

***The* BATTLE PLAN for PRAYER**

FROM BASIC TRAINING TO TARGETED STRATEGIES

PART IV: STRATEGIES

5

The WONDER of GOD'S NAMES

“O’ may Your glorious name be blessed and exalted above all blessing and praise!” (Nehemiah 9:5)

Dr. John Smith is called different names at different times. His father calls him "Son"; his wife calls him "Sweetheart"; his patients call him "Doc"; and his friends at church call him "Brother Jack." At the hospital he's "the doctor with the best bedside manner," and the waiters at a local restaurant refer to him as "that happy Christian who leaves good tips." John isn't multiple people. He's one man with multiple roles and character traits. Each of John's names or titles reveals a little more about who he is, what he does, and how he relates to others. In like manner, the Bible reveals that our one God has many names. When we pray to Him, we may come to Him for a wide variety of reasons. Because He is eternal and limitless, the many titles and descriptions used of Him in the Bible are vast and astounding. But that's the point. Each name of God helps us to understand, value, and worship Him even more.

Unlike the Egyptians and Greeks who prayed to different mythical gods depending upon their need, we worship one God who alone is Living and Limitless, Maker and Master, Holy and Most High, Savior and Sovereign of all, and everything we need in all circumstances.

As we discover and get familiar with different names of God, we not only better recognize God for who He is, but we can relate to Him more personally and intimately.

In the back of this book is a list of many of God's names. We encourage you to learn as many as you can and to use them in your prayer times as you seek to know and worship the Lord more deeply. But for this chapter, we'll refer to a few of His names as we learn the importance of incorporating them into our prayer strategies.

As we look at Scripture, we discover that God's names reflect "His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature" (Rom. 1:20). In other words, as His name is, so is He.

What an honor to discover more about God! His names are priceless to Him, a privilege for us to know, and powerful for us to pray. We are constantly referring to God's names in our interaction with Him. We call upon the name of the Lord to be saved (Rom. 10:13), proclaim the name of the Lord in our witnessing (Acts 9:20), praise the name of the Lord in our worship (Ps. 135:1), trust the name of the Lord in our daily living (Ps. 33:21), and pray in the name of the Lord in our intercession (John 14:13).

Some of God's names describe who He is, independent of what He does or what He's created: *Elohim* (God), *Yahweh* (Lord, Jehovah), *El Elyon* (The Most High God), *El Olam* (The Everlasting God).

Some names are tied to an action He does for us: "God who avenges me" (Ps. 18:47 NKJV), the "Lord who heals you" (Exod. 15:26 NKJV), the "one who sustains me" (Ps. 54:4 NIV). Some of His titles, positions of authority, and roles in relationship with His creation include names like: Lord, Creator, Provider, Sustainer, Almighty, Owner, and Master. The name "Elohim" (God) is the first name of God used in the Bible. It is plural and sometimes can refer to all the members of the Trinity, revealing to us that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were all present and part of creating the universe (Gen. 1:2, 26; John 1:1-2; Col. 1:16).

But some names refer to a specific person of the Trinity: *God the Father* is sometimes called: God (Ps. 22:1; Isa. 53:4), Lord (Isa. 53:10), God and Father of Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 1:3), Father of the fatherless (Ps. 68:5), and many more.

God the Son is called: the Anointed One (Acts 4:26), the Lamb of God (John 1:29), the Christ of God (Luke 9:20), the only begotten Son (John 3:16), Alpha and Omega (Rev. 1:8), the Son of Man (John 5:27), the Author and Perfecter of our faith (Heb.12:2), King of kings, Lord of lords (Rev. 19:16).

God the Spirit is called: the Spirit of Christ (1 Peter 1:11), Counselor (John 14:16), the Spirit of the living God (2 Cor. 3:3).

God wants us to know His names so we can know Him better. They are another way we worship and praise Him—by recalling a name for Him that specifically reflects an attribute we want to honor or call upon to help address a specific need. His names are hallowed, holy, honored, and higher than every other name. That's why we must never take any of God's names in vain or use them flippantly. Rather, we praise and worship Him and His name while honoring His attributes, power, and position.

Psalms 91:1-2 describes God by saying, "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, 'He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust'" (NKJV). In these two verses, the same God is referred to by multiple names and descriptions: *Elyon* (the Most High), *Shaddai* (the Almighty), *Yahweh* (the LORD), *my refuge*, *my fortress*, and *my God* (Elohim).

But the name of Jesus is most precious to us because "God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of *Jesus* every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Phil. 2:9-11).

When we call upon Jesus Christ as our Lord, the other names of God take on infinitely more value to us. Jesus then becomes our Savior, King, and High Priest. God the Father becomes our heavenly Father and Almighty God. The Holy Spirit becomes our Helper and Counselor.

When we pray to God, we too can address Him according to who He is and what He's done, and lean on our understanding of His unending power and glory. Jesus modeled for us how to pray based upon His unique identity in the situation, like when He said, "The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest" (Matt. 9:37-38 HCSB).

Paul wrote, "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope" (Rom. 15:13), and "May the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance" (2 Thess. 3:16). At the same time, even without knowing a specific name, we can praise the Lord in our circumstances and declare His lordship over the need of the moment. "God, I know You are Lord over the

weather, so I pray for you to send rain to our city," or "Lord, you are the Great Physician, and I ask you to guide the doctors during this surgery."

