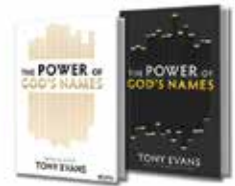




THE POWER OF GOD'S NAMES

Sermon Outline



The goal in this message is to introduce you again to God by His name. But it's not enough for you to merely learn how to pronounce His name. I want you to understand the nature behind His names because they reveal His attributes and characteristics that you need to become familiar with if you want to live in relationship with Him.

SERMON POINTS:

1. YOU CAN CALL ON ONE OF GOD'S NAMES IN EVERY SITUATION YOU FACE.

- God has revealed His names to show different characteristics of His nature that can help you in your specific time of need.
 - When young David faced the giant Goliath, David called on the Lord of Hosts, the Sovereign Commander of the heavenly armies who fought for Israel and who could defeat not only Goliath but also the entire Philistine army (1 Samuel 17:45).
 - Proverbs 18:10 reminds us that the name of the Lord is a strong tower, a fortified place that Christians can run to when the circumstances of life seem as if they are crushing us.
- No matter what situations we face, at least one of God's awesome names reveals a characteristic we need to cling to (Psalm 111:9).

2. TRUST IN GOD'S MAJESTIC NAME.

- David didn't just know God's name; he had learned to trust in God's character, revealed in His name (Psalm 8:1).
 - David experienced God's protection and provision when for years he fled from Saul's bloodthirsty armies.
 - David experienced God's grace when God responded to David's contrite heart and forgave David of his sins.
- God allows only those who actively depend on Him to experience the power of His name.
 - God reveals His strength through the cries of newborn babies and infants (Psalm 8:2).
 - Jesus explained that God reveals Himself (His name) not to wise and intelligent people but to those who are humble like infants (Matthew 11:25).
- When we rest from working to attain our salvation and

to provide for ourselves, not just on Sunday but every day, we show that we trust God to provide for us, and we remember to know and experience the power of God's names, we must become humble and dependent on Him, just like infants who depend on their parents for everything.

3. HUMBLE YOURSELF BEFORE GOD'S HOLY NAME.

- God has revealed His names to show different characteristics of His nature that can help you in your specific time of need.
 - In the Lord's Prayer Jesus taught us to recognize God's hallowed name, His holy character, when we pray (Matthew 6:9).
 - Jesus also instructed us to set God apart and make Him first in our minds, actions, and priorities.
- God's separate dwelling place in heaven shows that He is holy and that we should revere Him.
 - God rules over and sustains the entire universe from His throne in heaven.
 - Everything in heaven and on earth belongs to God, so we should humbly submit everything we have to Him.

4. GOD'S NAME MUST BE REVERED, NOT EMPTIED OF ITS MEANING.

- Many people in our society use God's name in vain—in a way that isn't consistent with His character, thereby stripping it of its meaning (Exodus 20:7).
 - As Christians, we should never use God's name in vain and forget that His name reflects His holy, powerful character.
 - God will judge those who misuse His holy name.
- Satan used God's name in vain when he tempted Eve (Genesis 3:1-5).
 - Satan misrepresented God's command and misused His name to deceive Eve.
 - Many people misuse God's name and misrepresent His Word to deceive people and draw them away from the truth.

5. UNDERSTAND THAT GOD IS POWERFUL, IS PERSONAL, AND CARES FOR YOU.

- Elohim is strong.

- God to provide for us, remember to worship Him for His power and provision each day (Hebrews 4:9-16).

- We must recognize God's amazing works and praise Him.
 - David praised God after looking at the sky and realizing that God created the sun, moon, stars, galaxies, and everything else from nothing (Psalm 8:3).
- Humility is the key to worship.
 - When David compared himself to the holy Creator of the universe, he recognized his dependence on God, and he worshiped God (Psalm 8:4-9).
 - When we realize how big God is, we realize not only how small we are but also how important we are to the God who created us.
 - Let's join David and magnify God's name, making His name bigger in our minds and hearts as we worship Him and learn about His holy character (Psalm 34).

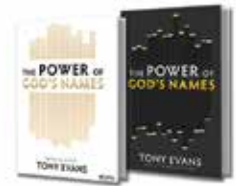
REVERE GOD'S NAME: If the President of the United States walked into the room, we shouldn't say, "What's up, Barack?" His position as president demands that we respectfully address him as "Mr. President." His position and title require reverence, humility, and respect. And if a human leader garners our respect, how much more should we give the God of the universe our humble adoration?

SET GOD APART IN YOUR HEART: Many people have two kinds of dishes—everyday dishes and special-use dishes. We keep the everyday dishes in the cupboards along with all the other eating utensils and baking dishes. We run the everyday dishes through the dishwasher and toss them back into the cupboard when they're clean. But we often keep the special-use dishes—the fine china—in a separate, locked cabinet. We have set them apart, literally, and sanctified them for special occasions. They are "holy" dishes. We treat them with care, and we wash them by hand when they're dirty. Then we carefully place them back in the locked cabinet until the next Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner. In the same way, we should set apart God in our thinking and in our priorities to reflect our belief that He alone is holy. And we shouldn't use His name in vain, forgetting that His name reflects His holy character.



