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# The Value of a NAME



JOSEPH KING

# THE VALUE OF A NAME

**DEEP TRUTHS ABOUT YOUR  
GENESIS, DESTINY, PURPOSE  
AND LIFE.**

**JOSEPH KING**

The Holy Bible, New International Version, Copyright 1973,1978,1984 by International Bible Society

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## **dedication**

I would love to dedicate this book to our Lord Jesus Christ whose Name remains and will forever be the greatest of all names and from who we all derive our genesis, destiny, purpose and life. To Him be all glory, honor and power now and forever more.

## **Acknowledgement**

To God be the glory. Great things He has done and continues to do according to His good pleasure. It goes without question that without Him there would never have been even the concept of a name, let alone value. I am entirely indebted to our Lord and Savior and the Mighty Holy Spirit for allowing me to bring forth this revelation to the benefit of all mankind. I am humbled at the unassuming manner that I was led to inquire concerning my identity never realising along the way that God was fixing for something as glorious as this. The Value of a Name is in every way a work of God administered through an earthen vessel.

Furthermore, I would love to recognize the incredible encouragement of my most devoted partner in this eternal mission, my own wife, Precious King. The times you spent awake in the night listening to me as I revealed that which I had received from above were moments of glorious inspiration. I also thank the mighty troops of the Lord at Revelation Christ that are taking it over for Jesus. Thank you for the prayers, encouragements, and all manner of support you render me as I plough the field of the Lord. For many of you who found out from the Lord your true identities or sought the Lord to bestow such angelic names to your children like Royal Priestess, Favor, Moses in response to the revelations on the Value of a Name your faith so stirred me to moments of fulfillment and glorious bliss.

Then there are the Lord's bankers, soldiers of divine fortune whose treasures are piled up in glory. I am especially indebted to the three ladies in Scotland including my sweet and strong momma, Dorothy Were, who stood with us when we needed to meet the financial obligations to get these works

published in the United States of America. May God make good to your kindness causing you to abound in every good work.

Finally, it must be told that this was in many ways a work of fellowship (collaboration) with several brethren. I wish to thank Precious King, Lucy Nkanika, and my wonderful father-in-law, Denis Kaishaza who used there incredible wit and fine intelligence to critic and improve the work to what it is now. I also appreciate the effective insights on scriptural references that Blessed Masaba provided to give the work its divine audacity.

To God be all the glory, honor and power now and forever. AMEN!

## **Introduction**

There is really nothing new under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:9). What is often declared to be discovered or invented was always there in existence. For the most part existence is untamed waiting a harnessing that will reveal its true value. Everything that God made has value. After all, when He made it He saw that it was good (Genesis 1:2-25). All it takes is for us to harness it, replenish it, then share it, and subdue it, and we will certainly appreciate the earth's true value. That is why I am convinced that living on the earth is one of the most glorious experiences in all of existence. It is not a matter to ever be regretted as one that should be seized with eternal gratitude. This is the kind of conviction that all of creation is waiting for to reveal the glory of God (Romans 8:19).

What so often hinders this development is nothing less than despising the very beings, man, that God has purposed should harness the earth and therefore reveal His glory. Man remains the very epic of the creation story, the ultimate conclusion to a very good work (Genesis 1:31). Made gloriously for this overwhelming purpose, man is the very exact content of God. No wonder the scriptures declare that God has never despised any man (Job 36:5). Unfortunately, the great deceiver has fought with poisonous lies this immortal truth and has convinced many to fall from glory. The Value of a Name is a resurrection service seeking to revive the glory God intended for man from the very beginning. By clearly calling our attention to the genesis of the business of life, the Holy Spirit has sought to dispute atheistic notions that have perverted the conscience of humanity in our times and for so many years before that. Humanity, we must know was never limited to a biological existence and neither was it derived in some accidental process of chemistry and physics. The

truth must be told and that is what the Value of a Name does. In its pages, I clearly argue and explain that life is derived from God and one means of confirming that is seeking to know oneself as God knows you. Find out by which name God knows you.

Many may suggest, as I have been told after ministering on these revelations, that this subject is new. Far be from it. The subject is as old as humanity itself. From the moment we lived in the mind of God, He had a name by which He knew all of us. What I have done is simply harness what many have been convicted of and shared a lot about. Nevertheless, the subject is serious and may have never been so clearly put forth before. I urge you to read, study and meditate on its contents and use them to find out who you really are. Knowing the truth always makes an incredible difference.

I am so touched by one testimony that I came across as I shared these revelations in various churches. I refer to the testimony of Rev. Joseph and Rose Kiiza. They were blessed with a wonderful baby boy and proceeded to call him Joroson (a compromise combination of both their names). Some few years later, they were faced with the dangerous development of a deadly disease that sought to take away little Joroson's life. Stricken with fear but resolved to fight the good fight of faith, they prayed and fasted for the Lord to remove the sickness. And yet, after several days and prolonged supplications their boy only got worse and worse. One day, Joseph sought to know from the Lord why the boy was not getting better. The Lord's response was a new one: The Lord told him that the name Joroson does not exist in heaven and so they were at loss over what him and his wife were fasting and praying for. Joseph was shocked at the Lord's response as he had never considered how important a name of a person may be insofar as their relation with God and heaven is. Consequently, together with his wife they asked the Lord by



which name the boy was known in heaven and God said, "Jeremiah." Immediately, they proceeded to call the boy Jeremiah and pray for him. Two days later, the young lad was up on his feet playing like all young lads.

Beloved, this revelation will make the difference in your life that you have been seeking in vain. As you go through the pages of this book, please let them also go through you. May God reveal to you the value of your name for the glory of His Son.

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## **YOU ARE WHO YOU ARE**

*What is man that you are mindful of him,  
the son of man that you care for him?  
You made him a little lower than the Almighty;  
you crowned him with glory and honor  
and put everything under his feet (Psalm 8:4-6).*

*I said, "You are 'gods';  
you are all sons of the Most High."  
But you will die like mere men;  
you will fall like every other ruler." (Psalm 82:6-7)*

The indispensable truth is this: You are like no other there's ever been, there is, or there will ever be. You are different, a unique being made only in the likeness of the finest, the very image of Almighty God (Genesis 1:26). The scriptures testify concerning you that you are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14). **Like God is who He is, so are you: You are who you are!** Conceived in the mind of God from the foundation of the world - you were created in heaven, birthed on earth, dispatched to the world, and one day, if you walk in this revelation, you will return to the Lord to give account of what you have accomplished with your good self (Ephesians 2:10). Hopefully, you will tell of all that only you could do. *Did you know that God has planned and purposed services and commitments that only you can perform?* That grace has your name written all over it. When you understand things this way you realize that we are divine entities on assignment, *each of us with a talent that no other received, each of us with a destiny only we can complete.* That is why we should not waste time and energy being envious or depressed. God will never leave us nor forsaken us (Joshua 1:5). Rather, He has endowed each and every one of us with a great treasure that we all ought to celebrate. That treasure is you my friend. You are so incredible all by yourself. The tragedy, though, is that many today, and in years gone by, are lost in the business of life.

In spite of God's faithfulness they suffer what has commonly been called an identity crisis. They lack knowledge and perish (Hosea 4:6).

## **IDENTITY CRISIS**

Contrary to the opinions raised by some "experts", I am convinced that what we are increasingly witnessing around the world as people are gripped with fear, as they rush from one faith to the other, as they switch personality from one person to the other, and as they try out this and that and still fail again, that these ominous developments are pointing us to more than the mere failure of materialism and its accompanying consumerist craze. It is a vagary so complex as to be associated with a single generation. For long before materialism this problem was as rife then as it is today. In fact, if the truth is told, it is a problem almost as old as man. Although created in perfection, and even made aware of his incredible persona, the first man, Adam, fell to this very temptation concerning who he really was. Favored by God above all creation, Adam was placed in the privileged Garden of Eden (Pleasure) from where he ruled the air, land and sea (Genesis 1:28; 2:8). He also had the benefit of God's fellowship (Genesis 3:8). So, as God ruled the heaven, man ruled the earth. He was God's first born, made in the very exactness of Almighty God. And yet, when the Serpent tempted Eve (Adam's wife) to eat the forbidden fruit on the pretext that God did not want man to be like Him, she obliged (Genesis 3:5). She even convinced Adam (Genesis 3:6). After doubting God, the other gross crime they committed was simply to doubt who they were. They did not need a fruit to be like God. They were already like Him. Their failure, so to say, stemmed from the false premonition that God had deceived them and that something else had who they were.

And since then, the problem has gone on and on. Countless others have sought their identity from something or somebody else. They vainly hope that if they had this or the other then they will be fulfilled. They place all their efforts to achieve something only to get lost in the business of life. Others seek their identity in others. They foolishly believe that a friend, loved one, or even their enemy, has a true understanding of who they are. In their pursuit they neglect omniscient wisdom. They do not consult with their maker. Like Adam, they believe the enemy who disguises himself in all garments of light. In the end, they are left lost, abandoned, disillusioned, and stranded for who they are. Like I have said, this is not only a current problem. It has been going on for years. In the course, humanity has been lost. All that God intended, planned and purposed for, has in most accounts been put on hold as, *“all of creation groans that the sons of God are revealed”* (Romans 8:19). If only the truth could be found. I believe that knowing the truth about who we really are is one of the most vital developments that could ever happen to anyone or any people. A lot that is lost in the deception of who one is can be saved, and increased, if one comes to terms with the truth. Jesus, that great I Am, put it so succinctly when he assures everyone that the truth *shall set you free* (John 8:32).

## **BUT WHAT IS TRUTH?**

Pilate, that cruel Roman procurator asked a most profound question that many are grappling with. He asked His most problematic culprit, “What is truth?” (John 18:38) The question was poised to the finest mind and most capable court of the universe found as it were in the person of Jesus Christ. It also revealed a deep dilemma embedded in Pilate, and if the truth were told, he was speaking for all men. As a Roman adjudicator and administrator that had practiced across different regions he had come to terms with the relativity of reality. In all of it, he’d lost focus. Like many of us, too many scenarios had brought him

paralysis by analysis. This case, the one in which he was being pressured by the Jews to rule against Jesus, an innocent man by his standards, was the climax. He was tired of deception, tired of representation, tired of taking orders, tired of giving orders, tired of lies, tired of being who he was not, Pilate was tired and badly in need of truth.

That question was not from the foremost of his mind. It was a deep one, lodged in the uttermost recesses of his soul. It was a question that he knew Rome had failed to answer, Jerusalem had failed to answer, the High Priests were ill-qualified, and the Jews with all their prophets couldn't provide it with a suitable and complete verdict. The rowdy crowd that stood before him that morning had after all always been awaiting some Messiah, a king, that they claimed would reveal all things. What puzzled him is that his latest culprit had actually claimed to be that long awaited Messiah. He pondered whether, in spite of his physical state and apparent vulnerability, *could it be that this prisoner, Jesus of Nazareth, was indeed his moment of truth?* Out of his belly he asked, *"What is truth?"*

Unknown to him, was the serious revelation that the truth he'd always pondered was in fact facing justice. Like Pilate, many of us are in the futile exercise of judging the truth. We put the truth on trial. And like him, we prosecute the very means by which we would actually find out who we really are. If only wisdom could prevail. If we paid more attention to the inner voice that convicts our inner most beings we would learn the truth.

## **JESUS, THE KEY TO YOU**

For the truth is the truth and nothing else but the truth, it is not something but it is a person. That person is none other than Jesus Christ, Son of the living God. In Him, was all that Pilate needed to know. All we need to know, who we really are, and how we can

find our way in life, are all questions for which He has the highest expertise. No one knows you like He does. For everything seen and unseen was made by Him, through Him, and for Him (Colossians 1:16). Without Him, you are lost and lost indeed. In Him you will find your genesis, destiny, purpose and life. You will know you.

When you know and receive Jesus Christ, the truth, you will not only fall in love with Him. You will fall in love with yourself. No other knowledge is able to make you see yourself in such a profound and positive way. As such, Jesus enables you succeed at being yourself. Some ignorant people accuse us, we that believe in Him, of being fanatics. They claim we are mad about Jesus and lost in Him. They miss the point: Although we are mad about Jesus, we are not lost in Him. On the contrary, we are found in Him. That is why we sing, "I once was lost but now am found." In Him, we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28). The reason simply is found in the revelation that He is God.

Beloved, God knows you more than anybody. He made you. He formed you. In the book of Jeremiah chapter one and verses five and six, He confirms this to the prophet. And you can rely on His knowledge because He is perfect in all His ways. It amazes me how we have simply trusted what our parents, kin and kith think we are while never bothering to find out God's opinion. Settling for the familiar we ignore omniscient wisdom. As one prophet laments, "...*we forsake our glory for lying vanities*". What makes it especially crucial is the fact that what we assume of ourselves is usually carnal, a fleshly concoction. And the scriptures caution that the flesh leads to death. This is however different from the spirit which leads to life (Galatians 6:8).

In other words, perceptions we have concerning our identity determine whether we are dying or living. However convincing one's current names may sound there is an urgent need to find



out God's opinion on the matter. The parental warning of the grand philosopher in the book of Proverbs is appropriate at this point when he states that, "*there is a way that seems right to a man but the end of it leads to destruction*"(Proverbs 14:12).

And yet God is so available to reveal the truth. The truth is vital. Knowing it guarantees unlimited success. This is what the Master meant when He assures us that *knowing the truth shall set us free* (John 8:32). Finding out who you are liberates one to explore their immeasurable potentials and guarantees access to divine packages God commissioned to ones unique self. There is a miracle with your name on it that can only get to you if you know who you really are. This is my testimony. And I know it will be yours if you are bothered enough to inquire. Jesus, you will find out, is the key to being yourself.

## **THE BOOK**

The book is a commission of inquiry into who you are. It uses the value of a name as the necessary means by which you can be provoked to probe further into your own search for true identity. As a commission, it provides relevant terms of reference that are useful in assisting anyone conducting their own personal inquiry. These terms have been translated into different chapters, seven in total, namely –

1. The testimony of my name
2. You are not born with your name
3. You are given your name from heaven
4. You make your name on earth
5. You do not have to die with your name
6. The greatest name of all
7. The value of a name

Read these terms. Study them. You will find that there is a lot about you that you did not know. There is a lot about you that the devil stole because you lacked knowledge. As you read through them, it may occur to you that you are living a lie. You may have been deceived to be someone else that you are not. You may have been lied to that you are not good enough for life or whatever you sense you must do while you are here. Beloved, wake up to the truths embedded in the next pages. Arise, for the glory of God is shining on you to reveal you to you. God bless!

## **THE TESTIMONY OF MY NAME**

*“Thy name is as ointment poured forth.” Songs of Solomon 1:3.*

There are moving experiences within the human realm that reveal to one the awesome grandeur of God. Divine encounters that leave one spell-bound mesmerized at the greatness of the Most High. The ultimate truth is this: There is no one like Him. Several classes apart, God is tremendous all by Himself. He is the First I Am, The Lord of Hosts, The King of Kings! HALLELUJAH! In encounters with His imperious majesty, one is left in a state of wonder as to why the immortality of God should consider our fallible state (Isaiah 6:1-5; Ezekiel 1:3-20). In such incidents we identify with David when he ponders, “Who is man that an awesome God should find common ground with him, the son of man that He should be mindful of Him?”(Psalm 8:4).

### **LORD! WHO AM I?**

Some five years ago I was led by the Spirit of the Most High to ask this very same question in a very personal context. Sensing the weight of God’s glory in my life as a result of my salvation and His profound call, I pondered, “Lord, who am I?” It was not some casual inquiry or some light concern. Something from the very depth of me, my very own spirit, needed to know its identity. I knew I couldn’t be a mistake or merely happenstance considering the love God showed me as well as the grave responsibility He had cutout for me. However, what puzzled me is the fact that God would even bother with me in the first place. In those hard days, I had a low self-esteem and a damaged self-image: I thought I was less than average, below mediocre. At the time, five years ago, I thought I was worse than the dirt, a ground to be trampled on. And yet, it seemed to me God thought otherwise. Through incredible visitations, visions, dreams,

impressions and urgings the Lord confirmed and reaffirmed that He has set me apart for a mighty duty on earth.

I was in a dilemma: I was lost between two worlds. The world I lived in, the one I knew, and the world the Lord showed me, the one He knew. Between the two worlds I had a hard time figuring who I was. As far as I was concerned the Robert Wanyama (my former names) I knew couldn't possibly be the same one the Lord was going to use in the incredible ways He was showing me. It had to be somebody else. However, just who that person was is what I didn't know.

Looking back to that time I repent for my doubts and anxieties. It was foolish of me to doubt God's choice. I am sure it was His marvelous grace that considered me. In His infinite wisdom He had favored me. Moreover, nothing is too difficult for Him (Jeremiah 32:17). After all, He is the God of all flesh, the God of the patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac, and Israel. He is the God that lifts up the poor from the dirt. His Holy Scriptures abound with amazing testimonies of inadequate men and women He selected out of their depths to accomplish great feats: Shepherd boys that He made kings, cowards that He made warriors and judges, prisoners and exiles that He made prime ministers. A God who restored a distraught and embittered Job with twice as much as he had lost. He owes no one and freely gives to everyone. It cannot be emphasized enough that He beckons to all and sundry to come as we are, with all our burdens and cares, and He will give us rest. In His own words, “...*whoever comes to me I will never drive away*” (John 6:37).

To be sure, I knew this God. I had an intimate relationship with Him. I praised, worshipped and adored Him. I loved Him. But I didn't know who He thought I was. It puzzled me that what I thought is not what He seemed to think of me. Our thoughts on me were diametrically opposed: *Where I despised myself He seemed to*

*celebrate me. Where I thoroughly disregarded myself He seemed to profoundly consider me. Where I was disgusted with myself He seemed to be well pleased with me. His thoughts were too high for me.* They were lofty thoughts. Consequently, I increasingly became aware of the possibility that there was a “me” I didn’t know. A “me” that God had *fearfully* and *wonderfully* designed but had been buried in anxieties, insecurities and bad mistakes. Five years ago the Spirit of the Lord led me to boldly ask the Father – “who am I? What is my name?”

## **LIFE, LIBERTY AND TRUE IDENTITY**

I rank this experience as one of the most significant developments in my life. Something really profound happens when you finally get to know who you really are. Your true identity liberates you from wrong perceptions and unnecessary fears. Finding out who you really are is the first step to unlocking incredible potentials locked up in the treasure chest of your glorious entity.