He also has more formal names. In our time of need, God is *Jehovah Jireh*-the Lord our Provider. When we struggle with sickness, He is *Jehovah Rapha*-the Lord our Healer. When we need comfort, He is *Jehovah Raah*-the Lord our Shepherd. When we are fearful or stressed, He is *Jehovah Shalom*-the Lord our Peace. And when we need to be forgiven and cleansed, He is *Jehovah Tsidkenu*-the Lord our Righteousness.

Even if you don't remember these formal names, you can praise Him in your native language by calling out to Him as the God of love, faithfulness, mercy, comfort, protection, justice, forgiveness, power, and salvation. The list goes on and on.

The point is to seek Him, worship Him, and pray to Him for who He is. To acknowledge Him as the Creator, Your Father, and the One who is everything you need. His love for you is great, and your love for Him is reflected by your desire to know Him and obey Him.

So as you pray strategically, remember to call out to your God by His names as you learn them. He loves to hear His children acknowledge Him for all He does and all He can do. And doesn't He deserve it? After all, He is God our Salvation. "Let them praise the name of the Lord: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven" (Ps. 148:13 KJV).

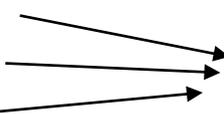
And to that, we say, "Blessed be the name of the LORD]"

PRAYER: Lord, Your name is great, just as You are great. And while You are one God-Creator of all, without rival—I praise You that You are more than I realize and everything I need . Thank You for allowing us to call on You at all times, in all circumstances, and for promising to be our All in All at every moment. I worship You today, Lord God, my Savior, my Sustainer, my Friend, my reason for living.

HOMEWORK:

1. The Bible reveals that our _____ God has _____ names.
2. When you pray to God, you may come to Him for a wide variety of _____.

☞ Because God is _____ and _____,

- the many _____ and _____ used of Him in the Bible are vast and astounding.
 - Each name of God helps you to
 - _____,
 - _____, and
 - _____
- 

Him even more

3. Everything you need in all circumstances, you worship one God whose name is:

4. _____ you discover and get familiar with different names of God, you not only better recognize God for who He is, but you can relate to Him more what?

5. The author and publisher company encourage you to _____ as many as you can and to use them [_____] in your prayer times as you seek to _____ and _____ the Lord more deeply.

6. A few of His Names as you learn the importance of _____ them [_____] into your prayer strategies.

7. **Romans 1:20 VOICE:** "From the beginning, creation in its magnificence enlightens us to His **NATURE**. Creation itself makes His **UNDYING POWER** and **DIVINE IDENTITY** clear, even though they are **INVISIBLE**; and it voids the excuses and ignorant claims of these people." In other words: "_____ HIS NAME IS, _____ is He."

8. What an honor to discover more about God! His Names are **PRICE** or **PRICELESS** to Him, a privilege for you to _____ and powerfully for you to _____.

9. You are constantly referring to God's Names in your interaction [effect, influence, reciprocal (given or felt by each toward the other, matching, complementary) action] with God.

☞ You call upon the name of the Lord to be _____.

☞ You proclaim the name of the Lord in your _____.

- ☞ You praise the name of the Lord in your _____.
- ☞ You trust the name of the Lord in your daily _____.
- ☞ You pray in the name of the Lord in your _____.

10. Some of God's Names describe _____ He is, independent of _____ He does or _____ He's created:

- ✓ El Olam means: _____
- ✓ Elohim means: _____
- ✓ Yahweh means: _____
- ✓ El Elyon means: _____
- ✓ Elyon means: _____
- ✓ Shaddai means: _____
- ✓ Jehovah Jireh means: _____
- ✓ Jehovah Raah means: _____
- ✓ Jehovah Shalom means: _____
- ✓ Jehovah Tsidkenu means: _____
- ✓ Jehovah Rapha means: _____

11. Some names are tied to an _____ He does for us:

12. Some of His _____, _____ of authority, and _____ in relationship with His creation include names like:

13. What is God's first name mentioned in the Bible?

14. God (Elohim) is: **singular** or **plural**

15. Some names refer to a specific person of the Trinity:

- ☞ God the _____ is called:

☞ God the _____ is called:

☞ God the _____ is called:

16. God wants you to _____ His Names so you can know Him better.

17. They [_____] are another way we _____ and _____ Him-by _____ a name for Him that specifically reflects an attribute what we honor or call upon to help address a specific need.

18. God's Name are

✍ _____,

✍ _____,

✍ _____, and

✍ _____ than every other name.

○ You must never take any of God's Names in _____ or use them flippantly.

▪ Rather, you praise and worship Him and His name while you honoring:

• His _____,

• His _____,

• and His _____.

19. **Y N NS:** Is the Name of Jesus is most precious to you?

20. **Y N NS:** When you call 'Jesus' or 'God', you take on infinitely (exceedingly great) more devalue to you?

☞ Jesus then becomes your what?

👉 God the Father becomes your what?

👉 God the Holy Spirit becomes your what?

✍️ When you pray to God, you too can address Him according to _____ He is and _____ He's done, and lean on your understanding of His unending power and glory.

21. If you don't remember these formal names, you can praise Him in your native language by calling out to Him as what?

22. The point is:

✓ to _____ Him,

✓ to _____ Him, and

✓ to _____ to Him for who He is.

✓ to _____ Him as the Creator, Your Father, and the One who is everything you need.

○ God's love for you is **LEAST** or **GREAT**.

○ Your love for God is REFLECTED by your desire to _____ and _____ Him.

23. So as you pray strategically, remember to call out to your God by His Names as you learn them. GOD loves to hear you as His child _____ Him for all He does and all He can do.

24. **Y N NS:** Doesn't God deserve it?