

10 Keys to Successful Living 3 - Mind Your Tongue Ex 20.7

God's name reflects his character

For Biblical writers, a name embodies something of the person themselves.

Sometimes when a person changes their name is changed. Abram becomes Abraham. Jacob becomes Israel.

God's name isn't just a label that is attached to him. It's a statement of his character.

In Biblical terms, the way we use God's name is an indication of how we feel about God himself. If we misuse God's name, we are disrespecting and abusing God himself.

We have a dangerous tendency to attach God's name to our own opinions and then use his name to try and justify our actions.

It seems that it isn't enough to say you disagree with this or that policy, you have to demonise your opponent and invoke God's name to give weight to your argument.

None of this does God's reputation, his name, any good whatsoever. (Ezekiel 26.22-23)

Because the authority side of his name can't be separated from the character side of his name. His authority only extends to requests that are in line with his character.

Beware of treating the Bible like a magical book, where saying the right words gets you power over your circumstances.

Watch your tongue, and your life

God takes a huge risk by giving us his name. By the way we act and speak we can use it for good or drag it through the gutter.

God's name reflects his power and authority

¹³ *And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.* ¹⁴ *You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.* (John 14.13-14)

¹⁶ *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.* (John 15. 16)

But we can't just tag "in Jesus' name" on the end of our prayers as if those three words now obligate God to carry out everything that we said before them.

We need to be about God's business, and praying in line with his kingdom, if we expect him to answer our prayers in Jesus' name.