

» **MY 6 NEW NAMES**

I was introduced to this idea of having and **asking God for a new name** many years ago. I remember on several occasions asking God for a new name, **He was silent**. God has rarely showed up the way or times I would like. God, I believe, has spoken in the whisper of the night on several occasions, but no new name. I was not going to just make one up, or pick one from the Bible, so I waited. This wait was several years, until **August 2017**, just a few months after my son nearly dying and my life deeply impacted. I was in California at the ***Celebrate Recovery*** national summit and was introduced to ***Hosanna Poetry***, who did several of her spoken word presentations, **I loved it**. When she took the stage, I would stand. She had written a book, ***I have a New Name***, as a former prostitute, recovering from drug addiction and in her unique dramatic fashion, she shared how she no longer answered to her **old names, only her new names**. She then invited us to consider some new name possibilities and the word **BRAVE jumped out** to me and landed, as being from God. Since then I have in a more biblical fashion, chosen and accepted the **truths** of God's word and added five additional new names. The impact was powerful in validating my new identity, in Christ and in June of 2018, I was prompted to have them tattooed on my forearm. I guess I will never forget them now.

» **Do you know what your new names are?**

I pray that you will **ask, seek and knock**, until you find them.

» **New Name Quotes:**

“If I’m gonna tell a real story, I’m gonna start with my name.”

– Kendrick Lamar

“Bob Marley isn’t my name. I don’t even know my name yet.”

– Bob Marley

“It ain’t what they call you, it’s what you answer to.”

– W.C. Fields

“I don’t have the time, and you don’t have the time— we have wasted enough of our lives answering to our insecurities, answering to our fears, and answering to the limitations other people have put on us. We have wasted enough time settling for less. Today I answer only to my new names.” – Hosanna Poetry

» **New Name Bible Verses:**

Philippians 2:5-11; *In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! 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 acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

John 10:10; *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

Isaiah 62; *For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem’s sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. The nations will see your vindication, 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 Lord’s hand.*

Revelation 2:17-19; *Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person **a white stone with a new name written on it**, known only to the one who receives it ... These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.*

‣ **Here are my New Names:**

**FORGIVEN
LOVED
REDEEMED
BRAVE
MESSENGER
SON**

‣ New Name #1: **FORGIVEN**

Can we agree, this is **amazing grace**. Jesus came to provide a way for us to be **forgiven**. Forgiveness is not deserved, it is given to those that confess, ask and repent. Forgiven as a name, is a gift that comes through a believing faith in Jesus as the God of creation. The God that came to earth, served, humbled himself, died for our sins and rose from the dead, to defeat death and the power of sin. Then there is the human forgiveness, that I have experienced from many, most importantly my three sons. And then quite significantly my father, mother and two amazing sisters. Thank God that **most days, I feel forgiven**.

“There is no love without forgiveness, and there is no forgiveness without love.” – Bryant H. McGill

“I believe forgiveness is the best form of love in any relationship. It takes a strong person to say they’re sorry and an even stronger person to forgive.” – Yolanda Hadid

“To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.” – Lewis B. Smedes

Luke 7:47-48; *Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little, loves little.”* Then Jesus said to her, *“Your sins are forgiven.*

Acts 10:43; *All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.*

» New Name #2: **LOVED**

To be loved is recovery and until you have been loved, it will be difficult to recover. The love of one person, can change a life. To comprehend and experience God's love is eternal life changing. God's love is unconditional. To learn to love yourself, to walk in forgiveness and **know that you are loved is life giving. May each of know that God is love and we are loved.** And may each of us experience that we are **loved** by one person and in that, find encouragement and motivation to love one person.

“True Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” – Martin Luther King, Jr.

“A heart filled with anger has no room for love.”
– Joan Lunden

“There is only one happiness in this life, to love and be loved.”
– George Sand

“Until one has loved an animal a part of one's soul remains unawakened.” – Anatole France

John 13:34-35; *A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*

1 John 4:10-12; *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.*

Galatians 2:20; *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

» New Name #3: **REDEEMED**

Redeemed is not a word I use every day, but it is a great truth and clearly represents God's plan in the Bible. Not only what Christ did through his death and resurrection, paying the penalty for our sins, but the idea that He wants to redeem the years and the pain of our past. God wants to use our pain, to redeem it for His use in giving others hope and shining a light on the truth that God is in the business of changing hearts and minds. He is recovering those years, as Joel says, *"I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten."* God does not waste our pain or our years in addiction, He has a plan to use all things and work them together, not only for our good, but the good of many. I feel my horror and sin are redeemed, each time God allows me the privilege of listening with empathy to a hurting man's pain, broken marriage and story.