Five years ago I began to live. Before then I was dying. The “me” I knew was softly killing me on a daily basis. I am forever grateful for divine intervention ushering me to this search for true identity. I hope my testimony will provoke you to a similar quest for your own identity. I dare you not to die before you know who you really are. There is immense value in your name. You are a quality beyond simple evaluation. Rumors cannot define who you are.

You do not have to be entirely lost in the business of life. But if you are, this book is in your hands to tell you that you can be found. Your creator knows who you really are and it is His good pleasure to reveal to you your true identity. Mark this: No one can really identify you by himself or herself. Not your mother or father, husband or wife, brother or sister, family or friend, and certainly not your enemy. Flesh and blood cannot reveal to you your true identity but the Father who is in heaven. And I pray my personal testimony will guide you in your own personal inquiry

before the Great I Am. I am positive you will discover an awesome wonder.

## **YOU ARE JOSEPH!**

It still amazes me that God was kind enough to answer my curiosity. I am sure that humility stands out as the virtue that touched His heart. After all, I could easily have assumed the answers. I had been Robert Wanyama for all my 27 years till then. I had answered to those names and employed them in all experiences pertaining to my identity and life. I lived in my skin so to say. As a result I could have dismissed God's revelations as cases of mistaken identity, or sheer hallucinations with no bearing on "real" life. That I asked God who I was manifested my admittance to ignorance as to who I really am, as well as my dependence on His knowledge of my true identity. To be sure, I did not want to perish for lack of knowledge.

His response to my humble inquiry was firm and clear. It was as if He had been waiting for all of eternity for me to ask. In a still, small, but very emphatic voice He revealed to me I was JOSEPH. He said I had the mantle of Joseph and belonged to his lineage. As Joseph was He said I would be. He affirmed that like Joseph I would suffer and be rejected. Like Joseph I would arise from the lowest pits of failure to the highest positions of power. Like Joseph my end was so much better than my beginning. He told me in very unmistakable terms that I am Joseph. That is the name by which He knows me. That is my true identity.

## **DIVINE CONFIRMATIONS**

And yet my doubts were persistent. Like the self-critical Gideon in the book of Judges (Chapter 7) I asked God to prove to me that I was really Joseph. I needed a sign. And so it was that about that time a preacher visited our city from the United States of America to minister in a lunch hour meeting that I frequented. He was intent on ministering on deliverance from the powers of witchcraft. To everyone's surprise, five minutes into his well-prepared message he suddenly stopped. Turning around as if he was looking for somebody, he mentioned that there was someone in the meeting placing a demand upon his spirit to minister about JOSEPH!!! I was shocked out of my wits. All the hair on my body stood and my skin tightened. I knew this was no coincidence even though I was amazed that God had bothered to confirm my true identity.

For five days this minister taught on Joseph from the pit-to-the-palace. I sat through those meetings blessedly assured of my true identity. And yet, once the meetings were over I relapsed to my state of doubt. Again I asked the Father for another confirmation. And to my utter amazement Heaven responded with yet another answer. Packaged in the person of yet another visiting minister, this time all the way from Australia, who came to the church I attended at the time. For five evening meetings this precious man of God taught the word under an amazing anointing and presence of the Most High. Hungry for God, I persisted through the week "soaking" on every word and moment. Then, D-day came. On the last day, Friday evening, the presence of God was even more intense. The atmosphere was electric. Suddenly in the middle of his message he turned and faced the direction in which I was sitting and said that there was someone within that vicinity that had the spirit of a PRIME MINISTER!!! Words cannot describe my astonishment and gratitude to God for these two signs. In His

everlasting kindness an awesome God had found common ground with me.

## **TIME TELLS**

To be sure, confirming ones identity may not always occur in a single event. Even after God has spoken, it takes quite a while before our mortality “catches-up” with immortality. This was my experience and that of Abraham, Israel and Peter. Rarely in the scriptures do we find incidents of immediate conversion. The only elaborate case given is the novel transformation of Saul of Tarsus to become the Apostle Paul of the Gentiles. Often times it takes a series of confirmations, revelations, and divine encounters before the truth is firmly established in our frail conscience. I mention this to caution against any over-simplifications or impatient petitions. Or even, against any further deceptions by the enemy. Remember the latter is a crafty deceiver, sometimes masquerading as an angel of light (John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 11:14).

My own *commission of inquiry* to my identity has only concluded recently. In a sense, this book constitutes its findings. The proceedings have taken me five “long” years. I am thankful that God has been patient and more than faithful to me. He is my Almighty and Beloved Father. I am deeply convinced that there is no one that knows me half as much as He does. In His immeasurable kindness to me He has graciously confirmed my identity, as Joseph, through a series of several events. I have only enough space and time to disclose the more critical ones (carefully selected as it were to increase your faith).

## **THE BISHOP T.D JAKES CONNEXION**

Apart from the first two signs I have mentioned, two other confirmations stand out. The first one pertains to the spiritual connection I have with the world renowned Bishop T.D. Jakes of



the Potters House in Dallas, Texas. It all begun the year after my first inquiry to the Lord and the amazing confirmations He had in turn given me. I had an amazing dream where I stood in a magnificent cathedral with my beloved pastor, Pastor Robert Kayanja – Senior Minister of the Miracle Cathedral. He held my hand and proceeded down an aisle leading me as he descended to the front. When we got to the front we met a huge gentleman that I recognized as Bishop T.D Jakes. At which point Pastor Kayanja mentioned to Jakes that he was handing to him his son. The Bishop obliged saying, “I receive him.”

From that day onwards I knew that I knew Bishop Jakes to be my spiritual father. I knew I belonged to his lineage in the spirit.<sup>1</sup> And every time I read a book of his or watched him on TBN (in both the Potters House and the Potters Touch) or listened to his audiotapes, I sensed that connection in a profound way. I am forever thankful to the Mighty Holy Spirit for my father’s ministry. And as a result of this sense of fraternity I have grown to love both the Bishop and the Potters House Family. I must also say that I have learnt quite a lot.

I was discreet about this experience. It was too personal and so I shared the dream and its obvious interpretation with quite a few people. Notable among whom is the family of Aunt Edith that I prayed with on a regular basis in those difficult days. Even in that family I only disclosed my spiritual heritage to Aunt Edith and her first-born, Fiona. Little did I know that God would use them in His continuous bid to yet again confirm my true identity. And it was not until four years later (2005) that the stage was set.

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<sup>1</sup> I wish to emphasize that though I had this experience, Pastor Robert Kayanja does remain my spiritual father too. In fact since then, the spirit of the Lord has revealed to me two other spiritual fathers that I mention in the acknowledgement section of this book (1 Corinthians 4:15).

## **I FEEL LIKE JOSEPH**

Exactly one week after my wedding to my sweetheart, Precious, I was awakened in the middle of the night. The Lord hit me hard on my left side. It was so hard that when I awoke I joked remarking that He didn't have to take my rib given that she was lying asleep by my side. Sitting on the bed, I was met with a deep silence. After a minute of nothing I began to see visions slide one after another in front of me, visions regarding my very immediate future. I am not permitted to disclose all I saw but for purposes of this testimony I will share some relevant episodes. I saw myself ministering before huge crowds in open fields, stadiums and halls in different parts of the world. I saw Heads of State receiving me as they would receive another Head of State. I saw myself ministering before congresses, parliaments and in several cathedrals of the world.

I say these things to glorify God and not for my self-gratification. I am not ambitious beyond seeking to do the will of the One who means everything to me. Frankly, I am grateful to the Most High God for what I am today. My greatest desire is basic: To have Him and to let Him have me. As such, I have no grand plans of my own. All I want is to live according to His will. And now I am sure that in His will for me He does have grand plans of His own. They are not my plans, they are His. And it is those plans that I want to be fulfilled, plans that will bring glory to His Mighty Name.

Following the visions, as I sat utterly overwhelmed by what the Lord was showing me, His still small voice begun to tell me that I could only understand what I'd seen if I understood the spirit of Joseph. This was reiterated over and over, about seven times. The date was the second of January 2005. The following day being Sunday, I shared with the congregation I am blessed to pastor, at Revelation Christ; a few details of what the Lord had shown me.

Then I urged everyone to begin to study (not just read) Joseph from Genesis 37 to 49. We earnestly began to study Joseph in our bible study oblivious that God was fixing for something.

For as long as I live I will never forget the 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2005, exactly two weeks after my divine revelations in the night. For starters, it didn't begin like any other day. There was a downside to it early in the morning. Following some misunderstandings in the church, we had decided to return all the public address and sound equipment of the church to the lady who had given them to us. Naturally, I was upset and certainly not in any expectant mood for a move of God. And so it was that at 10:00 am I received a call from Fiona with the most unusual news. She informed me that my spiritual father was jetting in on our national airport for a short visit and that if I wanted to have a glimpse of him I should go to the Miracle Center where there would be buses to take us to the airport.

It sounded out of this world, almost too good to be true. But Fiona was not one given to making false propositions. And God had done so much that I knew anything goes. More importantly, though, *I sensed destiny*. Immediately my mind went to the dream I had four years ago when Robert Kayanja handed me over to T.D Jakes. And now Fiona was telling me that the formers buses were available to take us to the airport to receive the Bishop. Fiona had also mentioned that he was coming for a state dinner. Again I reflected on what I had seen in the visions as Heads of State received me. I knew that I knew that this was no coincidence. This was divine destiny! The wind of the Spirit was blowing and I was moving in His direction.

I must confess that nothing in the flesh could have prepared me for that encounter. I am dazed whenever I reflect on it. God surely is so amazing. The mood at the airport was of course one of great anticipation. We held our breath. Most of us wanted to

know what the Bishop really looked like. Was he the same guy we saw on television? I for one was curious about his height. Was he less than 6 foot or more? The atmosphere was divine. Finally at about 2:00 pm our curiosity was filled when the Bishop walked out of the airport V.I.P lounge with his entourage. Finally I saw him, all the 6 ft 5 inches of him. It was an incredible moment.

The Bishop was kind enough to address us at the airport and it is that word that closed my commission of inquiry into my divine I.D. In his eloquent African-American accent that has endeared him to saints around the world he opened his mouth and the first words he mentioned were a script from heaven. He said, “I feel like *Joseph* being reunited to my brothers and sisters in Africa.” I nearly did not hear the rest. Talk about divine confirmation. The more I think about it the more awed and humbled I am by the Most High.

All of a sudden the Bishop’s enormous passion for prisons ministry begun to make sense in the context of - “*I feel like Joseph.*” His prolific role as a community advocate, in spite of his elevation in white America, begun to make sense in the context of – “*I feel like Joseph.*” His relocation from West Virginia with only 50 families to Dallas Texas and the consequent multiplication and promotion of his ministry on the world stage begun to make sense in the context of - “*I feel like Joseph.*” Above all, the Bishops uncanny dexterity, moving command of divine revelation and amazing ability to relate ancient abstract messages to familiar contemporary settings made profound sense in the context of “*I feel like Joseph.*” Visions, Joseph, Jakes and reality had synchronized to conclude an identity search, not by might, nor by power but by the Spirit of the Lord of Hosts. Surely, nothing is too difficult for Him! Outside our national airport I closed my inquiry.

## **A BONUS SHOCK**

And yet, as fulfilling and inspiring as the Jakes experience is, God is still not outdone. He has given several other signs to confirm my identity. The one other sign I would love to share pertains to His overflowing goodness. I am so glad that the God we serve is more than enough. Dr. Jesse Duplantis could not have been more right when he said, “God is not enough. He is too much!” There is no assurance anyone can have that exceeds blessed assurance. Nothing compares to Him. And I am not saying this because it sounds good or spiritually correct. I have experienced it. I have witnessed it. When I asked God who I was, I was not banking on the overwhelming response He has given me. His answer has far surpassed my curiosity. What is so amazing is that even after I closed my inquiry He has continued to confirm who I am. The most recent evidence was a big but welcome shock in every sense of the word. We serve an awesome God.

Its genesis can be traced three years ago when I was invited to attend an HIV/AIDS Business Symposium hosted by the Uganda Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS. The session was to be opened by the Country Representative of the World Health Organization (W.H.O), a personality I’d never met and did not know at the time. Following a slight delay in arrival of the participants, I went to the lobby to make a call to one of my fellow ministers. As I was doing so, a smart gentleman passed by. At that moment the Lord interrupted my call to inform me that the gentleman was actually His servant. I immediately cut the call and followed him. Once I caught up with him I told him the Lord had informed me he was His servant. This humble man in a strong Nigerian accent exclaimed “ Halleluiaah!” and introduced himself as Professor Oladapo Walker, an assistant Pastor and the country representative of W.H.O in Uganda (a task, I must add, that he saw and performed in very spiritual terms). From then on, a profound friendship was formed that has seen him regularly minister to our congregation at The Holy Church of Life. His favorite topic is HOLINESS!

To the glory of God, Walker has been incredibly used to confirm quite a number of prophecies the Lord has given our ministry. I still remember him calling me after his second sermon at The Holy Church of Life to sternly caution me to be humble because of the great future that lay ahead. On every occasion he has ministered to us, he has reiterated the prophecies God has laid in his heart concerning the ministry. Needless to say, he has become a darling to the congregation and we are forever grateful to God that He would send us a man of his stature, conviction and commitment just to confirm His promises.

Nonetheless, however regular and faithful Walker had been, both to the Lord and our ministry, nothing could have prepared us for how the Spirit used him to confirm the Joseph mantle. Because he had been busy with organizing himself for his new post as Senior Advisor to the W.H.O Regional President for Africa he had been scarce. As such, we did not get time to engage on what the Lord had been doing. Although, he knew we were dealing with “The Value of a Name”, as I had briefly mentioned it to him, there was no way he could have grasped the depth and breadth of the message as he demonstrated when he visited us before leaving for his new post.

And so it was that as he ministered in the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of March he stunned us when in the beginning of his text he bluntly confessed his real I.D. He said, “I am Joseph. I have always known am Joseph. I have his mantle. I am a kingly-priest.” And then he went on to preach a lengthy litany on the mantle of Joseph. I was utterly shell-shocked and so was my wife. Most of the congregation just sat there numbed in sheer wonder. One of the sisters in the front seat later confessed she wanted to stand and ask him whether he understood what he was saying. It was too incredible to be true. But it was true. It was God confirming my

kindred and therefore my I.D. An awesome God had found common ground with me.

## **FREE AT LAST**

Now I know who I am. I know my lineage. I know where I am going. I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see. I am free. Utterly and irrevocably free at last, free to obey the will of my Father in heaven. Free to unlock my potentials. Free of the opinions of others. Free to journey my destiny. I am who I am. I am myself. I do not want to be any other but who God has cut me out to be. And I am forever grateful to Him. Without Him, I can do nothing at all. Thanks to Him for I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

After five years of inquiring from the Lord concerning my identity I have learnt a lot. I have watertight conclusion on who I am and it shall not be removed from me. I am Joseph King. However, I have also learnt a lot about the Lord and His will for His Bride. It is these revelations that I have put down under the title – **The Value of a Name**. In a sense, this book is a detailed account of the findings and recommendations that emanate from my own commission of inquiry. In it, you will find profound and useful truths about God and yourself. You will discover that God is still in the business of giving names and confirming identities. The experience did not end in the bible days with Paul. On the contrary, the scriptures declare that God is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). You will also find out that it is not a privilege heaven extends to a few incredible persons like Abraham and Peter. God is no respecter of people (Acts 10:34). What is more, He made you fearfully and wonderfully: You too are incredible.

Perhaps you have messed it all up. You have lived a rebellious and disgraceful life and are convinced that God has no business with

you. I'll tell you that conviction is furthest from the truth. The calling of God is without repentance (Romans 11:29). And His love knows no limits (Romans 8:31; Ephesians 3:18). Whoever you are, whatever you have done or not done, my simple advice to you is "... see what the Father is doing and do it also." (John 5:19) For then, you shall seek to be *named on earth even as you are named in heaven.*

## **YOU ARE NOT BORN WITH YOUR NAME**

*Before you were in your mother's womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations. Jeremiah1:5.*

*Moses gave Hoshea son of Nun the name Joshua. Numbers 13:16.*



Choosing names for a child is an exciting experience for most parents. This is irrespective of one's race, color or tradition. All parents find this privilege quite refreshing and embark on it with gusto. However the level of excitement does differ with regard to the different traditions of men. I believe the ritual of name giving is more exciting and elaborate in traditional African societies than it actually is in most parts of the world. In Africa, the ritual is not left to the immediate parents but varies from society to society.. It involves the members of the extended family and sometimes the entire local village community. Usually, the search for the newborn child's name will also involve traditional priests in the divine inquest of ancestral spirits. In some cases the sacrifice of animals will be involved together with dancing, drinking and lots of merry making. In a sense, traditional Africa is very ceremonial. Some might even criticize its practices as being so wasteful.

The point, however, is that the apportioning of a name is universally a very novel experience. Even modern/ contemporary cultures that are generally in a "hurry" and tend to cut on the details and resource expenditure still embrace the opportunity of naming as a profound delight. Consequently, there is a universal mood of fascination assumed in the prospect of naming a person. However, what is so commonly the case is that the birth of the child necessitates the need for the name. The ritual of naming the child is therefore formed only because the child is born or will be born. Thus the impression that one is born with a name. *Or to be blunt, one is named because they will/are born.*

Whilst this may be the general assumption of men, the ways of God are clearly different. The scriptures demonstrate a different means of going about naming employed by God from the ones we observe in most societies. God is known to name a child long before it has been born as was the case of Emmanuel (700 years

before His birth) or long after it has lived as was the case with Abraham and Israel. Oftentimes these divine pronouncements have been confirmations of both the I.D of the respective persons as well as the purpose of their lives. In fact the paramount accuracy of God's understanding of a person can always be confirmed in the lives of those whose names He reveals. In all cases the names were never in vain. Whoever He named became whatever He meant. The impression here is different from that of men: *In God's case, one is born because they are named.*

## **NAMES WITHOUT A PURPOSE**

The difference between the ways of God and that of men in this regard is great. It becomes even more so depending on the spiritual latitude of men. The more perverse the society the more different is the naming of God from that of men. To be sure, the more perverse the society is the less meaning the names of its citizens will have. As the Lord permitted me to share this teaching with our congregation at The Holy Church of Life, I asked the assistant pastors the meaning of the names they used. I was astonished by some of the responses. One of them, an especially loyal hand and zealous servant of God, confessed that his surname meant "nothing" in his local dialect. Sad to note, but this is a clear case of the tragic impact a perverse society wields to the I.D of a person.

