is that the events of our lives will tempt us one-way-or-another to think the world is out of control, our lives are out of control, our sin is out of control, and everyone around us is out of control. And this temptation is aimed at causing us to choose to take control and be the ruler of our lives, to protect ourselves, provide for ourselves, and be the one who attempts to manipulate the outcomes of our lives, and so on. That is what happens when we are **NOT** now believing, and this will subject us to shame in both the unseen realm as well as the early realms.

Yet, when we are **willing** to let the Spirit cause us to now be believing, we are identified in the righteousness that comes only from **Yahweh**. And there is no shame in His righteousness, for it is perfect. We will get into this more when we dive deep into the names of **Yahweh**, specifically, **Yahweh Tsidkenu—Yahweh** our righteousness. But believing in the heart that God raised Jesus up from the dead (in all its implications), means that we believe His is righteous and we are not and can never be (for **Only Yahweh is Good**). Thus, we need His righteousness for us to be the righteousness of God in Christ.<sup>14</sup>

Let us continue with our passage in **Romans 10** adjusting for the use of the *passive* voice.

“...for with the heart a person is caused to believe, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he is caused to confess, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, “**WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.**”

Clearly, being identified in righteousness is not about our not sinning and not failing. Rather, it is simply about our **willingness** to let the Holy Spirit cause us to believe and then to be found

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<sup>14</sup> **2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 3:21-22**



## Jesus Has a Name

believing. How amazing is that reality.

This means we can let go of our attempts to justify and explain away our sin, to hide our sin, to stop sinning, and all our attempts to do things right. To now be believing, is to understand that it is all up to the Holy Spirit to cause our transformation. Our transformation comes in His timing and in the sequence that He chooses. Our transformation is not a sudden wholistic event, but something that comes step-by-step through (and in proportion to) our death to each-and-every area in our lives that refuses to now be believing that Jesus is **Yahweh**—our **I AM**. This is the cost which Jesus asked us to consider and to count.

Oh, one other thing, our transformation does not come by our trying hard to be in the Spirit and not in the *flesh*; that is just our religious delusion. We cannot just decide that today I am going to be in the Spirit. We walk in the Spirit as He occupies more and more space in our being. Thus, while He is busy working His transformation in our lives, taking over that territory, putting to death things that should no longer be alive, we can rest comfortably knowing that we are identified in His righteousness, regardless of sin, our failures, and our delusion. Whew, what a relief.

Knowing that He identifies us as righteous is intended to spark in us a desire to want to let Him freely do His work of transformation in our lives, regardless of the terrible things (the sin) His work brings out from our lives. Our transformation comes as we are squeezed, while we walk that narrow road to life.<sup>15</sup> And when we are squeezed, those things He wants to get out from our lives will ooze out and even pour out, as He is freeing us from their control over our lives.

I must warn you; you need to count the cost. This is an extremely messy process. As **Yahweh** begins to wage war against every area of wrong belief and unbelief to which we have held, all manner of evil, sin, and darkness starts to be squeezed out from our lives, and it becomes embarrassingly visible to everyone.

But in the eyes of **Yahweh**, there is no shame in this process despite what we feel, how others make us feel, or how the enemy tries to make us feel. It is a good and necessary process, though

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<sup>15</sup> *Matthew 7:14*

## Jesus Has a Name

it might surprise you and everyone else, what comes out of you through your behavior, words, and attitudes. Oh well, let it be. There is no shame; it is necessary.

We need to learn to support each other through this process and not shame one another as if we were supposed to be good and do things right so that we might be known as godly men and women. Ha, what a farce. The Spirit's goal is transformation.

The Spirit's goal is that through causing us to be believing, we will now and continually believe that there is no better way than the path **Yahweh** has set before us, there is no better one to walk with us than **Yahweh**, and there is no better one to keep us from being shamed than **Yahweh**. This is the fundamental essence of faith! And in it, we will find a reason to rejoice in the freedom He has given us and the freedom He wants to perfect in us, regardless of the means and methods He chooses to effect our transformation; regardless of what gets squeezed out on the floor.

With that said, He makes us a beautiful promise: we will not be disappointed or put to shame. Therefore, it is ok to be **willing** to let the Holy Spirit do His job of causing us to be believing. Do not fear this transformation process; rather, embrace it; embrace death. The results will be well worth it as we come to experience His divine nature or His life in ours.

We will stop here and pick up in our next episode with more of this much misunderstood passage as we will address our salvation.