



7th Edition  
Aug 2, 2018

## Newsletter

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### Staff Outing

*This Saturday we are going to John Muir County Park to do some hiking and hanging out. It'll be a fun adventure.*

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### Name and be Named

You can bring Heaven to Earth by naming and by being named.

According to the Revelation of John, when you get to Heaven, you're going to be named. In Heaven you'll receive a name that will actually declare who you are.

In Revelation 2 it talks about how "those who overcome" will receive a white stone with a new name written on it. The fact that on this white stone God engraves our new name applies the truth at a level that will be more profoundly personal and more profoundly true than anything we've ever experienced.

You will be renamed. And that name will be the exact truth of who you are. Precisely. You'll know it in your soul.

First we must find our identity and worth in Christ right now, even though a new name is not yet written on our foreheads.

We can learn the truth about who we are according to God's word. We can pray to believe that what God's word says about us is true. We can then do the hard work of living out the truth.

Second, we must help others find their identity and worth in Christ right now. How? by naming them. By accurately naming them. By speaking of to others in ways that are true, not false. By looking past immaturity, selfishness and brokenness. And by calling out the truth and the good.

You can name your child "stubborn" and "difficult" or you can name him "determined" and "strong." You can do the life-giving work of calling forth what's true and helping others reject untruths. It's so easy to spins things in a negative way, to call attention to people's weaknesses. So easy. It takes no heavenly vision or prophetic imagination at all.



I remember a time, just a few years ago, when I was struggling with feelings of inadequacy. I was doubting that I had what it takes to do what I was being called by God to do.

Go was leading me forward, but I scared to move. Then a good friend, with no knowledge of how I was wrestling inside said, "I just want you to know that I would follow you."

God uses those words to stir up courage and the confidence that God would work through me, that in Christ, I had what it takes.

I remember feeling as if my friend had taken a Sharpie and written "trusted leader on my forehead. He named what could be, what would be by the grace of God if I would overcome my fear, doubt, and self-reliance.

We must instead insist on speaking the righteous truth about ourselves, about others, and even about the world. Because God made all of these things in love and for a good purpose.

May we allow God to name us, even here, even now.  
May we name God's truth in others.

May we see that kernel of truth buried under insecurity, sin, fear, and falsehood and name it. Call it what it is.

May we participate in the coming of the Kingdom of God in, through, and around us.

On Earth as it is in Heaven.

Amen.

## **Christian Meme of the week**



*Want to see your meme in the Newsletter? Send them to Edith :)*

