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## **“Naming Things” (The names we have been given)**

By pastor Bruce McDonald

### **INTRODUCTION:**

**Acts 11: 22 - 26**

In the garden God gave Adam 2 jobs to do...

1. To tend and to keep the garden
2. To name all the animals

Whatever name he gave them that is the name they had.

In Hebrew the word for a name is the same as the word nature...

For this reason God and sometimes leaders changed people's names:

- A. Abram became Abraham
- B. Sarai became Sarah
- C. Jacob became Israel
- D. Simon became Peter
- E. Joses became Barnabas (Acts 4: 36)
- F. Saul became Paul.

So, names are important....to God and need to be to us.

When we became followers of Jesus names were given to us:

I want to look with you today at the 7 names that we have been given.

1. We are called **Christians** (Christianos)

**Acts 11: 26 / 1 Peter 4: 16**

This word means more than just a follower of Christ.

This word comes from 'Christos' ...anointed one and 'chrio' to anoint!

This wasn't just Jesus second name. It described what He was carrying. Jesus was known as 'Jesus of Nazareth' until He was baptised in the river

Jordon...**Acts 10: 38**

We are to be carriers and couriers of the anointing.

In the OT only 3 groups of people were anointed. Prophets, Priests and Kings BUT in the NT every follower of Jesus is anointed. For this reason the Disciples were told not to leave Jerusalem until they had 'received' the Holy Spirit... talk about the Baptism in the Holy Spirit'.

2. We are called **Disciples** (Mathetes):

**Acts 6: 1**

The word means a pupil or a learner.

A disciple in Jewish culture wanted to know what his Rabbi knew, he wanted to do what his Rabbi did, he wanted to be who his Rabbi was.

3. We are called **Believers** ('Pisteuo')

**Acts 5: 14 / 1 Timothy 6: 12**

The Word means 'to have faith. To believe is more than just to accept that God is real or that Jesus was His Son... the devil believes that.

A believer is one who moves in faith (pistis).

To be called a believer is to choose to be one who is constantly activating faith in your life. In word and in deed.

**John 6: 29, 'Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God that you believe in Him whom He sent'.**

4. We are called **Saints** (ἅγιος Hagios):

**Colossians 1: 2**

The word means to be sacred, ceremonially pure, consecrated. I find it most interesting that Paul chose this name to identify those he was writing to in his letters.

The word for Holy Spirit = ἅγιος πνεῦμα Hagios Pneuma

5. We are called **Servants of God** (Doulos):

**Romans 6: 16 – 22**

**(verse 22 '...become slaves of God...')**

In Bible times you could become a slave or servant in a number of ways...

- a. You could be born a slave.
- b. As a result of being captured in war.
- c. As a result of getting into debt.

So someone could become a servant to repay a debt... but at the end of that time he could choose to remain a servant to his Master if he chose to. **(Exodus 21: 1 - 6)**

This is a good description for our servant hood to God. We choose to remain servants because 'we love our Master'.

**Matthew 25: 14 – 29 (esp. verse 26, '...you wicked...')**

## 6. We are called 'Sons of God'

**1 John 3: 1 / John 1: 12** (Teknon)  
**Galatians 4: 7** (Huios)

**NB: 1 John 3: 23 Jesus = Huios**

**That is God's plan for us also!**

**Romans 8: 14 'For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons (Huios) of God'.**

## 7. We are called **Witnesses** (Martus):

**Acts 1: 8**

**Is there anyone here today named Martin? Your name comes from that word. We also get the word Martyr from that word... one who has been killed for what they believed in.**

**In Bible times a witness told the truth at the cost of his life. We may not all be killed for being followers of Jesus, but we are to be willing to lay our lives down.**

**The disciples in Acts 2 were in a locked room, for fear of the Jews until they were filled with the Holy Spirit. This is what gives power to be witnesses.**

**Story of old Scottish saint in prison...**

**Challenge:**

**Story of 'Richard the Lion Heart'**

**As we enter eternity, we are all promised 'a new name' – **Isaiah 62: 2 / Revelation 2: 17****

**Never forget that the bible is a book about identity, not behaviour!**