

IN JESUS' NAME



PRAYING WITH THE NAMES OF JESUS



INTRODUCTION

Welcome, dear reader. We pray this small volume will increase your love of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Each page offers one of the names related to Jesus in the Bible. May praying with these names help you grow in the knowledge of Christ.

Pat Gohn and Mark Zimmermann, authors

JESUS

...you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:21

Dear Jesus, what a gift you are! What an amazing moment in human history when your Father sent you, his beloved Son, to become one of us. May your name, Jesus, always be spoken on our lips with deep joy and gratitude for the magnitude of your love for us. Amen.

God's message, spoken through an angel, revealed the name of Jesus. His name means "the Lord saves."

SON OF GOD

The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.”

Luke 1:35

O Son of God, you were seated at the right hand of God the Father in heaven, yet you chose to come down to earth to dwell with us. With your divine power, you healed the sick, raised the dead, fed five thousand and walked on water. Yet your greatest divine strength was going to the Cross for the forgiveness of our sins so that we might become children of God the Father and members of your family. Amen.

The name *Son of God* encapsulates the miracle of the Incarnation. Jesus was not just a man. He was “begotten, not made,” being of one substance with the Father, as we profess in the Nicene Creed. No wonder artists through the centuries have wanted to depict the moment when the angel Gabriel announced the coming of this One who would be God Incarnate.

IMMANUEL

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

O Immanuel, you have come to dwell with us in our existence, to take on our flesh and live as a human being in our world. You came so close that people could touch you, hear you, see you. We experience your presence now as we taste, see and smell your Body and Blood in the bread and wine of the Eucharist. Surround us with your love, comfort us with your grace and still us with your peace. Be with us in every moment of our lives, and move us to say and do what you would do in every circumstance we find ourselves. Amen.

Immanuel is a Hebrew word meaning “God with us.” It is found three times in the Old Testament (Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 8:8 and Isaiah 8:8) and once in the New Testament (Matthew 1:23). Matthew uses the word to clearly state that Jesus is the One Isaiah prophesied.

SAVIOR

...to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:11

Dear Savior, thank you for coming to earth to save us from sin, death and the devil. By your saving act on the Cross, you brought forgiveness to the whole world. And by your rising to new life on earth, you gave us new life in you that will last forever. Remind us every day that salvation is found only in you. We can never save ourselves. That is why we are so grateful. Amen.

Savior is a term that evokes the idea of rescue from harm or danger. Superhero movies capitalize on our desire to be saved or rescued from the troubles of this world. There is always one scene where the superhero comes to save the day. But Jesus is the Savior of our souls. and of the whole world

Related: John 4:39-42

WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

O Wonderful Counselor, you comfort us in our need. You speak to us in love. You lift our spirits with your message of help. Fill us with wonder and awe for your graciousness toward us and the amazing gift of your presence with us. We marvel at all you have done on our behalf. Amen.

The word *wonderful* is used in a much weightier way than we use it in casual conversation today. Rather than simply meaning pleasant, lovely or likable, *wonderful* in this context means incomprehensible and beyond anything we can imagine. *Counselor* here means listening and giving advice in the deepest, most understanding way.

MIGHTY GOD

He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people...”

Luke 24:19

Mighty God, you have the power to do all things. There is nothing that is beyond your ability to control. You even took on sin, death and the devil on the Cross and won. Now, we have the benefit of your might at work within us and seek to do your will and understand your plan for the world. Help us to grow in our knowledge of your invincible nature that we might stay strong in our faith. Amen.

The expression “mighty in deed and word” from this reading in Luke 24 was spoken by two disciples as they walked from Jerusalem to Emmaus on Easter evening. Little did they know that they were saying these words to the Mighty God himself who had just risen from the dead!

Related: Isaiah 9:6

EVERLASTING FATHER

The blessings of your father are stronger than the blessings of the eternal mountains, the bounties of the everlasting hills; may they be on the head of Joseph, on the brow of him who was set apart from his brothers.

Genesis 49:26

Everlasting Father, though you are the Son of God, you care for us like a father would. We thank you for your guidance and direction, your firm hand that pulls us away from bad behavior or waywardness, and your kind heart that takes pride in the works of God that we are. Help us to honor and respect you always. Amen.

The Bible ties the concept of father with the idea of tending to or caring for someone. For Jesus, that fatherly role of tending to and caring for us will never end. Though our earthly fathers are not always present or perfect, Jesus is.

Related: Isaiah 9:6

PRINCE OF PEACE

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

John 14:27

O Prince of Peace, calm the hearts and minds of all people devoted to you. Assure us that you keep us safe and secure in your presence. Rule over us with a peace that lasts forever within us and makes us confident in the future. Let us not rely on any worldly peace that can come and go, but help us to put our complete trust in you to bring harmony to our often troubled souls, both now and to the very end. Amen.

Peace is translated “Shalom” in Hebrew. “Shalom” means completeness, as in everything is in its place and working well together. When we take part in the “sharing of the peace” in church, we are saying that we pray that God makes all things complete in us through Christ.

Related: Isaiah 9:6: Luke 2:14

The name of Jesus is powerful! We often end our prayers by saying, “In Jesus’ name.” So it is only natural that this little booklet of forty-six prayers focuses on many different names for Jesus found in Scripture. Short descriptions of the individual names are included with each prayer. Perfect for use during Lent, or any time of the year, to develop the regular practice of prayer (and learn something in the process).

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