Unfortunately, such a case is more the custom than the odd in our generation. In recent years we have witnessed the astonishing tenets of pop culture paraded with pomp. Its dubious influence on naming is evident among the most famous entertainers and "celebrities" of our times who have led the show of bestowing their children the strangest names. What is cruel, especially to the children, is that all cases belie an effort to convince the world how wacky, creative and quirky they are as people and parents. Similarly, habit of calling children attention-grabbing pointless

names among certain urban, middle-income folk is like wearing a T- Shirt that reads: “Look at me! I am such a free spirit! I’m so inspired and inspiring (sic)! I’m so special!” A wacky name for their baby is just another ploy in the parents’ constant quest for being trendy. I know a couple that called their baby Qoo Cu, whatever that meant.

The other angle to this tragedy of perversion is the disregard to the meaning of the names in cases where the names have meaning. Some time in the year 2004 the Lord had me share a message with our congregation for three consecutive months entitled – “**Goodness is coming!**” Amazingly, it wasn’t until two-and-a-half months had passed that a sister in the Lord reminded a brother in the Lord of the same tribe that his surname actually meant “goodness”. This brother who is very conversant with the dialect and so committed to the Lord had not received the message in a personal sense even if it bore his name! Recently, as I taught on the series – **The Value of a Name** – I spent three weeks teaching on the name of David and what it teaches us. What I found disconcerting was that the head of our evangelism team, David, hardly attended the meetings in spite of the announcements we made during the main services concerning the teachings. And even then, he never sought to find out privately or seek notes to acquaint himself with what his name meant.

What is more disconcerting, however, are the multitudes of Peter’s, Paul’s, Elijah’s, Thomas’s, John’s, and even Jesus’ you will find that do not care in the least what their respective names mean or care to live up to the grand reputations set by the scriptural holders of the names. It is just appalling to see drunken Elijah’s, or fornicating Mary’s, or coward Joshua’s. Whenever I meet them, not that I revile them, but am sadly reminded of the nadir to which the perversion of our generation has descended. If something desperate is not done, at the bottom of this degeneration of our society’s lies chaos. A dangerous anarchy will

set in as a loss of identity and purpose deny this generation potential and hope.

## THE PURPOSE OF NAMES

Ideally, names are supposed to have meanings. God provides the ultimate reference here. We observe in the Holy Scriptures that all the names He gave His only begotten Son are rich in meaning. All the names given to His Son pertain both to the latter's identity and purpose (mission). The names of the Son have a reason for the Son. This is well elaborated in the prophetic words in Isaiah 9:6-7:

For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and **His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Of the increase of His government and of peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from the time forth, even forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this.

Important to note is that while in verse 6 God provides the names of His Son; in verse 7 He reveals the purpose of His Son. Even then, the names given are loaded with meanings that relate with the purpose of the Child. We see this again in Matthew 1:21-23 where both the name and purpose of the Son is given.

However, the wonderful thing is that God has not limited this privilege to His only begotten Son. Elsewhere in His word we witness men and women upon who he bestows names that have critical meanings and purposes. One of the most exemplary demonstrations of God's relation of an individual's name and his purpose can be observed in the person of Abraham. Previously called "Abram" till he was 99 years old, which actually meant

“exalted father”, God nevertheless changes the name to “Abraham” meaning “father of a multitude”. The same with his wife previously called “Sarai” God changed it to “Sarah” which means princess.

It is important that we appreciate two gifts that are necessary to understand this change of names, namely – the prophetic and faith. Thus we observe that while God employs the prophetic unction in assigning the patriarch new names the latter had to employ faith –seeing those things that are not as though they are – to receive the new name. For at the time God named him Abraham there was no evidence to the possibility of him and Sarah having a child, let alone children. On the contrary, the odds were steep against the name God had chosen making any real sense. Even Abraham, who had an intimate relation with God at the time, questioned the possibility of such an eventuality. In verse 17 of the same chapter in which God had named him he questioned thus:

.... Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred  
years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old,  
bear a son?

He even considered that God might have erred. Probably the Most High was way out of reality. Although persuaded that the Lord would certainly deliver His promise, Abraham objected to the means through which this would be done. And so to ensure that the purpose of God is fulfilled within “reasonable” means in verse 18 the patriarch offers to God his other son Ishmael as the means through which God’s promise will be fulfilled. Ishmael seemed to be the only means though which the name Abraham could make any sense.

Fortunately, God objects. He insists on His prescription and even names the child Abraham and Sarah will have. This superiority of

God's ways is well captured in the remark made by the author of the book of Proverbs when he says, "Many are the plans in a man's heart but it is the purpose of God that prevails" (Proverbs 19:21). Consequently, Abraham and Sarah chose God's way. The scriptures testify that the patriarch forsook his thoughts, believed God against all hope till he received the promise (Hebrews 11:8). The lesson here should never be missed: It takes faith in God to receive the purpose of God. So often as believers we are called to believe in the *name of the Lord*. In this case, we are summoned to believe in *naming by the Lord*. The former relates to the Name of the Most High while the latter pertains to the name the Most High has given us.

## **FLESH AND BLOOD CANNOT REVEAL WHO YOU ARE**

I am deeply convinced that man in himself cannot perceive true identity for several reasons found in the Holy Scripture. First, and this will come as a shock for some, but the word of God cautions against relying on the heart of man when it states that "... the heart of man is evil and deceitful no one knows what lies in it"(Jeremiah 17:9). It may surprise quite a number of people but it must be told and re-told that the flesh is corrupt. So often sin hides in our hearts and even the best intended among us will often manifest dark/evil tendencies. In a sense, I can understand why the Lord did not leave it to a well-groomed and humble Mary or a committed though doubtful priest, Zechariah, to name the important children they were to bear. In both cases, God took the personal responsibility and gave the names by which they would be called. In the case of Jesus, the choice of name was so crucial it could not be left to the fallible nature of mortality.

One has only to observe the case of Israel called "Jacob" at his birth to understand this. Even though his mother Rebecca had received confirmation on his identity and purpose while the lad

was still in the womb and even if his father was a prophet, Isaac, nevertheless these servants of God named a destiny child – Jacob that variably meant “conman”, “thief” or “supplanter”. It took God’s intervention for Israel to know both himself and his purpose for living. The lesson of Israel demonstrates all so well the extent to which even the best of us cannot be trusted in providing the appropriate names of a person.

This points us to the second reason why men cannot and should not be trusted to provide the true identity of a person, again given to us in the scriptures. The word declares, “... let all men be liars but let God be true” (Romans 3:4). Thus, once we have confirmed the evil nature of men’s heart as a disqualifying factor, we must also accept that while man is false and deceptive, God is on the other hand true to self. In fact, the scriptures go on further to declare that God is truth. (John 14:6). I am deeply convinced that the only means to know for sure ones true identity must therefore be to search the mind of God. Another scripture actually goes on to state, “God is not a man that He should lie” (1 Samuel 15:29; Numbers 23:19). And yet another scripture states that in Him there is no lie (Titus 1:2). What God says you are is what you are, period. He is the only person I know that has put His word above His name. His opinion is sacrosanct.

The third reason pertains to logic. Considering that it is indeed God who has made us then it follows that He would know us better than anyone else. All men and women are fashioned by God. The scriptures assure us that we are “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14). And in the book of Ecclesiastes, the philosopher challenges our bio-medical assumptions of creation when he questions whether we can tell how bones develop in the womb of a mother. God is the Alpha and Omega of every one there is. He is the Author and Finisher of life. It follows therefore that He more than any one else would know what /who He has made. Unfortunately, once made, few

bother to return to know from “whence they were hewn” (Isaiah 51:1). The sad note raised by the philosopher in Ecclesiastes 7:29 captures this folly when he states:

And this only have I found:  
God made mankind upright,  
But men have gone in search  
of many schemes.

The fourth reason why the flesh cannot give the appropriate name is perhaps the most crucial. It pertains to what we really are. Contrary to conventional assumptions, we are not cheeks and bones and eyes. We are spirits that inhabit a body that has a soul. Man is a spirit being. And so, the flesh cannot name a spirit being. It takes a spirit to know a spirit. And discernment, prophecy and revelation, the three critical gifts necessary in identifying the right name of a person, are spiritual gifts. They are not fleshly concoctions. In fact, their results will always be diametrically opposed: The wisdom of the flesh is plain foolishness to the spirit and vice versa.

Jesus Christ made this point in a very profound manner when He tactfully asked, “Who do the people (note: people) say I am?” To which the apostles replied, “Some say you are John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the prophets”. Then he asked, “Who do you say I am?” To which Simeon made the immortal revelation replying, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Almighty Living God”. Jesus then retorted, “Flesh and Blood have not revealed this to you but my Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 16:13-17). The point was clear: Neither the “people” nor the “apostles” who incidentally were His closest associates and confidants knew, or had in them to know, who He was except the Spirit of His Father. This, so to say, was not a peculiar issue to the identity of the Master. It was general to all. Just to prove it, Christ went on further to change the name of Cephas to Peter by invoking the gift of revelation in that same episode. The lesson



provided is indeed very profound: Unless the Father reveals the name, any other identity or purpose pursued is in vain. Only God knows who we really are.

## **DIVINE ATTRIBUTE Vs BIRTH RIGHT**

The ways of God are higher than our ways. His thoughts are higher than our thoughts (Isaiah 55:9). The Apostle Paul also sees this disparity in a contradictory sense when he elaborates on the wisdom of God being foolishness to the world and vice versa (1 Corinthians 2:14). In the beginning of this chapter we have sought to demonstrate this contradiction evident in the traditions of men and traditions of God in the naming of a person. Whereas in the former (men's case) one is named because they are born, in the latter (God's case) one is actually born because they are named. Thus, while in the tradition of men a name is a birthright, in the traditions of God a name is a divine attribute.

The point I have labored to make is that the ultimate value of a name cannot be derived from one's birthright but from their divine attribute. This point is clearly demonstrated in both the patriarch Jacob and King David. While both had an inferior birth right in their father's house, yet they had the privilege of enjoying a superior divine attribute in Gods plan and their respective families and nations.

I am deeply convinced that there are several generations of men and women, even believers in our Lord Jesus Christ that have perished without knowing their true value, the value of their name. The genesis of knowledge is not human. It is divine because more than human beings we really are divine beings. We are spirits breathed from the Father who art in heaven into the wombs of our mothers. Before we were born yet names were written on the palm of His hand (Isaiah 49:16). Long before the foundation of the world yet God had written our names in the

Book of life. It is crucial that we note that He has not inscribed or/and written names that are necessarily given at our birth. Nor does he change those names in response to the names we are given at birth. Rather the names He has written are eternal because He is sovereign. And He is not a man that He should change His mind. They are divine attributes that this book implores you to inquire: Seek and ye shall find!

## **YOU ARE GIVEN A NAME FROM HEAVEN**

*On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John."*

*They said to her, "There is no-one among your relatives who has that name." Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John." Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed and he began to speak, praising God. **Luke 1:59-64***

Having settled the fact that we are not born with a name, it is crucial we consolidate on the origin of your name. I believe your true name, your divine attribute, is given from heaven. Only God knows who you really are. It is important that we realize and begin to seek from heaven our true value, our true I.D. Unfortunately,

the need for this conviction is often lost in the doubts many have about the true existence of heaven or the marvelous “unknown”. The reason many settle for the names they have rather than seek to know their divine attribute, is related to deep doubts most people have about the very existence of heaven and God. There is even such a saying among men as “better the devil you know!” However nothing can be further from the truth. Heaven is real and so is your divine attribute. Who you really are, your true I.D is not some myth I am concocting. On the contrary it is real. God is more than real. And so are you. Do not settle for less when there is so much more.

For sure, there is a “doubting Thomas” in nearly, if not, all of us. Most people really believe what they see or have seen. Most live by sight. And yet, there is more than *meets the eye*. The eyes of men have a limited vision as it were. Most of what the eyes of men see constitutes only a slice of what life and creation is all about. Heaven is one of those entities hardly seen by the eyes of men. Few have witnessed the “streets of gold”, the mansions of the saints, and even less, the throne of God. Consequently, they conclude that heaven is a myth and not a reality. Starved of any evidence to divinity scientists have been known to dismiss the prospects of God’s habitation as a creation of human imagination. Angry atheists have suggested that the claim of a heaven is only a device of consoling the wretched of the earth with a fake promise, an elusive destiny.

Contrary to the contention of secular scientists of our day who have dismissed heaven as a myth, it is real. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1); Jesus Christ taught that when we pray we must begin conscious of the “Our Father in Heaven”; and when He concluded His earthly mission, we are told He ascended into heaven before 500 witnesses on the Mount of Olive. The word of God gives accounts of experiences in heaven. In the book of Job, the bible reveals how the Lord

summoned His sons and Satan came among them. Other prophets of God like Isaiah and Ezekiel testify of seeing the throne of God in all its glory in Heaven. The accounts submitted by both these servants of God are so incredible. They provide amazing descriptions of the throne of God. Nothing on earth could ever equal the marvelous glory Ezekiel describes in his first chapter. The cherubim, the four faced creatures, the mighty wheels with eyes on the rims, the blazing fire, the crystal water and the brilliantly lit throne are out of this world. Even more elaborate are the sacred accounts of the Apostle John in the appropriately titled text – The book of Revelations. Here, John's eyes are shown things too marvelous to be understood. From the description of a glorified Jesus dressed in dazzling white, with hair as white as wool, face shining like the sun, and feet shining like polished brass, to his accounts of the throne of God, the multitude of saints beyond count, and the powerful image of the New Jerusalem adorned in precious jewelry, John tells of things more than the human mind could fathom or imagine. In fact, another Apostle, Paul, brings the accounts of heaven to proper perspective when he reveals his own experience. He tells of how he was taken to the third heaven and shown things too awesome for human wisdom. He was forbidden to tell the story.

What I find interestingly ironic is that no one in heaven questions the existence of the earth and yet so many on the earth doubt the existence of heaven. Those who question the existence of heaven must know that it is in many aspects more real than the earth. For one, this earth is being devalued. By the way, it is the irony of our times that humans who love the earth and espouse its developments as the only real experience are nevertheless destroying it at an appalling rate. If the current environmental degradation is unchecked, all earthly things will perish in the next two centuries. Worse still, the nuclear arsenal we have on the earth has the potential of destroying all living creatures on the earth 12000 times over. And everyday, we are informed of even

more dangerous developments as those weapons of mass destruction linger in the hands of heartless terrorists. Many more dangers threaten the earth and its inhabitants and yet in the midst of this apocalyptic chaos we look up to the heavens and doubt its existence. I am in fact convinced that it is so difficult for one to find their true self in the midst of all this decadence. Most people are “lost” in all this mess.

Heaven, on the other hand, is a world apart from the earth’s “realities”. It is a realm of peace, harmony and continuous construction. Being the very seat of God, it is devoid of the confusion and degeneration on earth. The only account of some semblance of disturbance was so quickly resolved. When the archangel Lucifer sought to rise to the highest throne of heaven he was firmly resisted. Jesus described the experience to have been as fast as lightening. As such, the heavens are perfect. God administers every detail to exceptional brilliance unparalleled to any earthly experience. While it is the case that the “glory of God fills the earth” it must be known that the ultimate known glory of the Most High God is seen in heaven. There is nothing in the earth to teach the heavens. Instead, the earth at its best is an imitation of heaven. And it is in this regard that we must understand the Lord when He taught us to pray, “... your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

## **GOD’S WILL ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN**

If ever there was a person to emulate it is Jesus Christ. He is the only perfect man to ever have lived. His testimony is above reproach and is acclaimed even to the highest throne of heaven. No wonder the apostle Paul referred to Him as the second Adam. And unlike His predecessor (the first Adam) Jesus was without fault and completed His assignment without blemish. It is therefore critical that we look to Him for reference on everything pertaining to men and God. There is in fact a saying that has

assumed worldwide fame that calls for what I am suggesting here. The saying questions, thus – What Would Jesus Do? (WWJD). What were His guiding principles to the various aspects of life? How did He deal with aspects of His identity? How did He affirm who He was?

Jesus gives us an incredible clue in the Lord's Prayer when He suggests that we seek that the will of God is fulfilled on earth as it is done in heaven. Having had the privilege of living in heaven, and being the only one to come onto the earth from heaven, it is crucial that we meditate and consider very seriously this suggestion. He probably knew better that without looking up to heaven for reference and guidance, man's attempt to realize anything was void and futile. Consequently, we observe that the personal life of Jesus demonstrated how any accomplishment on earth must be dependant on the will of God as it is in heaven. To clarify on this, He frequently mentioned that He did not seek His own will but the one of who sent Him (John 5:30). More clearly, He mentioned that "I see what the Father is doing and I do it also". (John 5:19). And this is as it should be. It is the order that God had established from the very beginning but because of disobedience, pride and rebellion men and women went astray seeking our own ways and human inventions. The results of these mortal devices were and still are very disastrous.

I believe very strongly that the answer to most of what we deal with comes from above. When the earth was in need, when all had fallen, sinned, and fell short of God's glory, it was not within the sons of men that the solution laid. Rather the answer came from heaven. It is very important for us to understand that God has a will, a perfect means of ensuring His purpose, and He has demonstrated it in heaven. There are, indeed, still a number of lessons to be learnt from above. They will always be as long as God has His throne in the heavens. As long as this is the case, the sons of men must seek that God's will be done on earth as it is in

heaven. And among the crucial purposes of God that must be sought on earth as it is done in heaven is the divine attribute of identity. Many Christians need to know that they are known in heaven. We need to realize that the knowledge of heaven is probably different from the one of the earth. And it is crucial that we know what and how heaven knows us.

## **NAMED ON EARTH AS YOU ARE NAMED IN HEAVEN**

Early in this book I mention, “You are not born with your name!” I labored in love to emphasize that by the time one is born one has already been named by God. This is not a privilege God blessed certain persons with. It is a general experience because it relates to two unquestionable attributes of God, namely – that God created all of us and that he knows all of us. There is nothing seen or unseen that God did not create, and that includes us. In Ecclesiastes He challenges us as to how bones get in the womb of a mother to give frame to the unborn child (Ecclesiastes 11:5). It would seem to me that whatever God has made He should have named. Or, at the very least there must be a name by which He knows it. It is just inconceivable that God would create us and not have a name for each and every one of us. In the Book of Jeremiah, He tells the young prophet that before he was in his mother’s womb He called him. And so we may ponder that since God says He called the prophet, there must be a name by which God calls him. To be sure, God has called all of us and has a name for all of us that He has called. That is the name by which people are known in heaven for heaven is the express stage for the performance of God’s perfect will. This name may or may not be the same name as the one we are given by those close to us. Where they differ, it is crucial that one seeks to know from the Lord for their true identity.