"Forget not, O Lord, that I am one of those whom Thou hast created, and with Thine own blood hast redeemed. I repent me of my sins: I will strive to amend my ways." – Saint Ambrose

"If Christ has died for me, ungodly as I am, without strength as I am, then I cannot live in sin any longer, but must arouse myself to love and serve Him who has redeemed me." – Charles Spurgeon

Galatians 3:13-14; *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole." He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.*

1 Peter 1:18-19; *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

Luke 1:68; *Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.*

➤ New Name #4: **BRAVE**

This was the name I felt God whispered to me directly. Not an audible voice, just a prompting in a God moment. I think it resonated as a name I needed to embrace, not one that comes naturally. My wounds and struggles came from rejection, insecurities and low self-esteem. Never feeling good enough, strong enough, smart enough or successful enough. My first love was baseball and after getting cut from the team, I proceeded to try and fail at many high school sports, always wanting to be an athlete with his “letter” jacket. I also felt small or unaccomplished in the world of my father, who was in every way, a man’s man of many talents. Fear followed me throughout my addiction and nearly ended my life, as I feared coming out to my father. Brave is a calling, not a comfortable truth I embrace easily. I believe God has called me to be a messenger of hope, freedom and the truth. I will walk one day at a time into possibilities and new opportunities, with my new name.

“The real man smiles in trouble, gathers strength from distress, and grows brave by reflection.” – Thomas Paine

“Bravery is the ability to look fear and hurt in the face and say move aside, you are in the way.” – Melissa Tumino

“Bravery is the audacity to be unhindered by failures, and to walk with freedom, strength, and hope, in the face of things unknown.”
– Morgan Harper Nichols

1 Samuel 14:52; *All the days of Saul there was bitter war with the Philistines, and whenever Saul saw a mighty or brave man, he took him into his service.*

1 Samuel 16:18; *One of the servants answered, “I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the lyre. He is a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the Lord is with him.”*

1 Chronicles 7:40; *All these were descendants of Asher—heads of families, choice men, brave warriors and outstanding leaders. The number of men ready for battle, as listed in their genealogy, was 26,000.*

» New Name #5: **MESSENGER**

This calling has grown into a passion and purpose for my next season of life. This confidence and calling grows from the word redeemed. Yes, redeemed from the pits of despair and hopelessness, to gratitude and contentment, to be a messenger. A messenger of hope and freedom. Hope for a better life and freedom from the seemingly powerless grips of a most pervasive addiction. This ministry's vision statement is, "To carry the message of Hope and Freedom from Sexual Addiction to the world." May God's will be done, as I attempt to walk in this calling. My best efforts will fail if God is not giving the strength and open doors. I trust that He is going to choose other messengers to join me in this battle for the hearts and minds of men. We know this is a world epidemic and many will be needed to bring a message to the darkness that seems to be gaining power and influence. I fear for the young lives and minds that are being polluted with pornography and the thoughts and actions that flow from those images. Only God can change lives, change hearts and minds and Jesus is the message that can change the world.

"Whenever you have truth, it must be given with love, or the message and the messenger will be rejected." – Mahatma Gandhi

"There is a sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness, but of power. They speak more eloquently than ten thousand tongues. They are the messengers of overwhelming grief, of deep contrition, and of unspeakable love." – Washington Irving

Luke 7:26-28; *But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.*

2 Corinthians 8:22-24; *In addition, we are sending with them our brother who has often proved to us in many ways that he is zealous, and now even more so because of his great confidence in you. As for Titus, he is my partner and co-worker among you; as for our brothers, they are representatives (messengers) of the churches and an honor to Christ. Therefore show these men the proof of your love and the reason for our pride in you, so that the churches can see it.*

» New Name #6: **SON**

This was my last name to choose and a good one for me to embrace. I always felt like a “not good enough” son. My father was amazing at everything and a man of integrity, I was not. I was not the hunter, builder, auto-mechanic or hard worker that he was. I really had no relationship with my father. He was an “untouchable” and I never felt like I measured up, or that I was the type of son he wanted. I often fell short of expectations and in time became full of insecurities and shame, not measuring up to anyone's standard of a good Christian or son. Even as a Christian and Baptist Sunday school teacher, I knew all the right answers and knew God loved me and chose me as a son, but what a poor son I was. By the way, I never saw my father pray, sing or read the bible, I later discovered he had no faith in a loving, biblical God. And I later realized my God concept was largely shaped by my father's experience. I saw God in many of the same ways as I viewed my father. God was also distant, full of integrity, feared, unapproachable, the disciplinarian, judge and jury and always disappointed in me, someone I could never please or measure up to. So in recovery and over the decades, I was able to rewrite my understanding of God and fully embrace his love, grace, forgiveness and acceptance as His beloved son. Today I know that I am a loved son of the creator and coming King.

“It ain’t what they call you, it’s what you answer to.” – W.C. Fields

“You know my name, not my story. You’ve heard what I’ve done, not what I’ve lived through. Try walking in my shoes before you judge me.” – Anonymous

Revelation 2:17; *Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.*

Revelation 3:12; *The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.*

So, do you know your new name or names?