

## Teaching E-mail 75 Can You Say The Name "Jesus?"

(March 11, 2015)

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

Yesterday a neighbor who had put our repentance bumper sticker ["Repentance is what this nation needs, not government or guns"] in the back window of her van told me, "I scraped the sticker off because I'm worried that I might be killed when I drive into downtown Colorado Springs."

That demons can incite fear in people who believe their deceitful whispers is something we've observed in so many Christians during our years of following our Lord Jesus. In our February 24 e-mail, "Be a Man! Stand Up Against Jezebel!", we recounted how the demonic Jezebel spirit could enter a congregation undetected and then inspire fear especially in the men. As we've noted previously, "Demonic voices often sound just like the voice of your own mind" — that is, if you're willing to listen to them. Engendering *fear* and *self-doubt* is their most frequently used tactic to spiritually silence a person about *publicly identifying Jesus as their Lord*. And following the deceitful pattern of their master, these unclean spirits convince a person that the fearful, self-doubting voice is his or her own, and that demons aren't real anyway.

If you've never experienced the *power of the Name of our Lord Jesus* in the face of demonic opposition, please accept this spiritual challenge. Between now and the day you celebrate our Lord's resurrection, bring up the Name of Jesus in conversations with unbelievers at least 3 times each day until then. In particular, use His Name in a context that connects you in relationship to Him, such as, "My

Lord Jesus...", or, "As a follower of Jesus...", or, "Can I tell you what my Lord Jesus told me this morning when I prayed..."

If you speak the Name of Jesus to unbelievers, you'll discover one of three things about yourself:

1. ***"There is no fear in love..."*** (1John 4:18).

Your love for Jesus flows from a heart that's being perfected toward Him. Because of this loving responsiveness and grateful trust in Him, your words and testimony about him can spring out easily. You realize that because of your intimate relationship with Him, your heart propels your voice the way the Spirit compelled our Lord's first disciples: *"For [I] cannot help speaking about what [I've] seen and heard"* (Acts 4:20).

Your love for your Lord produces in you a heartfelt courage that makes your relationship with Him vitally important to tell others about. If this portrays you, then you enjoy the exuberance of being "Free To Be A Spiritual Patriot For Jesus" as we discussed in a recent e-mail. We joyfully commend you from our hearts, and wish we could all meet in one place to be mutually edified by each other's love for our Lord Jesus and the courage to publicly identify as His servants.

2. ***"The one who fears is not made perfect in love"*** (1John 4:18).

Maybe you only reluctantly use the Name of Jesus around unbelievers. Before you even pronounce His Name, you find you have to work up the courage to speak it. It's as if a pressure

inside you like a simmering volcano has to build up before you take the plunge and allow the Spirit to use your mouth as His to speak the Name of Jesus. Maybe you identify with the prophet when he underwent this kind of hesitation:

*"But if I say, 'I will not mention him or speak any more in His Name,' His word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot" (Jeremiah 20:9).*

Know this: **The reluctant die a thousand times in their shame and grief of hesitating to speak up for Jesus.** While you vacillate, the demons lay siege to your mind, will, and emotions with added doubts and fears. The longer you procrastinate, the more likely you are to give way to those fears again. And even if you do somehow speak the Name of Jesus to someone, afterward you feel embarrassed about your waffling rather than being filled with exuberant joy that you were identified as His own by another person.

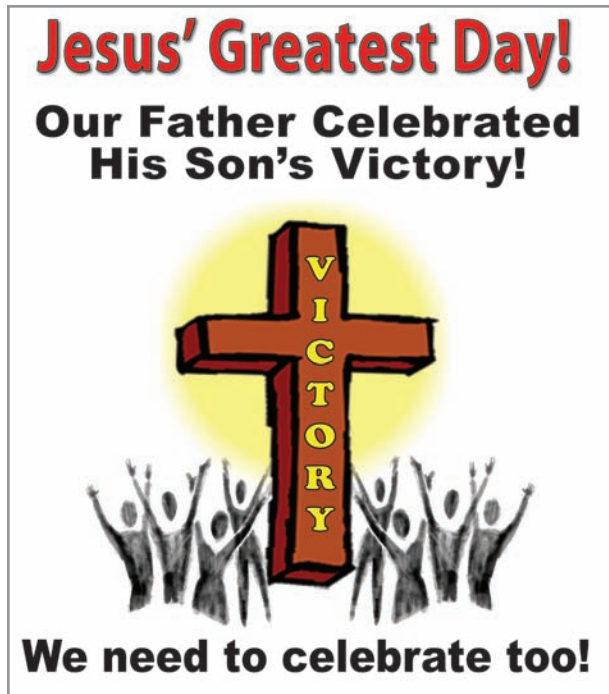
3. **"..the devil has taken [you] captive to do his will" (2Timothy 2:26).**