Many, however, have to their own loss not cared to pursue this revelation and consider these issues to be of no critical value. Like the world famous playwright, William Shakespeare, they dispute *the value of a name*. Shakespeare could not have been more wrong when he stated, “What is in a name? A rose by any other name is still a rose.” Unfortunately, this is not the case with the sons of men. Most that do not bear the name by which God knows them unknowingly miss out on who God intended them to be. I for one do not believe that whether a person takes on God’s name or not they will nevertheless assume the person God intended them to be. If it were the case, God would never have demonstrated in His word the attention He gives in ensuring that critical characters in the scriptures assumed the names by which He knows them. There must be ample reason for God to insist on the Christ being called Jesus (“Yash-ua” in His native Jewish language meaning “Savior”). Similarly, in the cases of the Prophet John, and the patriarchs Abraham and Israel, and the case of Joshua (his name was the first “Yash-ua” we are shown in the scriptures) the warrior prophet that took Israel into Canaan, in all these cases the names were so meaningful and implied the purpose of the bearer’s life.

Important to note in all these cases, with the exception of Abraham, it was angelic hosts from heaven that delivered the message determining the name of the child. In the case of the patriarch, God Himself changed the name in one of the many intimate moments they shared. The point is that these names were known in heaven before they came on the earth. They were not only known by the omniscient God but also known by His mighty angels. How this may arise even in our current times is due to several facts. For one, God Almighty as I have explained in previous chapters is indeed our creator and the “All-knowing” person. It is just inconceivable that He would count the hair on our head and fail to have a name for us. The angels on the other hand are His ministering spirits. They serve Him. It is possible in



their service God discloses our identities *as He knows them*. Consider that a number of these angels are assigned on earth to minister very closely to different persons and places. It follows that they should have a name by which they identify the person and place they have been given to minister to. It is highly unlikely that for instance a guardian angel will be bound to use the name by which a person calls him or herself for identification purposes unless the name is in a way the same as the one by which the Father knows the person.

Take the appropriate example of a secret intelligence service sending an agent on a mission to protect a runaway called George who incidentally has changed his name to Kiiza to avoid being identified. This agent having found George will know him as George not as the Kiiza he is purporting himself to be. Perhaps, the agent may avoid using the real identity for various reasons such as the runaway George panics and dashes away or resists detention. It is possible then that having assumed contact with him the agent may over a period of time interact with him according to the name he is calling himself. So the agent will call him Kiiza even if he knows that he actually is George. However, when the agent is reporting back to the service headquarters, he will report on the status of George. In fact he will have a file at headquarters on George and not Kiiza. I suppose that is how it is with the angels of heaven when they come to us on mission. They know who we are according to the Father. However, in most cases we have called ourselves names contrary to the name He knows us by and by which He has revealed us to the heavenly hosts. Our file in heaven bears the name by which God knows and calls us and not necessarily the one by which we are known on earth.

## **THE BOOK OF LIFE**

To be sure, there is such a thing as a headquarters for all of existence. Heaven is the place because that is where the throne of God is. From there, everything seen and unseen is monitored and evaluated. There are records on everyone and everything. This is what the bible refers to as “the books” that will be opened on the Day of Judgment. The most vital of all the records in heaven happens to be what the bible refers to as “The Book of life”. Referred to several times in the bible, it is indeed one of the most treasured possessions of the Most High. In it are the records of all the names of those that are faithful to God. All entries in that book were made in the beginning of time, before the foundation of the world, and will spend eternity with the Father. They will be rewarded for living appropriate lives as God had mandated in His Holy Word. However, not anyone can open The Book. Only the Most Worthy of all, God’s only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, has been found worthy to open its seals so that we may know the blessed names of the Lord’s faithful. It must be told again that the Son’s qualification to open The Book is not one inherent to His privilege as a Son of the Father. Rather, He earned the privilege by shedding His own innocent blood to the point of death for the sake of all men. And because of His obedience even to the cross, God has therefore exalted Him above all names. It is therefore in this regard that God has accorded Jesus Christ this utmost privilege. It is Him and no other who will present to all and sundry the other sons of God who will reign with Him life without end.

Important to note is the fact that the content of this book provides the most credible evidence that there are names of different persons in heaven. And I might add that these names do not necessarily resemble the names that are used on earth because they were written before the foundation of the world, long before human civilization. God did not and was not obliged to consult with anyone what the respective names of all creation should be. In His sovereignty He named all in eternity before He had even

made one soul. And after he had named all, he chose some and wrote those who belong to Him in The Book of Life. These are the names by which we are known in heaven.

However, there are two issues I would like to emphasize so that we avoid controversy at this point. Firstly, the case may be that men and women unknown to them may nevertheless by divine providence assign a name to a person that God indeed acknowledges in heaven. I believe that this may explain why for instance the Lord may not have changed the names of some of the apostles while changing that of Cephas to Peter. It is possible that their names were the same as the ones that the Father acknowledged in Heaven. I also do not believe that using a name unknown to God condemns one to eternal damnation. The way to eternal life is not in knowing who you really are but knowing God's only begotten Son as Savior and Lord. One may wonder as to what their fate may be if on judgment day they have a name contrary to the one in The Book of Life. I believe that if they believed on the Lord Jesus and confessed Him as Lord they would still enter eternal life with the Father. Perhaps if the names were read out loud angels would be present to clarify to such a person their true identity just as they did to the parents of John and Jesus.

## **LIFE WORTH A BOOK**

*So the questions may well be, why should I seek to know the name by which the Father knows me? If it will not have a bearing to ones eternal prospect why is it of any use to anyone? Why should one seek to know from the Father by which name the Father knows them when it may be the case that the current name they use is indeed the one by which He knows them?*

The answer is precisely the reason I have obeyed the Holy Spirit to share this revelation with His people. The answer lies in The Value of a Name. In the God-given name of a person are deep

truths regarding ones genesis, destiny, purpose and life. For one, it is especially vital that we understand and acknowledge “the rock from which we were hewn.” Seeking to know ones true identity is an acknowledgement that you have your origin from God the source of life. Secondly, your God-given name will bear your destiny. As I mentioned in the second chapter, the name God gives us reveals that we are born because we are named. What that means is that we are born for a mission. We are not an accident in life we have a destiny to fulfill. Thirdly, knowing ones destiny will cause one to have what Dr. Rick Warren has authoritatively called a *purpose-driven life*. The name God has given each and every one of us belies ones sense of purpose. And that purpose I might add fits in the overall perfect will of God Almighty. In this regard, knowing ones God-given name greatly assists in enabling one to walk in obedience to God and according to His will. When Jesus was praying in Gethsemane and the devil was tempting him to forsake the mission, I am sure He must have considered that His own name meant his purpose for living was saving the world. Knowing who He was must have played a crucial part in enabling Him to accomplish the mission. Lastly, knowing your God-given name will ensure you the greatest life you can ever live. Knowing your true identity, destiny and purpose guarantees you the most exciting and fulfilling life you can ever have. It gives you the kind of life worth writing about, an inspiring life that will make others discover their fullest potential. This is what Jesus implied when He said, “I have come that you may have life to its fullness” (John 10:10).

Something really interesting about the word of God is that, in general, it is really an account of the lives of different people. Their accomplishments, struggles, faults, trials, legacies, all are recorded and sanctified to illustrate the will of Almighty God. The lesson we can learn from this is the extent to which God intends all life to be like. At a basic minimum, everyone must have a story worth sharing, an account that will inspire another person or

another generation, a life that will provide lessons on what to do or not to do. It is the reason that He made man fearfully and wonderfully. Unfortunately, the “thief” has stolen, killed and destroyed many from knowing who they are (John 10:9). So many have lived unaware of their genesis, destiny, purpose and life. Many have lost their potentials and become devoid of a story. As far as they are concerned, life is just happening. Their experiences are not the stuff for which books are made of. Sadly, they settle for a life less than God has intended. If only they knew that His plans for them are good. If only they sought to know from God who they are they would discover great and mighty things. Devoid of such valuable knowledge multitudes have perished unknown, many times easily forgotten. On the other hand are those who have discovered who God knows them as. They do not have to live a long life to make an impact. Jesus lived 33 years that so are many are still writing about. It is people that know their identity, their genesis, destiny, purpose and life that have lived something worth writing about. The accounts of their lives are interesting, moving, convincing, and inspiring. Reading about Paul the Apostle, David the warrior King, Solomon his wealthy and wise son, and others in our contemporary times tell you that this kind of life is possible if only we sought God and what He knows. Brethren, I am convinced that if we turn to God and seek our names on earth as they are in heaven we shall qualify to have such amazing lives worth writing about.

## **DISCARD HELLISH IDENTITIES**

In the second chapter, I lament the tragedy of observing people that have names that either have no meanings or people that have divine God-given names that do not care to live up to the true meanings of the names they bear. However, there is something even more unfortunate. I refer to the abuse suffered by bearing **a name given from hell**. Usually these satanic profiles reflect a lie of the devil as to who one may really be. It also belies an attempt

to *steal, kill and destroy* the identity and destiny God has planned for the given person.

An incredibly sad account is given in the scriptures concerning a gentleman called Nabal. Otherwise a wealthy gentleman, he nevertheless failed to show kindness to David in spite of the fact that the latter and his army had protected his animals and servants. An offended David seeks to avenge this betrayal by killing all Nabal's household. Fortunately, Nabal's wife, Abigail, wisely begs David's pardon. In her plea, she observes that her husband's name, Nabal, means fool and states that foolishness follows him. The end of the story witnesses the death of Nabal as the Lord strikes him dead and David actually takes over his wife (1 Samuel 25). Critical in our regard is Abigail's plea. For some hellish reason Nabal had been named "Fool" and "foolishness" followed him wherever he went! Beloved, your name follows you wherever you go. I've found out that one medium demonic spirits employ to torment people is the names they bear. Nabal suffered to his death because of a hellish identity.

The devil is still at it today, seeking to assign evil names to ensure that many loose out on who God has called them to be. Sometimes this will be in the form of nicknames that project negative impressions of who one is. Friends may even give these names or close relatives depicting one in a negative sense or even more serious may be actual names given at birth. Whatever the case may be, the names should be resisted with contempt. These poisonous names have a deadly mission and play a seed-role that can yield a horrible harvest. I will never forget meeting a frail young woman suffering from HIV/AIDS in a small town where I had gone to minister. As I prayed for those that needed healing I was led to inquire her name. I was stunned that she called herself Muffu, which literally means, "I am dead". Immediately, we proceeded to change her identity, as one can only understand the deadly effects such a name had had on her. We changed her name

to Mulamu, which means “Alive”, and God honored that by healing her with his grace.

The truth is that the devil too has names that seek to frustrate the will of God in your life. You do not have to settle for it. He did not make you and does not own you. And as a matter of fact, he does not know who you really are. Although wise, he is not omniscient (all-knowing). Who you really are is a big surprise to him. *Assume your God-given identity and you will be more than hell can handle!*

## **YOUR NAME IS HIS WILL**

Life on earth is really intended to be like that in heaven. Part of the reason it is not is that the names on earth are unlike that in heaven. In this chapter I have endeavored for you to know that you are given a name from heaven. That name was known before the foundation of the world and is your perfect identity. More seriously, that name is a significant aspect of God’s own divine will. Just like His will in heaven is perfect so is your name. In this chapter I have sought to bring heavens realities to our perspective. Think about it. Everyone created by God has a perfect name that is known in heaven. Matter of fact, everyone was created to be perfect just like God is perfect. All of us were made to reflect God’s perfect and eternal will and the name we are assigned by the Father is an expression of that will.

It’s vital that we know our real ID. Vital in the sense that we must realize we are creatures of divine purpose and destiny. We do not live for ourselves but for the one who created us. Part of the wisdom in seeking to know who we are from above is indeed that we came from above. We were named long before we showed up on earth and that name is neither a figment of imagination nor a concoction of men but a vital knowledge of Almighty God. More than that, it is both the word and will of God concerning ones

purpose and destiny. While one may ignore its vitality or even its knowledge it is written and known in heaven. The books of heaven have it on record and the angels speak of you according to that name. Like the plan of God, that name is good; it is not a name that will bring any harm. Instead, it is intended to yield and assure you of a prosperous future. I beseech you my friend to call upon the God of heaven and earth and seek to know the name heaven knows you by. Seek to know your true I.D. I am sure heaven, its hosts and its Highest throne are willing that you find out what they've always known. **May your name be on earth as it is in heaven!**



## **YOU MAKE YOUR NAME ON EARTH**

*A good name is more desirable than great riches (Proverbs 22:1)*

While the heavens may indeed be the focus of God's highest glory, the earth is the center of His glory. It is amazing that in all of the wonders in creation God has invested so much interest in the earth. Nowhere else has God Almighty created beings in His own image that He intended to have complete authority and dominion of their habitation. When the Lord begun to speak to me about these things I was amazed at the central role the earth plays in the value of a name. The Spirit of the Lord revealed to me what a great privilege it is to live on the earth. Contrary to conventional wisdom where folk regret being on the earth and long for the time to be in heaven, the Spirit revealed to me that we ought to rejoice for the opportunity of being on the earth. The principle reason lies on the unparalleled opportunities living on the earth presents. There is no other place like the earth and there probably may never be. It must be noted that while names are given from heaven *they are made on the earth*.

The earthly experience is a name maker for every being there is. Names are made according to what one does on the earth. A careful study of the scriptures demonstrates the vitality of the earth in the making of a name. The greatest example of all is God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Several of the names by which the Father has been known reflect what He does on the earth: When we say Jehovah Rapha – we are saying the Lord our healer; when we say Jehovah Nissi – we are saying the Lord our protector; when we say Jehovah Jireh – we are saying the Lord our provider; when we say Jehovah Shalom – we are saying the Lord our peace; when we say Jehovah Elohim – we are saying the Lord Most High; when we say Jehovah El Shaddai – we are saying the Lord more than enough. These names pertaining to God are derived from the experiences men and women on earth have shared with

God. It is instructive that they are names that God acknowledges and by which He reveals Himself.

The accounts of our Christ, God the Son, also provide amazing insights on the role the earth plays in making a name. A careful study of the Son reveals how His Name was in fact related to His mission on earth. The names given to the Son as presented by the prophet Isaiah all related to His mission on the earth. Before then, we do not get any references to His Name but rather to His title. In Psalm Chapter 2 David refers to both the Father and the Son when he says, “My LORD said to my Lord, sit at my right hand until I have made all your enemies a footstool.” To Joshua before the battle of Jericho the Lord introduced Himself as “the commander of the Lord’s army” (Joshua 5:14). Even in the latter case, it still related to what His mission on the earth was as Jehovah Nissi. And yet, it is the manner in which His mission on the earth was accomplished and the resultant elevation of His Name above all names that qualifies this revelation. While the Name Jesus Christ was given from heaven (delivered by arch angel Gabriel) it was nevertheless made on earth. He could not make that Name seated on the right-hand side of God Almighty. He did not even allow to be called that Name until He was on the earth. And it was the fact that while on the earth He lived up to the Name that He was assigned that He was elevated together with the Name above all names and persons in heaven and on earth (Philippians 2:6-11). It is instructive to note how vital the earth was for His testimony in heaven.

The same case applies to the Holy Spirit. Just before His betrayal, Jesus taught on the Holy Spirit. He said it was better that He went to the Father so that the Spirit may come (John 16:7). In that discourse He mentioned the Names by which we shall know Him – the Comforter and Counselor. Admittedly most of us call Him “The Holy Spirit” or “The Holy Ghost” or even “Spirit of the Lord”. However the appropriate Name must definitely be the

ones that Jesus used. Those commonly used references to the third person of the Holy Trinity refer to His person and are not really His Names. The Names Jesus mentioned by which we shall know Him pertain to what He was coming to do on earth. And since His powerful introduction to the church on the day of Pentecost He has lived among us and within us according to His Names. He is a comforter in times of trouble and loss. The testimonies of the Holy Spirit are indeed infinite as many can tell of how, in lonely times He truly has been their closest, if not, only friend. Similarly, so many can attest to His wise counsel. I am sure for those of you, like me, who are curious to know their true identity He is so near to guide your inquiry. To be sure, most, if not, all of the accounts that I have penned down in this book are really revelations that His wise counsel has made available to me. I would never know an iota of what I am writing was it not for Him.

Important to note is that in all these incidences we observe the Almighty God making His Mighty Name on earth. Knowing who He is, the All-Sufficient One, God all by Himself, it must be quite revealing that He has graced the earth with such favor as to be a name-maker even for His identity. Put differently, for all His attributes in eternity, before all existence, in heaven, and among the angels, yet God has chosen the earth to be a critical qualifier of who He is. If God has not exempted Himself from this experience then the lesson must be obvious to all of us. It is not enough for us to know who we are; we have the obligation to make the name given to us from heaven here on the earth. The earth qualifies who we are.

## THE MYSTERY OF THE EARTH

Few places in all of creation espouse as much interest as the earth. The earth is a mystery in that it is often times misunderstood by those who would gain by appreciating it. There are just too many different impressions on the earth. Contrary to the opinion of those who revile the earth and see it in very negative connotations, the earth is a most blessed place. It was not the thought of evil that brought it to existence but the blessed mind and purpose of God. In His infinite wisdom and glory God considered it reasonable and of critical need to make the earth. All the accounts of its creation demonstrate the keen interest and particular detail God used to make it what it is. It certainly was not meant to be the chaos associated with it but a splendid habitation of the crown of God's creation - man.

As such, one must appreciate that quite a number of attributes combine to make the earth an incredible place. As I have mentioned earlier, the focus and relation God Almighty has with the earth demonstrates the favor He has over the earth. It cannot be for nothing that when the creation account is given a lot more is said about the earth than even the heavens. Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning, God made the heavens and the earth." After which, the text goes in depth to narrate the creation of the earth. *Is it possible that God's interest on the earth is the result of the challenges He met in the initial creation experience?* The bible continues in the second verse of the creation account to reveal how the earth was void and formless (Genesis 1:2). And yet, in spite of this frustration, the scripture declares that God still proceeded with perfecting His work. The proceeding verses give a day-by-day account of the creation of the earth, as we know it with all of its features (Genesis 1:3-31).