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UNDERSTANDING GOD'S IMMANENCE: Air is present everywhere. No matter where you go on earth, you will have air to breathe because the atmosphere encompasses the whole planet. God is like the atmosphere. Since God is Spirit, He has an atmospheric presence on earth, but His presence is not limited to earth. No matter where we go, on earth or beyond, we cannot leave God's presence. In fact, when you leave here to go to there, He doesn't have to catch up with you; He's there when you show up because He is simultaneously present everywhere. That is why everybody can pray at the same time, and God can hear and respond to everybody's prayer—because His presence and His power are everywhere at the same time.

GOD'S IMAGE. An image is a mirror. When you go to the mirror in the morning, you see your image flash in the mirror. Only man was created with the capacity to mirror God. The flowers, the fish, and the beasts weren't created to mirror God's image. Everything else is a validation of God's creative power. But only male and female were created to mirror God and to reflect His image.

GOD'S FINGERPRINTS ARE ON EVERYTHING. Detectives use fingerprints to find the person who committed a crime. Fingerprints are unique and point to only one person. The entire universe, from the most distant galaxy to the smallest cell, bears God's fingerprints because He created everything. Most people want to promote evolution because they want to remove those fingerprints. The issue of evolution is not merely science but the realization that if we admit to seeing God's fingerprints in creation, we have to deal not only with His fingerprints but also with Him. On the other hand, if we recognize God's fingerprints and submit to Him through Christ, we will develop a relationship with the Creator of the universe.

WORSHIP GOD'S HOLY NAME. Most of us have sought the autograph of someone we believed to be significant, like an athlete, a movie star, or an entertainer. We stand in line waiting for the famous person to write their name on a T-shirt, a football, or another piece of memorabilia. Why? Because we admire their name. Their name represents their achievements. And we want to have something to show that we had a chance to stand in their presence for a few minutes. While many of us have waited in line for hours to get the autograph of a person who is fading—whose name may mean nothing in a few months or years—how many of us spend as much time in God's presence? God's name will never fade in significance because He will eternally be the holy Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

BACKGROUND BIBLICAL HISTORY AND CULTURE: **WORD STUDY ON ELOHIM.** The Hebrew word for Elohim refers to the one, true God who has all strength and power. In Deuteronomy 4:35-39 Yahweh is set apart as Elohim, the one, true God. All the nations surrounding Israel claimed to have their own gods and goddesses and even their own creation stories. But only Israel claimed to have one God who not only created everything from nothing but also rules over all creation.

OUR VAST UNIVERSE. In 1997 the Hubble Telescope discovered that the Milky Way is only one of the millions of galaxies that exist. Experts say that each of these galaxies has up to a hundred billion stars. One of the close galaxies to the Milky Way that Hubble could see was Andromeda. Andromeda is 2.2 million light years from us. If someone living in Andromeda sent you a message at the speed of a radio wave, and since radio waves travel around the earth seven times a second, it would take 4.4 million years for you to get the message. Imagine—our powerful God created all the galaxies that exist in our vast universe!

SERMON LINES:

This sermon will help you understand the holiness of God's name and character.

This sermon will teach you why you can worship and trust God when trying circumstances come.

QUOTATIONS ATTRIBUTED TO DR. TONY EVANS:

"God's name is like a key that unlocks the treasure to the inquiring mind."

"God's name is critical to our understanding of His multidimensional nature."

"God has a name for every situation you're in. ... And when you discover that name, you discover the power, the potency, the privilege, the productivity of that name."

"There must be a humbling, if you will, on all of our parts if we really want to know His name."

"Everybody is using His name, but not everybody is being consistent with His nature; therefore, the use of His name is in vain."

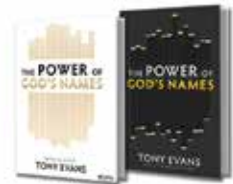
"When the awe of God grows, the worship of God is tethered to it."

"You know why worship is so hard? We don't know His name."

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**our mission field is not merely across the sea.
it is across the street.**





"Names matter. They matter so much that men and women and companies trademark their names."

"God is transcendent. Transcendent is a big, long theological word to say that He is distinct from the creation that He created."

"Elohim is also immanent because He exists inside time, space and matter... The theological word we use for that is omnipresent. He is everywhere present at the same time."

"The issue of evolution is not merely science; the issue of evolutions is 'I don't want to have to deal with [God's] fingerprints.' "

"Look, you can't have a watch without a watchmaker! You can't have a design without a designer! You can't have a painting without a painter! In order to have an effect, there must be a preceding sufficient cause, and the cause must be worthy of the effect."

"We're supposed to mirror Him because we have His image stamped on us. We have the capacity, as part of the new creation, to mirror Him."

"Whatever God has planned for you has already been planned. Whatever God is purposed for you has already been purposed."