The majority of people reading this will refuse to bring up the Name of Jesus at all in front of unbelievers; and even believers. Some may on occasion use the generic term "God" with other people, but they're too cowardly to say "Jesus." If you're one of these people, then you need to ponder deeply this reality: **THE DEMONS RULE MORE OF YOUR SOUL THAN THE SPIRIT OF OUR LORD JESUS DOES!** You're already spiritually compromised and don't know it, or else His love and desire for you to make Him known *through you* just doesn't matter to you.

***"Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to STAND!" (Ephesians 6:13).***

Paul's exhortation here must be taken as a call to go to battle spiritually and FIGHT! **"Put on the full armor"** — make sure you can't be undermined by **"spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms"** (6:12) because you're holding on to unconfessed sin and refusing to turn from it. It's in the *righteousness of our Lord Jesus Christ* that we take our stand. Confession and repentance affords us this protection from the powers of darkness. When you stand up for Jesus in your relationship with Him as your Lord, you will be instantly recognized by the hordes of hell (see 1Peter 5:8,9). But are you prepared to withstand their counterattack? When you bring up the Name of Jesus, you're assaulting the domain of darkness. Satan and his demonic henchmen aren't going to roll over and play dead. **IN CHRIST, STAND UP AND FIGHT!** The demons submit to the authority of the Name of Jesus and flee! (See James 4:7.) Test this for yourself — and for His glory!

In Teaching E-mail 74 sent you a picture of the sweatshirt design that Sue and I wear when we walk ["Belonging to Jesus is a love-based relationship"]. What we didn't mention then is that some of the people who once mocked us because of this or had an aversion to us now ask us for prayer in their time of need. And, we pray for their need in the Name of Jesus right on the spot! Still others ask us about our trust in our Lord since they're not used to people publicly identifying with Jesus. And whether or not they agree with us, we engage them with joy and respect.



Yesterday we put the banner we made on the front of our home. (While we're writing this e-mail, a dear friend in the Lord here in the park stopped by and wants two of the banners — one for her house and one for a friend!) Besides attesting to our own relationship with our Lord Jesus, the banner is also our way of confronting a particular demonic deception that's entertained by many within Christendom: **that "poor Jesus" has to be grieved over on "Good Friday" for dying on the cross.** NO! Our banner proclaims that the sacrificial death of our Lord Jesus for us and the joy that was set before Him for doing this (Hebrews 12:2) is His victory, a day of great celebration (see 1Corinthians 15:57). Through His shed blood, we who put our trust in our Lord Jesus are fully

reconciled with His Father (see Colossians 1:19-23).

Too many denominations treat Good Friday as the saddest day of the year. Yet it's obvious that the demonically-deceived theologians who created such a depressing view of our Lord's sacrifice never themselves faced potential death in battle. If they had, they would have had some sense of what it's like to lay your life down out of love for another (1John 3:16). Our Lord, Who is Love personified, understood the heart determination that's required to be the Perfect Lamb. If we don't join Him in His joy, then we've embraced a lie about the incredible accomplishment He perfectly and completely fulfilled on the Cross, once and for all time! Joy is felt in your heart, it's seen on your face!

Please, find out for yourself which of the three categories of people you are if you take the challenge to speak the Name of our Lord Jesus to unbelievers. If you're anything but lovingly courageous, repent and cry out to Him for His love to become your love so He can work effectively through you!

*Mike & Sue*

*"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2).*

In other words, let us put aside all sense of personal need for acceptance by others, and lay down our lives to tell the unbelievers around us what He has done!