Perhaps the climatic conclusion of that account reveals another reason to the inherent value of the earth. For it is on the earth and

nowhere else that God has created a being in His own image and gave him power and authority that is synonymous with His in heaven. On the sixth day of the earth's creation, God created man (Genesis 1:26-27). And then He rested from creation. It is obvious that God created the earth essentially for the habitation of man. Everything else He made before the creation of man was in one way or the other intended to serve man and enable the earth to be habitable to man (Genesis 1:28-30). The earth therefore is special to God because of man. This explains why we do not witness any keen interest God has for the parts of creation aside the earth.

There is significant symbolism in the naming of the first man, Adam. The name means, "out of the dust I have made man." In that regard, begun the first experience of the earth making the name of the first man. The earth is indeed the place man must make his/her mark. And when God placed man on the earth, He gave him instructions to follow. He was told, "Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and over every living creature that moves upon the earth" (Genesis 1:28). In essence, the earth is a *doing* environment. *On the earth you are who you are according to what you do.* That was way before the curse and yet the precedent was set that mandated the earth to be a place where one must "do" to "be". The earth, in other words, is a *place of action*. It is a place where you either *do* or *get done*. It is a venue of activity and happenings. That explains why God gave man an instruction, a free will and an assignment so that he could be an achiever. So not only is the earth a venue of action, it is also a place of achievement. I believe that the earth is indeed a place where *mortal men accomplish heavenly goals*. When the Master taught that the will of God be done on earth as it is in heaven, He was not referring to God doing it but man. Men and women must perform the will of God on earth and that is how God intended it from the very beginning. It is also the reason that the names He has assigned

people express His will for them, which they must perform, and for which they will give an account one day.

## **THE MISSION OF MAN**

Consequently, *every man is a missionary being*. Everyone is born with a sense of mission, of purpose and destiny. It is inherent in every person to accomplish a feat for which they have been born. This mission is part of the mystery of the earth. Encoded in our DNA and deep in our inner person is the need to do something. There is a nagging sound in the depth of every one of us leading us to fulfill our mission. In fact one will never be fulfilled until they do that which God has placed them on earth to do. To be sure, there are just too many who never get to do what God brought them here for. Some never even get to know for sure what it is they are here for. What they fail to acknowledge is that God has deposited in their innermost being this sense of mission. To be sure, it takes divine intervention for one to know and accomplish the assignment God has given them. This is what the bible means when it says that, “there is a spirit in man and the breath of God gives him understanding” (Job 32:8).

This book is intended to assist you to begin to inquire concerning your mission. It begins by provoking you to inquire concerning who you are, what is your genesis, and what you are here for. No one is a mistake. And God did not ever design any life to be a victim of a series of mistakes. This was the amazing lesson Jesus sought to impart upon the Samaritan woman at the well who had had five husbands and the sixth she was with was not even hers. After all the mistakes in her past she found her true identity and purpose (John 4:7-42). It is never too late to find out who you are and why you are here. You are not an accident that happened or that is going to happen. On the contrary, every one of us is an

amazing product of a carefully thought, original (as against copy) and planned process that is programmed for goodness and greatness. I agree with the author of Ecclesiastes when he says, "God made man perfect but he has gone after many schemes." Most people do not know the perfect plan of God for their lives on the earth and as a result live way below the expectations of heaven. I am convinced that the tragedy of the millennium is not anything to do with widespread poverty, or weapons of mass destruction falling in the hands of fanatic terrorists, or even the AIDS pandemic sweeping across the world. Even more dangerous is the growing loss of mission across an entire generation. Code named Generation X is a vast army of young men and women that are increasingly losing any sense of belonging, destiny and purpose. If this degeneration of humanity is left to go on unchecked the next generation will have no ability to cope with its challenges. The problems we have today will seem like a picnic in the face of a corrupt generation that has lost the drive to live and achieve anything.

A world of men and women without mission is bound to end in anarchy and complete destruction. Unfortunately, this is where we are headed and something desperate needs to be done. How did we reach here? Well, by forgetting the foundation of all existence – God. By assuming we knew better than He who made us. When men and women ceased to consult with God concerning everything we lost our most important guide to life. Instead of looking to Him we crafted our own ways and vain traditions as substitutes. Convinced that we were wiser because we seemed to be successful on our own we paid less and less heed to the warnings of God. Every problem was solvable, not by God, but by our own wisdom. The bible warned many years ago that though this way seems right the end of it is destruction (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25). Many already are waking up to realize that our devices are not working or at least that we need God in the picture. Genuine but serious questions are being asked concerning

our apparent success: For instance, if we are so well off why is it we do not have fulfillment? Have we really ended up where we set to go? Why are incidents of teenage suicides and homicides increasing in spite of unparalleled affluence? Have we really succeeded in making the world a safer place? What is the heritage we are bequeathing the next generation? Why have all these philosophies failed us yet they seemed so appropriate in their time? Do we really have a correct sense of judgment? Are we sure anymore that we know what we are doing?

I believe that there is an urgent need to get back to the roots of the problem. It is crucial that we realize that God has (not had) a plan for everyone and everything. A significant answer to our problem may well begin with people seeking to know from God their names as He knows them. In doing so, men and women will not only discover their true identity but also their manifest destiny and divine purpose. If we succeed in teaching our children through this divine search we will have ensured that the next generation has a chance. The challenges they face need a generation with a mission.

## **YOUR NAME IS YOUR MISSION**

In chapter two I mentioned that contrary to the traditions of men where men are named because they are born; in the tradition of God they are born because they are named. The name God assigns anyone is his or her mission on earth. Knowing it is a defining moment and also the beginning of a journey that will lead to one or several accomplishments. This is not a privilege God has reserved for a few chosen individuals. The few illustrations we have in the bible are really examples of a general rule God would have all of us adopt. It is the universal plan of Almighty God that all men and women have a significant purpose and destiny. Though everyone is subject to accidents and mistakes in life, no one is an accident or a mistake. As long as you are conceived they



are is reason for your being. As far as God is concerned everyone is created fearfully and wonderfully to accomplish a significant purpose. And whether one makes mistakes or/and is victim to accidents the experience does not negate the fact that that person has a mission.

What is very crucial for us to know is that the earth was never created to be a regrettable place. On the contrary, it had and still has a special place in the overall plan of God. We are privileged to live on earth, the center of God's glory. It is here that we have the opportunity to make the name given to us by God. We cannot make it in eternity or in heaven but here on the earth. For reasons more than we can explain this side of eternity God has chosen the earth as a name-maker. This opportunity knocks once: We have only one chance, when living on the earth, to make a name. This is the only time we can afford to pursue our purpose and destiny. If we can seize this moment we will have accomplished our mission.

It is also important that we acknowledge that only God knows who we are. Long before we all showed up He knew us and planned for all of us. Moreover, He is still available for any of us to know what He has always had in mind concerning who we are. The scriptures say God is near those who seek Him (Psalm 145:18; Isaiah 55:6). Through various means He will confirm and affirm your true identity and in it you will discover your mission. It does not matter who you are. As I have said before, God is no respecter of persons. What He did for Abraham, Israel, Peter, Paul and Jesus, He is willing to do for you. However, as the scripture notes, "You have not because you ask not" (James 4:2). This book is written to get you to ask for what had silently become unaskable. It is not the Spirit of God that had refused us to ask of the Father who we are. He is the Counselor. By His Name He is willing that we know who we are. However, if the truth is told we will find that the spirit of this world had limited

our requests and dependence on the Most High God. For many, even as you read this book, *the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak*.

So much more than is usually considered is at stake if we do find out who we are. Reminiscent of the prophets in scripture I have obeyed God to call His mighty people to *seek and you will find, ask and it shall be given to you, knock and the door shall be opened*. God is still in the revelation business and it is His good pleasure to make known to you your mission. He has the biggest stake in it. Not only is He your creator but also no one loves you as much as He does. More than anyone, He knows what you are capable of. He knows your potentials, your strengths, and your abilities. Moreover, your mission depends a lot on His continuous intervention and support (John 14). Without God life on earth is mission impossible! (Ephesians 2:12). With Him you can do all things! (Philippians 4:13). As you pursue your mission you will find out that your weakness is His strength (2 Corinthians 12:9). You will discover that He is a friend that sticks closer than a brother (Proverbs 18:24). In your worst adversities, He is near you never to forsake nor abandon. In fact, He is an ever-present help in times of trouble (Psalm 46:1). If you make Him the chief shepherd of your mission, He will lead you to times of nourishment and rest (Psalm 23:1-2). He will restore and revive your soul (Psalm 23:3). However, it does not mean that one will not suffer any setbacks or difficulties. To be sure, even with God as shepherd you will find yourself in the valleys of danger. In those times fear no evil (Psalm 23:4). You will find his comfort and constant assurance. Weeping may endure for a night but joy will certainly show up in the morning (Psalm 30:5). What I am absolutely sure of is the fact that no one knows the earth as well as He does. Make Him your tour guide and you will make your name on earth as it is in heaven.

## **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO DIE WITH YOUR NAME**

*You will leave your name to my chosen ones as a curse; the Sovereign Lord will put you to death, but to his servants he will give another name. Isaiah 65:15*

From the time Adam and Eve disobeyed, death became a constant reality for all of mankind. All born specie has to die sometime. No one is exempt. The scope of death's mission is universal. From the privileged, the wise, and the noble, to the strong, the pious, and the greatest, men and women from all walks of life and across all generations succumb to the sting of death. For all the advances of man death remains the most defying challenge. It also remains the most predictable outcome of our lives. A day under the sun will witness our end. Over time many have been lost to its tenacious claims and in times to come even more will still be lost. Death waits for each and every one of us.

### **IF TOMORROW NEVER COMES**

As such, almost every one has an opinion on it. Most are terrified by the possibility of a terminal closure to their hopes and endeavors. Others are more concerned with the aftermath. *Is there a life after death? What is one's fate? And how can one ensure a good outcome in that life?*

To those who are bothered with life after death Jesus Christ the Son of the Almighty God offers eternal hope. Through the sacrifice He made when He laid His body as a substitute for our sins whoever believes in Him shall not die but pass onto eternal rest (John 3:16; Romans 10:9). He is the one person who conquered death (1 Corinthians 15:20, 21). In His three-day sojourn in the world of the dead after His crucifixion He took

from Satan the keys of death and the grave. Whoever believes in Him need not be afraid of death. This is what the Apostle Paul meant when he confessed that there was not much difference for him personally if he died: To die meant to be present with the Lord and to live was to be at His service (2 Corinthians 5:6-9). For the believer in Christ death is only a gateway to be with the Father. Rather than shut down ones opportunities, death to the believer opens another horizon of the most incredible possibility – meeting the Father and ruling with our Christ (Revelation 20:6).

On the other side will be those who never believed and received God's promise in Christ Jesus. Death to them is a door to eternal damnation. Their sin and rebellion separates them from the presence of God to an incredibly deprecating state of perpetual darkness, gloom and torment (Philippians 3: 18-20; Revelation 20:15). To be sure, no one in his or her right mind would like to go there, let alone end there. The multitudes, however, that end there are deceived to that deplorable fate by Satan. Using his vast skills and devious efforts, he has succeeded in corrupting the plan of God for all men and women. Regrettably, so many over the years are unaware of his ill-intended plots. They feast on his well-packaged lies, oblivious of the eternal consequences of their disobedience to God. The great tragedy of the human story is that most people have rejected a loving God in preference of a treacherous enemy who seeks to *steal, kill and destroy* them (John 10: 9-10). This is what Jesus meant when He lamented, "Narrow is the road that leads to eternal life and broad is the one that leads to destruction" (Matthew 7:13-14). To such as those who have chosen this evil path I have been sent to warn of the impending danger that awaits such a soul after death.

There are of course those that refuse to believe that there is such a place like hell and such a prospect like eternal damnation. They even question whether a loving God would subject His own creation to such a horrible end. To these I have also been sent.

Just like heaven is real, as I have labored in the fourth chapter to explain, so is hell. Those who question its existence, citing a loving God ought to examine the fact that Jesus Christ, the manifest expression of that love, referred to it at least 15 times. All men and women ought to choose appropriately from the two ends: Choose life (Deuteronomy 30:19; 2 Kings 18:32).

## **LEGACY**

Apart from the aftermath of death in terms of ones eternal prospects another issue that should bother all of us is the prospect of the mission God has assigned all of us. *Should it die as well? Do you have to die with your name? What should be the status of the assignment God has given us in the event of our death?*

It is the divine purpose and plan of God that everyone is able to leave behind a legacy for the next generation. You do not have to die with your name. Once you have perished from the living it is the intention of God that the good work you have begun is followed through by someone else. In this sense, we do not live only for today. We owe it to others and the next generation to pass on something that outlives us. The mission God assigns us is always going to be about serving others and it will always last long enough to another generation. This is what He means when He says, "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob" (Exodus 4:5). His mission always transcends generations. When God assigns you a name the value of that name cannot be assessed in a single day, year, or generation. The full extent of your true identity, destiny and purpose is the total sum of the generations you impact. Again God provides the best example. The complete value of the Name of Jesus is still being assessed because to this day His Name is still impacting lives. To limit it to the time when he dwelled among men is to significantly rob it of its true value.

While the Lord was teaching me this truth He had a rebuke for teachers of the word today who instruct people to be only mindful of the cares of today. We ought to be like the patriarchs of the faith. They lived beyond their time being concerned as it were about the next generation. One of the most inspiring examples of them all is the one of Joseph. Dying on his deathbed this servant of God was not afraid or self-conceited. Before breathing his last yet he was able to prophecy. Being a prominent personality and one who all Hebrews felt indebted to because of the role he played in providing them a rich place in Egypt it is possible that many did not want him to die. It is also possible that they were conscious that with Joseph dead another Pharaoh with who they may not have favor would victimize them. Consequently, they may have kept wishing Joseph a long life even when he was so advanced in age and it was obvious he was losing his strength. Joseph, on the other hand, was not terrified about his death or their future. Instead, he assured them thus:

I am going to die. But God will surely take you  
to the land He promised on oath to Abraham,  
Isaac and Jacob. (Genesis 50:24)

Joseph was sure that God who had begun a good work with him would most certainly accomplish it with or without him. Joseph, the other patriarchs and Jesus' testimonies teach that you do not have to die with your name. Your name has a legacy. Death or no death your mission is not over till its over.

## **DREAMING BEYOND YOUR LIFE**

Except in specific cases like a person serving a death sentence or suffering from a terminal illness, dying is never something that one is accustomed to prepare for in meticulous detail. Part of the reason stems from the fact that most people do not want to die and therefore never would like to think through the experience. In some societies, taboos associated with considering one's death

prohibit people from contemplating the event. And yet, prepared or not, contemplated or not, death consistently preys on its mortal victims.

Whether one is prepared or not, really depends on the premium they attach to what they have been doing and the extent to which it is affected by their death. If they have a considerable amount of attachment to what they have been doing and they consider that their death is likely to significantly affect it, they will make provisions to cater for it in the event of their death. This explains why some people make a will and some do not. The scriptures reveal that God would have us value the mission of our lives considerably enough to make provisions for after we die. There are crucial references in the scriptures to demonstrate this.

The example of Joseph is one. His death wish was significant in the context of his demise. His people needed to know that God would secure their future. That He would not abandon them now that he was dead. This assurance was an act of faith and trust on the part of Joseph who had witnessed the faithfulness of God in Egypt far away from his family. Apart from the fact that Joseph counted on God's kindness and integrity, it is crucial we realize that his death wish subordinated his achievements in Egypt to the overall plan and purpose of God. He was humble enough to acknowledge that it was the will of God that had brought him to Egypt to save his people. On his deathbed, he was still wise enough to recognize that God was not outdone. Joseph knew that God would sustain His people.

All of us would do well to learn from Joseph. Due to his reverence for God, even at his death, he still valued the mission and knew God would cater for it. Perhaps he had learnt well from his father Israel. Formerly Jacob, God had changed his name to Israel which I believe was the name by which God had always known him (Genesis 32:28). Together with the name Israel carried

the promise that he would father a mighty nation. And yet, instead of his life following the pattern of a nation-builder, Israel experienced division, betrayal, and failure in his family. By the time he was dying, he lived in exile, not even in the land God had promised him. With the exception of one son, Joseph, there was not much to relate the promise of God with his dysfunctional family. Instead of quitting on God's promise and despairing on the future of his large family in a foreign land, this patriarch on his deathbed made a powerful death wish. He still valued the mission. He called one by one of his children, from the youngest to the oldest, and prophesied. He spoke words of courage, kindness and hope to a family that had caused him pain and risked him everything he held dear (Genesis 49). It is that dying wish that bore the great nation of Israel.

On his deathbed, Israel trusted God to continue where he had failed. He humbled himself to the sovereign power of God. He was wise enough to consider that his death could not negate God's promise. The great nation that God had promised his fathers Abraham and Isaac did not need his fathering as much as they needed God's omnipotent power. Even in a foreign land, against all odds, Israel's dying wish is a testament on how we should trust God with the future of our mission.

The most moving account of one's complete consideration of others and confidence in God at the point of death is that of Jesus Christ. The death of Jesus is a unique subject in many ways. First, against conventional wisdom He regularly spoke of and contemplated His own death (Matthew 12:39-41; 16:4; 16:21; Mark 14:8; Luke 18:32; Luke 20:14, 15; John 12:23-24). Several times He spoke of being arrested and handed over to die. One can even say that He wished to die. He spoke about it metaphorically but also plainly. He spoke about it to strangers as well as to those who were close to Him. He spoke about it to those who would be glad at His death and to those who would be



terrified by it. He spoke about it till it happened just as He had spoken. Secondly, both Him and His adversaries saw His death in missionary terms. The chief priest, one of his key nemeses, considered that it was better that they had Him killed for the sake of preserving their religious status quo (John 18:14). On the other hand, Jesus saw His death as a means of delivering man from the power of sin and death (John 10:15). He offered His body as atonement for the sin of all men (Mark 10:45). His death was at once the wish of those who hated Him but also His wish because He loved all of us. Thirdly, in His death Jesus demonstrated utmost confidence in God (Luke 23:46). His death was after all a mission assigned Him by His Father. Although, He gladly laid down His life He also did it in obedience to the One who had sent Him. It was never an easy feat. The prospect of suffering death and carrying the sins of everyone was more than anyone was willing to do (Revelation 5:3). Sensing the full weight of the oncoming event at Gethsemane He pleaded, "Take this cup away from me but not as I will but as you will" (Luke 22:42). When He breathed His last He committed His spirit to the Father.

