

NAMES OF GOD

The peace on her face was evidence of the truth of her testimony to Jehovah Shalom, the God of Peace. This woman, who had never before spoken from the podium at our Wednesday Bible Study, testified with confidence about her encounter with the One who revealed Himself to her during a time of injury, hospitalization and recovery. She knew Jehovah Shalom!

At this Bible study we have been having testimonies from people who have “experienced God” through one of His Names. It is exciting to hear how different people have been impacted by a Name of God revealed in a personal situation.

Why does God have different Names? Names are often given to reveal the attributes and characteristics of a person. God Almighty, the great “I Am,” is called by many names to reveal who He really is. I have a book that lists 365 names and titles of the Lord Jesus Christ as found in the Old and New Testaments. These names starting with “The Seed of the Woman” (Genesis 3:15) to “The Bright and Morning Star” (Revelation 22:16) reveal truths that help us to know our Lord more intimately.

His Names show who He is! Deuteronomy 28:58 tells us that we are to “revere this Glorious and Awesome Name, the Lord your God.” Matthew 6:9 says “Our Father in heaven, hallowed is your Name.” In Psalm 148:13 we are told to “Praise the Name of the Lord, for His Name alone is exalted; His splendor is above the earth and the heavens.”

In scripture, names have meanings that reveal who the person is. Abram means “Exalted father,” and when God put part of His Name into Abram, it became Abraham, “father of a multitude.” (Genesis 17:5) God changed Jacob’s name to Israel. Jacob meant “he supplants or deceives.” (Genesis 25:26) When Jacob feared Esau and desperately needed to know God in a new way, God changed Jacob’s name to Israel and put His Name “El” in the new name. Jacob knew he had seen God face-to-face, and He had a new revelation of God as one who cares in an intimate way. (Genesis 32:27-30.)

Multitudes world-wide know George W. Bush as the president of the United States. Millions call him Mr. President or President Bush, but only a few know him intimately as George or son or dad. Names also show relationship. I have many acquaintances but fewer friends. Jesus called his disciples “friends” in John 15:15. Because we as believers are His disciples, we are also “friends” of our Lord!

People recognize me by my voice although some have never met me in person and have only heard me teaching on tape or CD. Jesus said we could know His voice. As Jehovah Rohi, the Good Shepherd, Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” (John 10:27.) As His sheep, we know His voice when He speaks to our spirits.

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When David sat on a hillside near Bethlehem and sang the 23rd Psalm, he knew both sheep and shepherding. This intimate knowledge of God as the Great Shepherd gave him courage to fight and kill the giant, Goliath. **“And David said, “The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the bear, will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”** (1 Samuel 17:37.) David knew from experience that the gentle Shepherd was also El Shaddai or God Almighty, the One who is more than enough!

I have a new book that we hope to publish later this spring called, “There’s Life in Jesus’ Name.” Please pray for us as we put the final touches on it. It is a book you need to have because knowing God’s Name will change your life.