Jesus, Israel and Joseph teach us how to die. In their experience, we witness how they invoke the power of the death wish. We observe that one need not fear death. Dying does not have to be a terrifying experience when it can actually be an opportunity for one to love, trust and have faith in the everlasting God. Because He transcends generations we can trust in Him to cater for what He started with us. It is from the depth of such confidence in God and consideration for others that ones name transcends their death. We see how Israel's name lived on as a result of the example he showed his son and the desire he had for his sons. Joseph's name continued to live in the hearts of all Hebrews even in the face of a Pharaoh who did not know him. When the time came for their deliverance, 400 years later, they still remembered his will that his remains be buried with those of his fathers in Canaan. And the blessed Name of Jesus continues to live two

millennia after His horrific crucifixion. The message of the cross on which He died, the reasons for which He died, His faith and confidence in God still inspire people today from all walks of life. One's attitude in death may well determine whether their name will die with them or whether it will make it to the next generation.

## **THE GIFT OF PARENTING**

The most convincing evidence that God would not have us die with our names is the marvelous gift of parenting. In the account of man's creation in Genesis, God creates man and commands him to multiply and fill the earth. Inherent in that command laid the divine desire for the names of people being passed on to the next generation. As we have observed in the case of Israel, in spite of their grave weaknesses Israel's children were used by God to transcend the name of His servant. Today we have the sons and daughters of Israel because of the gift of parenting. The testimony of Israel also demonstrates that every child, irrespective of its accomplishments, is a precious gift from God.

Israel probably valued all his children as a result of the testimony he may have received regarding his grandfather Abraham. Old in years Abraham and his wife Sarah had not been able to have children. In the fifteenth chapter of Genesis, a rather despairing Abraham pleaded with God for children to inherit his property (Genesis 15:3). The scripture says God promised him a child called Isaac (Genesis 17:19). Because Abraham believed God against all hope it was credited to him as righteousness and every one that has faith in God is called son of Abraham (Romans 4:22; Galatians 3:29). His faith in God resulted not only in the birth of a son but also in the transcendence of his name to other generations. It is amazing how the citizens of the nation of Israel are also the children of Abraham.

It is important that we realize today how God has positioned the institution of family to realize His will and how this is also the tool through which ones name shall transcend to the next generation. Throughout the scriptures you will observe that God's promises and blessings are usually committed to a lineage more than to a person per se. God loves working with families. He is also a family God providing the chief example of how to share a mission with His own Son. The scriptures declare that, "*God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son that whoever may believe in Him should not perish but have eternal life*" (John 3:16). Jesus, the Son, demonstrated the perfect relation between parent and child by depending entirely on the Father and obeying even to the point of death. Many times He denied seeking His own will but that of the Father (John 5:19; 7:16). Powerful virtues ensured that their relation is intact. The most critical one is *love*. Jesus' love for the Father was so profound (John 14:31). When Philip requested to see the Father, Jesus assured Him that He and the Father are one (John 14:8-11). Other virtues that we all can learn from the family of God are *respect, trust, faith, obedience, and humility*. God was able to impart the power of His Name upon His Son because the Son possessed and was willing to learn these virtues.

It is not enough that we pass on our family names to the next generation as it is necessary that we share in the same vision and mission. In saying so, I am not discounting the value of name inheritance. Rather, I intend that parents while sharing surnames with their children teach the latter the same missions and virtues that define that specific family. None of the children of Abraham, Isaac or Israel bore their fathers surname but they nevertheless kept their names known and active by fulfilling their father's mission. The family, so to say, is supposed to be the first place a child receives any form of training on virtues and values. The role of parents does not end in bearing children. That is where it begins. And every child in the hands of a parent is both a divine assignment and opportunity from God for the purpose of

preserving the family name. Parents ought to take it seriously as they will have to give an account before God Almighty as to how well they handled the opportunity. If it is not well done, parenting will not offer the opportunity of transcending one's name and in some cases God has been known to remove the family mission and give it to another. This was the case of Eli and his riotous sons that desecrated God's ministry. God removed the priesthood from Eli's lineage and assigned all spiritual functions to Prophet Samuel (1 Samuel 2:27-36; 3:11-4:1). Other cases of the consequences of bad parenting can be witnessed in the tragedy of several of Israel's kings whose faithless sons lost the throne to other persons. When done well, as in the case of God and His Son, parenting is a powerful tool for transcending one's name to the next generation.

## **PASSING ON SPIRITUAL MANTLES**

One other means exists through which names can outlive their subject. It pertains to the passing on of spiritual mantles. This particular means of preserving a name through the times relates to the practice of imparting the anointing of God from one person (usually, a spiritual mentor/father) to another (usually, a spiritual son/servant/student). The relation may be familial in the biological sense as was the case of Abraham, Isaac and Israel or it may be entirely spiritual without any family ties as was the case with the prophet Elijah anointing Elisha to be a prophet in his place. It is important that we understand today the value of passing on spiritual mantles as this is a vital means through which God has preserved not only the names, and therefore missions, of His servants but it has played a crucial role in reviving the people of God through the times.

Crucial in the exercise is the role-played by the anointing. The mentor's mantle is really the anointing under which they have been operating. The act of impartation is in a sense an admission

by a mentor that they have only accomplished what they did by the power of God and that that is what it takes to fulfill one's mission on earth. It is also vital we understand that passing on a mantle to another generation is always in obedience to God and is carefully guided and determined by God. One cannot always pass on the mantle without consulting with God. Any such exercise will only be formal but devoid of any potency. This was the experience of Isaac, Eli and Saul. Although Isaac's favorite son was Esau and not Israel, God did not permit him to impart the anointing on the former. At the critical time as he was about to die, Israel manipulated the ceremony of impartation and stole the blessing to Esau's dismay (Genesis 27:1-40). In the case of Eli the High Priest, God removed the privilege of spiritual authority from the house of Eli and bestowed the anointing on Samuel. The case of Saul is even more revealing. Here is a king God had chosen by Himself to rule His people (1 Samuel 10:2). Unfortunately, because of his own disobedience God removed the privilege of leadership from his family to that of the house of Jesse (1 Samuel 15:23). This was in spite of the fact that Saul's chosen heir, his first-born Jonathan, was apparent. But even in the house of Jesse, God did not leave it to Jesse to choose his first-born and favorite, Eliab. Rebuking Samuel who had gone to perform the impartation ceremony for the next king of Israel and for a moment was considering Jesse's choice God reveals how He makes his choices. He said thus:

Do not consider his appearance or height, for I  
have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the  
things man looks at. Man looks at the  
outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the  
heart (1 Samuel 16:7).

Passing on the mantle is never to be a casual exercise as some ministers today make it appear in revival conferences. It takes more than a laying on of hands for God to transfer an anointing from one person to another. Too many believers, and indeed,

servants of the Lord seek to receive an impartation of anointing from one minister (usually one they highly regard – in my case, Bishop T.D Jakes) without regard to the cost of that anointing. God will test the heart to assume whether one can indeed qualify for the sought after impartation and if He finds that ones heart is not ready yet He will just not transfer the anointing. That is why it is so crucial that when we attend pastoral, leadership or revival conferences we first examine the condition of our heart.

The case of Elisha reveals just how serious the matter is. We do not know how long Elisha had been Elijah's servant before he asked for the double portion of his masters anointing (2 Kings 2:9-14). However, what is clear is that the young servant had evidently paid a dear price to reach that point in time. Previously a successful farmer, the young man had slain all his oxen, destroyed all his tools, and given up his trade and property to serve the Lord under Elijah (1 Kings 19:19-21). His commitment in the ministry was certainly serious so much that even when the prophet himself and other prophets discouraged him he still persisted in his service to the end (2 Kings 2:1-6). Even then, when he asked for the mantle of his master, Elijah still told him he had asked for a difficult thing (2 Kings 2:10). Elijah set a condition: If the young man witnessed his departure then he would indeed have the mantle (2 Kings 2:10). God must have considered the young man's faithfulness and permitted him to pass the test. Later on, everyone that knew his masters ministry confessed that the anointing of Elijah had come upon him (2 Kings 2:15).

The accounts of David and Elisha demonstrate that four attributes are vital if anyone must qualify to receive a spiritual mantle, namely – humility, faithfulness, obedience and persistence. Dressing similar attire with a servant of God can never give you their anointing as David demonstrated when Saul sought that he wears his armor in the fight against Goliath (1 Samuel 17:38-40). Neither does merely associating with a servant

of God guarantee impartation, as it was not so much Elijah's association as his faithfulness and persistence. Elijah had after all had another servant before Elisha who never received the mantle (1 Kings 18:43-44). It is also instructive that David did not assume the throne of Israel because of any assistance of Saul. Instead, once it was obvious to Saul that David had the mantle to rule Israel (and not Jonathan) he hated him and chased him from the palace (1 Samuel 19). The point is that any virtuous person paying due diligence to the call of God and willing to suffer even to the point of death will certainly qualify for the anointing. *The mantle is a privilege but it comes at a price.*

## **IT'S NOT OVER TILL ITS OVER**

Death is not an end. Seen in its right perspective it is in fact a means to an end. Although terminal for those who do not acknowledge and obey His Son, it is the beginning of an eternal life with God in glory for those who have submitted to Christ as Lord. Those who have this privilege were known even before the foundation of the earth. Their names were inscribed in the Lambs book of life. That is as far as life in eternity is concerned.

Other than that, life on earth continues in spite of death. This is regardless of ones status. The testimonies of Joseph and Jesus at their death point illustrate this reality. While both were indeed most vital personalities they were nonetheless sober enough to realize that their death need not despair those who had depended on them. Instead, both of them saw exceeding hope after their death. In Jesus' case, His death was the master key to all mankind's hope for an eternal life with God. As such they demonstrate how ones name can indeed transcend their death. They underscore the importance of having a legacy. You too can be remembered a long time after today.

Knowing that there remains a prospect even regarding ones life after death removes the horror associated with dying. It is amazing how Joseph who had been a dreamer from his youth still held a dream in his death. He dreamt of the freedom of his people and their return to the Promised Land. Joseph's dream in the face of his death is a lesson on how to die. Rather than feel sorry for oneself, or be afraid of what lies ahead for those we live behind, the Joseph's of this world pass on the baton of life to another generation. They know it's not over yet. Even after death God is still in charge and your name can live in the fulfillment of ones dream at their deathbed.

Children may make it even a lot easier to die if they have been directed well to know their mission. In this sense, they are a welcome gift from God. The calling of God often times is made to a biological lineage. As such, God has provided a natural means for the supernatural privilege of a name living beyond ones mortal existence. *Very critical is the need to prayerfully inquire from the Lord the names of the children He gives.* More often than not such names will reveal the continuation of a family tradition/shared calling in so doing enabling a given name to live beyond its bearer.

Finally, we have seen the spiritual blessing of transferring the anointing from one person to another. So often this privilege enables God to accomplish a purpose He begun with someone. For instance, we witness in the scriptures how Elisha was able to accomplish the work Elijah had been called to do. Similarly, when the Master left for heaven He sent His mantle to the Church, the Holy Spirit, who has enabled the Church to continue from where He left. I believe as we approach the last days, we need to be more eager to receive and pass on mantles so that we may accomplish the great work begun by the Lord. So much waits to be done before the end of history, as we know it. I am fully persuaded that the Church should not relax, that death is not a terminal threat once we are at right standing with God, that we



need not despair at the seemingly unaccomplished tasks we leave behind when we die, that you do not have to settle for current opinions on who you are, that the value of a name need not be complete during ones lifespan as ***it is not over till it's over!***

## **THE TESTIMONY OF THE GREATEST NAME**

*So He became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. (Hebrews 4:11)*

*Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father  
(Philippians 2:9 -11).*

*Naught but the name of Jesus can restrain the impulse of anger, repress the swelling of pride, cure the wound of envy, bridle the onslaught of luxury, extinguish the flame of carnal desire – can temper avarice, and put to flight impure and ignoble thoughts. Bernard of Clairvaux “On the Name of Jesus.”*

*Flog your enemies with the name of Jesus, for there is no weapon more powerful in heaven or on earth.” John Climacus “Ladder of Divine Ascent.”*

No person qualifies *The Value of a Name* like Jesus Christ. His testimony demonstrates that a name is a most vital blessing. In His Name all things were made, seen and unseen (John 1:3). All beings derive their life and are sustained by His Name. He has the greatest Name of all, in heaven and on earth. Nothing and no one compares to Him. He is the first born of all creation, the alpha and the omega, the author and finisher of our faith, the savior of the world. The measure of His Name can never be fully comprehended by the human mind. Only the Father and the Holy Spirit really know His true value. However, this virtue and privilege was not always the case neither was it an inherent attribute. He inherited it (Hebrews 1:4) and qualified for it (Revelation 5:1-6). The scriptures reveal that He learnt obedience by the things He suffered and as a result God exalted Him and has given Him a Name above all names (Philippians 2:7-11). At His Name, devils tremble, mountains move, the sick are healed and the dead are raised. No other name in heaven, on earth and under the earth is greater than His.

The early church so highly regarded the name of Jesus and as a result witnessed first hand its awesome power. They worked great miracles by the name of Jesus (Acts 4:10); they preached and taught by the name of Jesus (Acts 4:17-18; 5:28); and, they baptized in the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38). They so revered the name that they were willing to suffer and die for it (Acts 5:28-33; 9:21-24; 15:26). They knew that the name was vital for salvation. Preaching at the temple Peter said, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). Their submission to the name was total and they knew that everything they did or said ought to be done by the name of Jesus (Colossians 3:17).

Since then, multitudes upon multitudes have reliably depended on the name of Jesus. The name works whenever it is called in faith. Many through the ages can testify to its power and tenacity. The name never fails. The lonely have found a companion in the name; the sick have found a doctor in the name; the lost have been found by the name; the troubled have found peace in the name; the weak have found great strength in the name; and, the poor made rich by the name. As a result, quite a vast following can be found of men and women devoted to the precious name of Jesus. The special devotion of the Franciscan priest, Rev. Bernadine of Siena (1380 – 1444) to the Lord and to His Name in particular is a notable reference. His prayer regarding the name offers a moving assessment of the Name – *“Jesus, Name full of glory, grace, love and strength! You are the refuge of those who repent, our banner of warfare in this life, the medicine of souls, the comfort of those who mourn, the delight of those who believe, the light of those who preach the true faith, the wages of those who toil, the healing of the sick. To You our devotion aspires; by You our prayers are received; we delight in contemplating You. O Name of Jesus, You are the glory of all the saints for eternity. Amen”*

## **HE WAS NOT BORN WITH HIS NAME**

Long before His birth in Bethlehem, He was. Living in eternity with the Father before the foundation of the heaven, earth and everything He is the first born of all creation. Before He dwelled on the earth in flesh Jesus Christ was existent. This is what the Apostle John meant when He mentions in the opening of his gospel account referring to Him as the word of God (John 1:1-3). He was with the Father and is one with the Father. This revelation was not, and is still not, one that many find easy to believe but it is nevertheless true. When the teachers confronted him comparing Him with Abraham, the patriarch of the faith that lived in 4000 B. C, Jesus retorted that, “before Abraham was born, I am!” (John 8:58). Their eyes were closed to the ancient I am who they had

been waiting for. They did not know that He was the same one that had appeared to Abraham as Melchizedek, the kingly-priest (Genesis 14:18-20; Hebrews 7). He was also the same one that appeared with two other angels to confirm to Abraham the promise of a child and to judge the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18). In fact, because of the love Abraham had for Him, the patriarch longed for a time when God would dwell among men. It is this desire that Jesus referred to when He said, "Abraham saw my days and he rejoiced" (John 8:56).

Before the Messiah was born in the little town of Bethlehem He had already been given the name. To understand this, one has to appreciate the meaning of the name Jesus and the prophecies of His coming. The earliest prophecy on the name by which He will be called was given to the prophet Isaiah and the latest was the angelic pronouncements made to Mary and Joseph just before His birth. The familiar passage of Isaiah 9:6 referring to the Son of God mentions the intrinsic value of the name of Jesus Christ. These values are largely looked over with little regard for revelation as to the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of Almighty God. However, a careful consideration of the names mentioned reveal much concerning the name Jesus Christ. "Wonderful", which is from the Hebrew word "pele" means a "Miracle, Extraordinary" pertains to something inexplicable to mankind and is often employed when describing something divine. "Wonderful" affirms that the Messiah is God Himself manifested by a miracle. "Counselor" is from the Hebrew word "ya'ats" meaning "king"; when combined with Wonderful the phrase literally translates as "A Wonder of a Counselor", "the King Divine". "The Mighty God" (Hebrew "El Gibbowr") thus referring to Jesus Christ as the Mighty God (manifested in a body of flesh and blood). "The Everlasting Father", the Hebrew "Aviad", means "The Father of Eternity, from Everlasting to Everlasting" as the one who possesses Eternity being the absolute Person of Jesus Christ the Messiah. "The Prince of Peace" refers

to Messiah in the priestly order of Melchizedek, the King of Peace, the Messianic title of Jesus Christ as the Peace, for “He is our Peace”. (Ephesians 2:14).

It is important that we realize the importance God attached to the naming of His Son. The matter was so significant that in doing so He did not rely on *vain traditions of the earth* preferring instead *divine revelations from heaven*. The naming and birth of Jesus reveal the critical difference between naming by men and naming by God: Jesus was not named because He was born. He was born because He was named. Even before His mother was pregnant the name of the child was already given and it revealed what He was born to accomplish. He was born to fulfill a mission (the salvation of men) and that is what the name Jesus meant. It is what He was born for. The specific events preceding His birth in Bethlehem highlight the degree of importance God attaches to the naming of a child. It could not be left to chance or any other tradition. God did not even entrust a pious and devoted mother with such a profound and divine function. Instead He sent an angel to deliver the name to the woman that would bear the child (Luke 1:31). Moreover, the choice of angel in the person of Gabriel (the chief messenger of heaven) emphasizes the premium that God attached to naming the child. The message he delivered was absolute. He was not suggesting a name suited to the child as one would discuss with a spouse or consult with friends. Dr. Luke records the stern manner in which Gabriel submitted both the name of the child and what He was born for. The lesson to all of us is plain: Naming is a serious spiritual task that must involve the consultation of God. Only He knows our destiny, purpose and life; and the name He will give will always reflect this.

## **HE WAS GIVEN A NAME FROM HEAVEN**

The Name of Jesus is divine. It is not an earthly concoction. Delivered by the angel that “stands before the presence of God”

it has its genesis in the mind of God. However, there are those who irreverently dispute any such claim. They would rank with those in the time when our precious Lord lived among us that questioned His divinity and whether indeed He was the prophesied Messiah. It is this hostility to the faith of the early church that motivated some of its leaders to write biographical accounts of the Lord's life that we call the gospels. Mathew and John's gospels were exceptional in this attempt to defend the authenticity of Jesus' claims against an angry set of religious fundamentalists that attacked the divine attributes of Jesus of Nazareth. This explains why Mathew dwelled more than the other writers of the gospel on the genealogy of Jesus (tracing His ancestry through the lineage of King David from which the Messiah was expected) and the glorious details of His birth. However, it also explains why John skips the genealogy and even the details of His birth preferring instead to begin with a philosophical prologue on Jesus as the immortal word of God that was with the Father before the beginning. In the thirteenth chapter of Mathew's account, he records how during a visit to His own hometown of Nazareth these skeptics were puzzled by the Masters wisdom considering his background. They contemptuously queried, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Mary and Joseph? Aren't his brothers and sisters with us? How could he have such wisdom?"(Matthew 13:55). Whether they were ancient skeptics in Capernaum or Jerusalem or, contemporary critics of the Lord like Barbara Thiering, Dr. Calvin of the University of California, or John Spong, these groups of people deny the immortal value of the name Jesus. If anything they dismiss it as an attempt by Jesus of Nazareth to hoodwink an unsuspecting public that was anxious for the Messiah.

To be sure, the Name of Jesus was given from heaven and the truth of this matter needs more serious attention than is usually mastered by skeptics. To begin with, one would need to consider the various facts that verify Jesus' Messianic claims. There are 425

prophecies in the Old Testament that fit exactly with the testimony of Jesus of Nazareth (Look at the appendix to see some of these Messianic prophecies). Some of these prophecies pre-date up to 1,000 years and some even more. The chance that Jesus would be able to arrange his life to suit all of them is ridiculous. Quite a number of them would just be impossible to *fix*. For instance, how could Jesus orchestrate the fleeing of His disciples prophesied about by Zechariah 500 years before His birth (Zechariah 13:7) or the gruesome death he suffered prophesied about by both Isaiah and David 700 and 1,000 years respectively before His birth (Isaiah 53; Psalm 22). He certainly could not have tried to *fix* the events of His birth especially those relating to the mass killings of children in Bethlehem prophesied 1,000 years before His birth (Jeremiah 31:15). The fact that no other person that has made Messianic claims has any respectable prophetic accounts verifies the fact that His Name was given from heaven.

It goes beyond that. The proof that the Name of Jesus does have its genesis from above is verified by the fact that He is the only one to bear the name and live up to its complete implication. To appreciate this let us examine further the Name in question, which is Jesus Christ. JESUS = JE (Jehovah) + SUS (Salvation). The value of the name is JESUS; i.e., “JE”= “Jehovah” + “SUS” = “Salvation” which would mean, “Yahweh God is salvation”. Christ is Christos or the Messiah - God that should come into the world and restore all things to Himself. Most Christians deem “Christ” to be simply the “Anointing” or the “Anointed”, which is true, but Christ as the Messiah must be put in the context of prophecy as the longed for Messiah that would come into the world as God Himself. Thus, the fundamental value of Jesus Christ is - God our Savior come in flesh as the Messiah. A careful study of the Name of Jesus will reveal that it is indeed the culmination of all the Old Testament names of God. It is the highest, most exalted name ever revealed to mankind. The name of Jesus is the name of God that He promised to reveal when He

said, “Therefore my people shall know my name” (Isaiah 52:6). It is the one name that the prophet Zechariah referred to when he said, “The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord and his name the only name” (Zechariah 14:9). It encompasses and includes all the other names of God within its meaning.

Consequently, what has become evident and can be proved is the fact that through the name of Jesus God reveals Himself fully. To the extent that we see, know, honor, believe and receive Jesus, to that extent we see, know, honor, believe and receive God the Father (John 5:23; 8:19; 12:44-45; 13:20; 14:7-9). If we deny Jesus, we deny God the Father (1 John 2:33), but if we use the name of Jesus we glorify God the Father (Colossians 3:17). The scriptures foretold that the Messiah would declare the name of the Lord (Psalm 22:22; see Hebrews 2:12). And Jesus asserted that He had manifested and declared the Name of the Father (John 17:6, 26). [What name did Jesus declare and reveal?] In fact, He inherited His Name from the Father (Hebrews 1:4). How did Jesus manifest and declare the Father’s Name? He did so by unveiling the meaning of the name through the works that He did, which were the works of Jehovah (John 14:10-11). Just as God in the Old Testament progressively revealed more about His nature, and His name by responding to the needs of His people, so Jesus in the New Testament fully revealed the nature and name of God through miracles, healings, casting out of devils, and forgiveness of sins. Jesus declared the Father’s Name by His works; for by them He proved that He was indeed the Jehovah of the Old Testament. (See Isaiah 35:4-6 with Luke 7:19-22). As such, the name of Jesus is indeed from heaven because it embodies the full revelation of God. Jesus is Jehovah and in Him *dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily* (Colossians 2:9).

## **HE MADE HIS NAME ON EARTH**



There are two ways we may appreciate the extent to which the name of Jesus has been made on earth. The first one pertains to its linguistic evolution while the other pertains to the testimony of the ministry of Jesus Christ as He lived among men.

The Name “Jesus” is by fact an earthly word used to identify the Savior. The evolution of the name from its original Hebrew form “Yash-ua” to the current and popular English version “Jesus” is a process that took 1400 years. And yet, many beloved Christians and others assume that the Greek name Jesus was the original name of the Savior who was Hebrew. Although substantially, the name “Jesus” is sufficient for the purposes of recognizing the Christ I believe overlooking the actual origin of the name is a gross oversight and a denial of a rich heritage on the part of those who love the Lord and His Name. If we really love the Lord and His precious and mighty Name it is critical we at least appreciate the way it was actually employed by the Lord and those that knew Him during His days on earth.

We can therefore assume that when the archangel Gabriel provided the name of the child to Mary, the mother, he must have spoken in Hebrew since she was a Hebrew of the tribe of Judah (Luke 1:27). He couldn’t have spoken in Greek, as the mother, *God’s handmaid*, would not have understood the dialect. Thus, the angel must have given her the name Yash-ua which is the Hebrew word for “God saves” (Matthew 1:21, Luke 1:31). Our Saviors Name in Hebrew is Yashua (read from right to left). The English name “Jesus,” which later employed the letter “J,” is a derivation from Greek “Iesous” and the Latin “Iesus” version. As a matter of fact, it was not until 500 years ago that the letter “J” was introduced to replace the “I” used in Greek, Latin and even English. Prior to that, the letter was not used in any of the languages. Several other changes did occur over the time.

One notable one and probably the first change from the original “Yash-ua” was replacing the “Ya” with “Ye”. This occurred in the 6<sup>th</sup> century and was done by Jewish Masoretic priests who continued the tradition of teaching the people that the name “Yahweh” was too sacred to pronounce, and to speak his name was blasphemy and punishable by death. Most people and lower level priests were initially taught to say “Adonai” when they saw the name “Yahweh” or to write it as “YHWH.” Consequently, people were taught to pronounce the name as “Yesh-ua” instead of its original form “Yash-ua.” All researches on the name will show that it is from this point that the name “Jesus” evolves.

Other holders of the name in the scriptures include – Joshua, the son of Nun (the King James Version says “Jesus” in Acts 7:45 and Hebrews 4:8; all new translations avoid confusion by using the name “Joshua”); the other, was a Jewish Christian surnamed Justus referred to by the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Colossians 4:11; another one was, Barabbas, the controversial terrorist that was released to the Jews instead of the Christ (Matthew 27:16-17); and lastly, is an ancestor of Christ (Luke 3:29) translated as *Jose* in the King James Version and NJKV, *Joshua* in the NIV and NASB. But of all these men, and any other who might have used the name, it is Jesus of Nazareth that lived up to its true meaning, and it is to His impeccable testimony that we must now turn.

The most notable manner that the name of Jesus was made on earth pertains to the remarkable testimony of His illustrious three-year ministry. In the gospel account of Dr. Luke, the physician took exceptional note of Jesus’ own introduction of His mission. This notable event occurred in a synagogue where the Master was called upon to take the reading. Reading from Isaiah the Lord read thus:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he  
has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the  
oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's Favor (Luke 4:18-19).

After which, with all eyes fixed on Him, He asserted, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:20-21). From then on, that is exactly what He did. Wherever He went, He touched the lives of people with the power of God.

Often moved with compassion for the underprivileged, the sick, the oppressed, and the despairing He was relentless in His pursuit to make a profound difference in their lives. Whatever the condition He ministered a solution. Often times His intervention resolved what were clearly hopeless circumstances: Despised and segregated lepers that approached Him were cleansed of their infirmity (Luke 17:11-17)); traumatized parents and family members that had already begun mourning their dead children appealed to Him and He raised their dead to life (Luke 8:49-56); blind beggars (Mark 10:46-52), paralyzed patients (Mark 2:1-12), lost teachers (John 3:1-21), tired prostitutes (Luke 7:36-50), powerful soldiers (Matthew 8:5-13), greedy taxmen (Matthew 9:9-13), and many, many, many more turned to Him and none as came was disappointed. Never had there been a man like Him. Even those that were critical of Him admitted that there was immense credibility to His claims by the evidence of the *works* He did (John 7:31).

So when a despairing John (His radical forerunner and cousin), languishing in prison, sent his disciples to inquire of the Lord whether indeed He was the Promised One, Jesus assured them thus:

Go back and report to John what you have  
seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the

lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured,  
the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good  
news is preached to the poor (Luke 7:22).

His testimony was clear and open to all who saw Him. So much that, when confronted by those who disputed His claims, He referred them to His works (John 10:25- 38). What is important to realize is that everything He did reflected the very ability of God Himself. For instance, when He miraculously fed the crowd with bread it was reminiscent of the manna God had rained upon the Hebrews in the wilderness as Jehovah Jireh; when He cleansed the lepers or healed the sick it was reminiscent of God's own healing virtue in the Old Testament as Jehovah Rapha; when He raised the dead He was demonstrating He was Lord Almighty, Jehovah Elohim; when He rebuked the roaring sea He demonstrated that He was the God of peace, Jehovah Shalom. In demonstrating the works of God among men and women He made His Name synonymous with the very Name of God. Thus, the Name of Jesus was able to do all that God did and God would do all that the Name of Jesus sought to do. Jesus, in the person of the Messiah, therefore being the one Name that encompassed all the Names of Jehovah. Nothing ever seemed difficult for Him. In fact, by His own admission all things were possible in His Name, which was reminiscent of God who spoke and worked through the prophets (John 15:16; Jeremiah 29:11). Indeed, so many were the works of Jesus that, as John mentioned, *there is not enough room in the whole world to contain the records* (John 21:25).

However, there is one act on earth that He performed more than any other that so fulfilled His purpose and destiny than any of the miracles He performed put together. It is the one reason He came (John 3:16). Without it the mission was incomplete. Here, I refer to the sacrifice He offered when He laid down His life as atonement for our sins. When He did it, He said, "It is finished" (John 19:30). As a result of this enormous generosity, sinners do not have to go to hell and suffer eternal damnation. If we humble

ourselves and repent of our wickedness believing and receiving what He did for us, we will be saved (Romans 10:9). It is the possibility of our salvation premised as it were on the shedding of His blood and death that really suited His Name. He is the willing and perfect sacrifice that God offered for the remission of our sins. He was not captured contrary to His will as some would have it. Instead, He freely yielded to a gruesome and tragic death consciously aware that He was fulfilling the will of His Father (John 10:17, 18). Apart from obeying His Father, love committed Him to stand in our place. Innocent by the highest standard yet He stood in the place of all sinners to pay the price for their sins. And if it had only been one sinner that needed salvation He still would have suffered the same fate. *What kind of love is this that a friend would lay down his life for the sake of another* (John 15:13). Moreover, because of His obedience to the Father *He has been exalted and was given a Name above all names in heaven, on earth and under the earth* (Philippians 2:9-10). Because of His obedience **on the earth** He has been exalted **in heaven** (Revelation 5).

Important to note is the fact that while on earth He performed all the acts that Jehovah had done in His various Names, yet His death on the cross was a new standard to the Name of God. Never had God put on flesh, dwelled with men and died shedding His blood as a remission of sins. Ultimately therefore, this is what the Name JESUS meant. The name "JESUS" is "JE" (Yahweh, Jehovah Lord) + "SUS" (Salvation) = "Yahweh is Salvation" or "God is Salvation" or "Jehovah LORD is Salvation". Jesus Christ is come in the flesh; that is, Jesus Christ (the Salvation name of God wherein is the blood of redemption) is come in the flesh (the complete body of man; that is, spirit, soul, and body...a human being). Consequently, the name of Jehovah Lord will not save you, for the revealed name of God in flesh for shedding His blood on the cross was none other than "JESUS Christ". Jehovah Lord was not the name that was placed over the Lamb of God as he shed his life's blood on Calvary. El Shaddai or The Almighty

was not the name that was placed over the Lamb of God on Calvary. Yahweh was not the name that was seen or placed over the perfect, spotless Lamb of God as he shed His life's blood on Calvary. The name that is above every name, the name of the Sacrifice, the name of the spotless Lamb of God, is "JESUS Christ, the King of the Jews".

It is also important that we note the fact that the Greatest Name of all, Jesus Christ, was made on earth. The earth was not His *place of regret*; it was His *station for conquest*. The example is vital for all of us. We don't have to regret being here. We too can make it. God put us on earth to conquer, to have dominion, to subdue. More important is the fact that Jesus restored this divine plan. Before He ascended to sit at the right hand of His Father, He promised that in His Name the same mighty works He had done would follow those who believed (Mark 16:17-18). And, having set the ultimate standard, He even went further to guarantee that in His Name we could even do greater works than He did since He went to be with the Father (John 14:12).

## **HE DID NOT DIE WITH HIS NAME**

What many do not realize is that the devil seeks not only to destroy a person but he is even keener to make sure that he destroys his name too. The devil knows how a name may perpetuate the legacy of a person in spite of their death. So, just like he actively deceives many through human traditions not to know their true identity and therefore their divine mission on earth he will stop at nothing at destroying the name of those who accomplish their divine mission. He understands so well that until someone's name is destroyed you have not been successful in destroying him/her. That is why he was not content in having Jesus crucified to death. After His death and resurrection the devil sought to destroy the Name of Jesus. When the disciples performed a miracle and preached in His Name a disturbed

religious council converged under the devils influence to forbid them (Acts 4:7-12). They were especially emphatic that they do not minister in the Name of Jesus.

Fortunately, they would have none of it. Instead, they prayed for boldness and that God would demonstrate His power as they ministered in the Name of Jesus (Acts 5:12). And as they did, their numbers multiplied as many appreciated the abilities of the Name of Jesus. Incredible wonders performed in the Name caused many in the region to believe the testimony of the apostles that Jesus who was crucified, was raised from the dead, and is indeed alive. The exciting accounts of Dr. Luke in the Book of Acts is a documentation of the legacy of Jesus soon after His death and resurrection as ordinary men and women spoke and ministered in His Name. They were proof producers and the Name of Jesus was the tool they employed to silence their critics and win the souls of the lost. In the Name of Jesus they had the divine mantle of the blessed Son of God and they knew that they could do all things (Philippians 4:13). When they mentioned the Name of Jesus in faith, the very Spirit of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, assumed the task at hand just as Jesus would have handled it.

Nothing was impossible: When Peter and John met a cripple man begging at the gates of the temple, they did not give him money as he desired. Instead, they spoke healing to him in the Name of Jesus (Acts 3:6)). They demonstrated the superiority of the Name over silver and gold; when the Apostle Paul fearlessly embraced a young man that had fallen off a window from the third floor raising him from the dead, he ministered in the omnipotent Name of Jesus (Acts 20:10). He demonstrated the superiority of the Name over death. Whether it was the need to cast out demonic spirits, raise the dead, heal the sick, the baptism of new converts, or the fierce opposition of angry skeptics in hostile towns, the biting pangs of poverty and hunger or any other challenges of ministering the glorious gospel, they were unwavering in their

regard and use of the Name of Jesus. They knew the Name was above every other Name. Their words and deeds stood on the solid rock of that incredible Name. As a result their ministry moved from one glory to another.

*What about today? Is the Name of Jesus still active today? Does it still have the same results as witnessed by the early church?* Yes it does. The Name of Jesus will never lose its power. It is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). When mentioned in faith it still wields as much power as it did in the days of the apostles. It is amazing how some have reduced the compass of its operation. While they recognize that the Name is still vital for baptism and salvation, they deny its power regarding miraculous healing, resurrection of the dead, or signs and wonders. They have been known to say the days of miracles were only for the apostles of the early Church and not for today's believer. Any claims to the miraculous in His Name are often dismissed as fake demonstrations to be associated with the false prophets of the end times alluded to by Jesus. In their skepticism they unwittingly embrace a dubious Christianity that presents as *a form of godliness that denies the power thereof*.

Fortunately, not all believers have been swayed by this vain philosophy. The Name of Jesus can still find a thriving remnant of "seven thousand" that will not bow to the same intimidating spirit that sought to prohibit the early church from ministering. Generals in this category include humble servants like Benny Hinn, Morris Cerullo, T.L. Osborn, Paul Cho, Reinhardt Bonnke, Robert Kyanja, T.D. Jakes, Chris Oyakhilome, David Oyedepo, Rod Parsley, Kenneth Copeland and many, many others. They have refused to be muzzled by all kinds of fanatic critics. Instead they have boldly set out to accomplish their various divine assignments on the solid premise of the continuous abilities of the Name of Jesus. Without this foundation all of them would never have a ministry. Their testimonies on the vitality of the Name are



so inspiring to many of us. And I am forever indebted to them for their courage and unflagging zeal to keep the flame of faith in the Name burning ever so brightly.

The amazing worldwide ministry of Dr. Benny Hinn is really a great tribute to the Name of Jesus. With a daily television program, *This is your day*, seen in over 192 nations of the world, the Name of Jesus is shown in action healing and saving ordinary men and women from all walks of life. All kinds of miracles are shown from the healing of cancers, blood diseases, arthritis, deaf ears, and muteness, to deliverance from illicit drugs like cocaine, the conversion of dangerous thugs and the baptism of the Holy Spirit of nearly all who attend the meetings. It is always inspiring to see how this wonderful servant of God responds to those who excitedly thank him for “healing them”. So often he humbly clarifies, “I didn’t heal you, you know that. I could not even heal an ant. It is Jesus that has healed you. He is the healer not I.”

I am also forever grateful for the ministry of my beloved pastor, Pastor Robert Kayanja. This humble servant of God is another inspiring vessel that has dedicated his entire life and reputation to demonstrate the transcending vitality of the Name of Jesus. I have been so privileged to observe firsthand in countless services the Name of Jesus ministering in great power at the Miracle Center Cathedral in Kampala, Uganda. Not only has he ministered extensively in our nation but from his humble background he has nonetheless ventured with the assurance of the Name of Jesus to over 50 other nations and observed the same results as many in those countries can testify – the blind have seen, the deaf have heard, the cripple have walked and many have been saved by the Name of Jesus as his servant has ministered. Today, he is a regular guest on the Trinity Broadcasting Network, the world largest Christian television, because of the Name of Jesus and still ministering in that mighty Name.

To be sure, so many can testify to the enormity of the Name of Jesus. Like John, we can say that were everything written that the Name has done there would not be enough room in the world to store the records (John 20:25). Important to note is that the Name is not only powerful in the mouth of seasoned servants of God. Jesus was not addressing a selected few when he said, “*You may ask me for anything in my Name, and I will do it*” (John 14:14). He was speaking for everyone that will have faith in the Name. What makes the Name yield amazing results is not any peculiar attribute the person using the Name may bear but the faith that particular person has in the Name of Jesus. The Name responds to faith. The Name in itself is not a magic wand that can be waived to produce a wonder by anyone as the sons of Sceva learnt. When they invoked the Name of Jesus against spirits that had bound a demoniac they were badly beaten and overwhelmed because they had not operated in faith (Acts 19:14-16). Even in cases where seasoned personalities with great faith pray for someone, it is important that they *join* their faith to that of the minister. Many times Jesus celebrated the faith of those who He ministered too (Luke 5:20; 7:9; 8:47-48). Although God has been known to minister out of grace and mercy it is important to realize that **faith is the master key** that allows the Name to yield incredible results.

## **THE MISSION OF HIS NAME**

The Name of Jesus will do all that God can do. It is omnipotent and is the greatest strength of the believer. Whereas Jesus died, rose and ascended to heaven to be with the Father He left behind this vital privilege. No believer that knows and believes in this Name is ever alone, abandoned, or beyond assistance. There is every resource that the believer needs in the Name of Jesus. Used in its proper context it is the believer’s *Power of Attorney*. The *Power of Attorney* is the legal right to use the name of a person who has

given you the power. This power is limited only to the extent of the resources behind the name. If the Name of Jesus Christ has power, and believers have the legal right to use that Name, then we have a *Power of Attorney* to utilize whatever resources He has available. Considering that all *authority in heaven and on earth* has been given to Him (Matthew 28:18) then whosoever believes in His Name wields omnipotent power. In His Name we can receive and command anything according to the will of God. To the believer, nothing is impossible.

John reveals another significant purpose for the Name of Jesus when he teaches that the Christ was manifested that He may destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3). Whereas the Christ is in heaven, His Name is the mighty weapon God has put in the hands of the church that we may destroy the devils ugly works. Whatever he has planted the name of Jesus shall uproot. Whatever he has stolen the Name of Jesus will recover. Whatever he has hidden the Name of Jesus will reveal. Whatever he has broken the Name of Jesus will mend. The Name of Jesus is not to be used against persons but against the kingdom of Satan. He is the archenemy of the church and the kingdom of God and it is against him that the Name of Jesus must be poised. This mission is to be assumed by everyone in the church and is not to be left to particular leaders alone. The enemy does not seek to *steal, kill and destroy* only the leaders but all of us and we must not let him have his way when we have at our disposal the mightiest weapon known to man.

Finally, and most important, the Name of Jesus seeks to reveal our true identity and mission. We are baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ. In baptism we are reconciled to Him (Colossians 1:21-22). The act of baptism is at once one of denying ones former identity and life while also being a public profession of a new one in Christ as a child of God. The experience was so profound to the early believers that Paul referred to it as *clothing*

*oneself with Christ*, a sign that one is therefore God's son and heir to his promise (Galatians 2:27). And rightly so, the Master had said that unless a man is born again – baptized in water and of the Spirit – he cannot enter the Kingdom of God (John 3:3). It remains to be one of the most persistent traditions of the church although there are different ways of conducting baptisms in different Christian sects. Most sects, however, use the first baptism as a christening ceremony where the *Christian name* a convert is given reflects his/her new identity in Jesus Christ. In this case, the Name of Jesus is employed as a means of defining both the natural and divine identity of the person.

No doubt the act of christening new converts provides a significant opportunity for one to perceive their identity, as God knows them. Sadly, too many have overlooked both baptism and christening. Most people have not taken into account the profound value of being a new convert and assuming this new identity in Christ. The occasion in many Christian sects has remained to be a necessary but inconsequential ritual ceremonially celebrated without any significant bearing on the new convert. It is this disgrace that has given room to the tragedy I alluded to in the second chapter; of persons bearing very significant scriptural names but living very irrelevantly. It is so sad to meet Elisha's that do not even know the prophet that bore the name, or Moses' that do not care to play any role in evangelism and the deliverance of God's people. If only many would realize that in these names God Almighty had a profound plan and revelation of their lives so many incredible destinies and purposes would be fulfilled to the betterment of humanity.

This book seeks to bring back the Church of Christ, and even the world, to realize that there is immense value in a name, especially as revealed in Jesus Christ. The act of christening is not a ritual to be taken for granted. In the revelation of a new identity in Jesus Christ is the amazing opportunity to understand oneself, as God

has always known you. The point is profound: Without Christ you are nothing, nothing to reckon. And, in Him you are worth everything that God planned you to be before the foundation of the world. Just like Jesus lived up to the name given to Him by His Father and was a great success, we are called to live according to the name He has revealed to us and we too shall be a great success. Consequently, it is really the name assumed in the revelation of Jesus Christ in ones life that has this immense value. In that name are the genesis, destiny, purpose and life of the person: God's will is revealed in that name. His resources planned for that person are available if that person seeks to pursue their divine destiny, made known in that name. His wisdom will be at ones disposal to enable them fulfill their God-given purpose, defined in that name. I am positive that anyone fully assuming his or her divine identity and purpose as revealed in that name will certainly have *life abundantly* (John 10:10). For this reason, Jesus Christ was revealed to us! He came that we may know Him and in doing so, discover ourselves.

## **THE VALUE OF A NAME**

*The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow. You will be a crown of splendor in the hand of your God. No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land desolate. But you will be called Hephzibah (which means my delight in her) and your land Beulah (which means married) for the Lord will take Delight in you and your land will be married. Isaiah 62:3-4*

*What is in a name? Is there any value in it? Or, was William Shakespeare right when he proposed that there was no value in it cynically suggesting that a rose by any other name would still be a rose? I beg to differ. I differ because there is critical evidence from the word of God that there is value in a name. I also have my own personal testimony on the value of a name. God in His kindness permitted me to know who I am. I know my genesis, destiny, purpose and life because I sought to know my name. I am Joseph, not because of some cleverly invented story or vain tradition. I am Joseph because before I was born, God called me Joseph. He knew me before anyone knew me. And, I am fully persuaded that He knows me better than anyone. When I asked Him who I was He said I was Joseph. That is who He made me to be. Since then He has proved again and again this identity beyond any doubt. As a result, I have had the benefit of divine counsel on *who I am, where I came from, what I should do, and what I should accomplish.**

This book is a part of that dynamic. Like the biblical Joseph, God has entrusted me with the gift of revelation. In a sense, this book is indeed an interpretation of dreams, yours and mine. The great dreams you have are not a lie from your mind. They are messages from God calling you to your true self as He sees you. **The Value of a Name** is a tool of God to enable people know that they can achieve their dream. Follow its argument, believe its counsel, and obey its instruction to find out who you are for therein lies the beginning of the realities of your dreams.

To be sure, there is incredible value in a name. A significant part of the human tragedy is a lack of knowledge in this regard. So many live in oblivion, marginalized because of a lack of understanding of *who they are or what they should do or where it ends*. **The Value of a Name** tells you that you are not an outcast, a spectator, or a subject of everybody and everything. You are a peculiar person, uniquely designed for greatness. You are God's everlasting dream in eternity that takes on reality here on earth. And there need not be any difference between what God upholds in heaven from what you manifest on the earth. **Your name in heaven can be your experience on earth if you understand that you are not born with your name; that, you are given your name from heaven; that, you make your name on earth; and that, you do not have to die with your name; even more so, if you will submit to the greatest Name of all – JESUS CHRIST!**

Beloved, the value of your name is really more than just your identity. It is not merely something by which one can be recognized or referred to. That would be an abuse for what God intended to be a most vital tool for the journey of life. What must also be avoided is the exaggeration of a name. Merely finding out ones name or its meaning does not guarantee a significant difference in ones life. *A name is not an end in itself; it is a means to an end*. It is a sign, a very essential one, leading to a long-winded road of life. Its value is the sum total of ones genesis, destiny, purpose and life. The account begins long before one is born and may conclude long after one is dead. To be sure, only God really knows a names worth. He is after all the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end. Without Him there would not be any names. He is the genesis, determines the destiny, provides the purpose, and sustains the life of all men and women. Seek to know Him, and how He knows you, and you will begin to discover the true value of your name. At which point you will

need to have faith in your name. For without such a virtue, you cannot manifest all that God has purposed for you.

## THE POWER OF SCRIPTURAL NAMES

Of course the authority of the scriptures in this matter is crucial. In this work I have labored to prove by the Holy Word of God that naming is not only a traditional concern. It is also a spiritual rite with profound impact on ones life. The scriptures are replete with examples on the divine benefit of evoking God when seeking to name persons. Consequently, it is vital that we learn from them this value.

It is not for nothing that the church has over the years used scriptural names for the purpose of identifying converts. Names of significant scriptural characters like David, Benjamin, Mary, Elijah, Jeremiah, John, Mathew, Moses, Aaron, James, Elizabeth, Jonah, Joshua, Enoch, Noah and several others have been adopted by several saints of the Lord over the years. In my own case, God employed the name of one of Israel's founding fathers – Joseph – to clarify to me my identity, destiny, purpose and life. All these names are vital tools that impart in us the spiritual mantles of their scriptural bearers. They also provide sufficient inspiration for us to *walk in the footsteps of great personalities*. Every time I study the accounts of Joseph or listen to a teaching on him I experience a personal revival. Whatever the odds I face in those times I know like God was with Joseph so He will be with me. Whenever I face temptations in life I look to his testimony to learn how to resist the enemy at any cost. I pray that **The Value of a Name** will revive the spiritual benefit of scriptural names.

Yet another source of motivating names is those of angels like Gabriel and Michael. The two arch-angels renown for their roles as chief messenger and defender of God's people respectively would certainly suit those that have a divine call to active ministry of the word and intercession. Bearers of such names ought to be



keen to *stand in the Lord's presence* (Luke 1:19). The world will certainly be a lot different if all scriptural character name bearers were to live up to the names of their original users.

A different class is those who have assumed names from the scriptures that do not relate to personalities of men but to divine virtues. These names include – Faith, Grace, Joy, Peace, Love, Worship, Blessing, Patience, Priest, Shepherd, Promise, and others. These names are inspiring and powerful. They are clearly names from heaven. Applied in life they should present us with very unusual personalities. The reason is that we are dealing with profound virtues that are severely scarce in the world we live in today. I believe that more than any other society, believers in the scriptures and the Lord Jesus have the greatest opportunity to positively influence this world. I believe many have left incredible tools like these to be wasted for ignorance of the vitality of a name. Hopefully this book will provoke a worldwide response of characters using such inspiring names to wake up to their true purpose. In this sense, **The Value of a Name** is a *trumpet call* with revolutionary potential. I am sure that once this sleeping giant awakes, the world will move closer to what it was really meant to be – a heaven away from heaven!

The challenges to this revolution in our world can be seen from contesting claims to the use of names by other beliefs. Of serious concern is the growing number of Satanists in our generation. What is of particular unease in this regard is how serious they assume the utility of names like Lucifer, Demon and Satan. Unfortunately, as they have taken on these hellish identities they have assumed satanic natures. Tenuously linked to rock music and its related sub-culture (that is widely understood to promote obscene rock music, sexual perversion and illicit drugs) they have lived to the ill-reputations their new evil identities represent. Many parents in the west are anxious about the extent they can protect their children from its growing influence. In Africa, traditional

witch craft continues to be a concern. Again here the use of satanic identities is still persistent. It is not uncommon to find people with names that relate to evil spirits. More often than not, the bearers of these names have lived to the dark expectations of their identities. Moreover, other religious sects of the world are keen on providing names with meanings suited to their beliefs to their converts.

At a time like this, believers should not be asleep. We should be at the helm in this war because we are on the side of truth. Besides, it is our divine responsibility to live up to who God expects us to be. In a world where many are lost and stranded for loss of who they are, believers in the scriptures and our Lord Jesus Christ have a more satisfactory answer. It lies in the infinite knowledge of God as revealed in His word and through His Spirit. In this sense, **The Value of a Name** is *an evangelical weapon* against the false testimonies of the enemy who seeks to give evil identities to persons God has foreknown, created, and purposed for a destiny of abundant life. I am reminded of two religious sisters that came to Revelation Christ. One was called Shakira, a Moslem, and the other Syria, an Anglican, and the Lord told me that their true identities were Grace and Comfort respectively before I had even got the chance to know them. Shakira was astonished because traditionally she had been called “Kiisa” which means “Grace” but she had rejected it over the years not realizing that she was rejecting a divine attribute that God had intended for her to live an abundant life. And later as I became acquainted with Comfort I realized that she had suffered so much in life with little or no comfort. In fact, at the time she joined the church she was in serious need of comfort. For both these ladies, religion could not provide deep-seated needs relating to who they really are. In both cases, both the Spirit and the Word were vital in correcting years of wrong identity compounded by religion.

## THE POWER OF “OTHER” NAMES

In the aforementioned testimony of Grace, formerly Shakira, I have hinted on the convergence of traditionalism and faith in the naming of a person. Her traditional name “Kiisa” means “Grace” in the English language. It is important that we realize that traditionalism need not be in conflict with the ways of God. In some cases, traditional names have provided considerable revelations of divine value to individuals. Part of the reason for this may stem from the fact that all societies are derived from God. One need not be a believer in Christ for one to receive critical truth. As long as one is mortal he/she is a target for divine revelation for God has loved the world. In fact, before Christ was born this experience of divine names was already a profound and integral attribute in Jewish society. The scripture declares *that there is a spirit in man and the breath of God gives him understanding* (Job 32:8). Consequently, many traditional societies that may not have had contact with Christians nevertheless assumed divine names.

One of the traditional societies with a rich heritage of divine names is the Rwandese from the nation of Rwanda. Some of the names they bear have very profound spiritual connotations. One of the names that is specifically related to the subject content of this work is “Hitimana” which means “it is God who names.” I found out this name from a lady friend who shares the name with her husband. She testified to me how over the years the husband had overcome a lot of odds and received respectable names as testimony of his surname. From a lowly rural background where as a shepherd he’d been known as “Good Shepherd” he had risen through the trials and paths of life to be called such prestigious names as “Doctor” (in respect to his profession) and “Executive Director” (in respect to his most current achievement). In his name “Hitimana” God guaranteed that he would always have a respectable name irrespective of the challenges of life. I was amazed at how God had used this traditional means of confirming

the authority of the revelations He has inspired me to put together in **The Value of a Name**. Other Rwandese names with significant spiritual value are – “Habyarimana” which means “God gives children; “Bigimana” which means “God owns everything; “Niringiyimana” which means “I trust in God”; “Bizimana” which means ‘God knows everything; “Nsengiyumana” which means “I pray to God who listens”; “Hakizimana” which means “God saves”; “Hagenimana” which means “God is the planner”; “Uwimana” which means “This one belongs to God”; and “Nyiramahirwe” which means ‘the favored one.’ There are many others.

I am sure that the Rwandese example is a universal one although, as is the experience, there are equally traditional names that espouse wrong or evil values. The point, however, is that the revelation of divine attributes is indeed a universal force that unfortunately the Church is not putting to maximum use. Believers in Christ are best positioned to maximize on the positive heritage our varied cultures provide. The church needs to realize that *all creation groans that the sons of God are revealed* (Romans 8:22). Equipped with the precious gift of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, no one is better placed than the Church to lead in this identity and destiny movement. The ground is set and its time the Church takes charge!

## A NEW BIRTH, A NEW NAME, A NEW LIFE

This book seeks to close a sad chapter of deceit and ignorance: You are not ordinary and neither can you be casually understood. The scriptures declare that *you are fearfully and wonderfully made* (Psalms 139:14). Nothing less than the breath of Almighty God has programmed you for purpose, life and destiny. If the truth were told, you would know that you are in fact supernatural. Beloved, God laments that *you are god's, sons of the Most High but you are dying like every other man; falling like every other ruler* (Psalm 82:6). This is not only an incredible revelation, it also happens to be the truth. Unfortunately, it is a truth that has been concealed in the failures, troubles, doubts, and confusion that many suffer as a result of the devils wiles. Over the time his lies have become conventional wisdom as many can identify with defeat and loss. **The Value of a Name** is *God's end time weapon of truth* as it seeks to bring you to the presence of God from where you can find this omnipotent truth. Please, do not stop at reading it. Use this work to go before our Father, to inquire for yourself what I suggest here. **You will discover an awesome wonder called you.** The most assured means of doing so is to find yourself in the Lord Jesus Christ. He is *the way, the truth and the life. No one can get to the Father without passing through Him* (John 14:6). Contrary to the accuser's vicious tongue, you will find that God has never and will never despise you (Job 36:5).

When I found out these priceless revelations the *old me* perished to be substituted with *a brand new me*. From Robert Wanyama to Joseph King has been a conversion of revolutionary proportions, almost similar to that of "Saul" to "Paul". Since then, God has entrusted me with even greater responsibilities. It is incomprehensible just to figure how much I missed from bearing a wrong identity. Much of what the Lord had for me could not fit in it. No wonder I was perplexed by the visions and dreams I had

concerning my future. Now I understand so well what the Master meant when He said:

No one tears a patch from a new garment and sews it on an old one. If he does he will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old. And no one pours new wine into old wine skins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will run out and the wine skins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins (Luke 5:36-38).

Beloved, there is so much more God has in store for you. More than you can fathom in your current state (Ephesians 3:20). Part of the problem has been the old identity you choose to bear even when it is contrary to God's knowledge of who you are. As I close up my findings on the value of a name, I pray that they will provoke *the end of who you were in order to usher the beginning of who you are*. A mighty door has just opened availing you the opportunities of a new birth, a new name, and a new life. *Walk ye in it!* God bless!