

He is called by many names. The Holy Spirit intentionally uses dozens of different words and phrases to describe the Son of God. And yet, each and every title teaches us something unique and beneficial about our Lord. We would do well to take a moment when we see these names and ask: *"Why did the Holy Spirit call Him such? And what does this name teach me about my Savior?"*

To illustrate the power of these choices, I want to begin tonight by reading a sermon. No, not an Americanized 37 minute speech. I'm talking about a Bible sermon. You know, the ones from Scripture that say more in 2 minutes and 10 seconds than this guy could say in a month.

And so I'd like you to open your Bible to the Apostle Peter's 2nd most famous sermon. Most of us would agree his most famous lesson was in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost. Listen, any speech that results in 3,000 baptisms, well that goes in the favorite sermon file. But just one chapter later, and probably just a few days later, Peter speaks again. Open your Bible to **Acts 3**.

The setting is a powerful one. Peter and John have just healed a man who was lame from birth. This has drawn quite a crowd and Peter seizes the opportunity to teach the people.

The message of the sermon is clear: *"repent and return."* But it would only be faith in the Son of God that could bring about such a change. And so, in this 2 minute speech, Peter uses 6 unique terms to describe God's triumphant Son. And in these 6 phrases, we too can learn much about our great Lord.

If you mark in your Bible, please underline or circle these phrases as we read. How many can you find? Most of the words used here to describe the Messiah are common to us, but perhaps their meaning is not.

- I. **Jesus (v13,16,21)** – Certainly the most common name for Him: 970 times!
 - a. Some would say this was His fleshly name, but I challenge that conclusion. After all, we still use it today: "in Jesus' name we pray, amen."
 - b. **Matthew 1:21** – Furthermore, it was not a name given to him by his fleshly parents. An angel of the Father came and specified He would be called "Jesus."
 - c. And not without meaning. The text says, *"for He will save His people from their sins."*
 - d. It is, of course, a Hebrew words that means: "God is Salvation."
 - e. **3:16,19** – Jesus is Savior. He saved this man from disease and can save your soul from sin!

- II. **Christ (v18,20)** – Probably second most often used term – over 560 times
 - a. He is, to His followers, called Jesus the Christ and we are members of the church of Christ.
 - b. But what does the word mean and why did Peter use it twice?
 - c. First, you should know that the word "Christ" and "Messiah" are the same word:
 - i. **Matthew 1:1** – some versions say "Christ" (kjv), while others say "Messiah" nasb
 - ii. The word simply means, "Anointed One" – And like the anointed priests under the Old Law, it represents a CHOICE by God: a selection of ONE over all others, and that one is Jesus. (**Mt. 2:4**)
 - d. But more than the definition of the term is the way Peter uses it:
 - i. **V18** – He is not only the Christ, but more importantly "HIS Christ" The anointed one, the only one chosen and sent by the Father! (**John 14:6**). No one will come to the Father lest they do so by submitting to the one anointed from heaven as Savior of men: Jesus.
 - ii. **V20-21** – And so, He is YOUR CHRIST! His purpose is not to be special to God, but to be given special significance by the Father FOR YOU! And though He is ascended to heaven, He was set apart to come and die and now be raised and ruling: FOR YOU!
 - e. So when you say His name: "Jesus Christ" – we are calling Him something, "the anointed chosen One who alone has the power to save us from our sins!" And then let's live like we are His church.

- III. **Prophet (v22-23)**
 - a. Jesus meets the full criteria as Messenger of God – **Deuteronomy 18:15,18-19, 21-22**
 - i. All He spoke was confirmed, including prophecy of His own death and resurrection!
 - b. **Acts 3:24-25** - Not just a prophet, but The Prophet all prophets preached about.
 - c. Even if He was not Jesus nor Christ, His words would be worth giving my life to obey!
 - i. **Acts 3:22-23** – Peter's point. The prophet has spoken. What will you do?
 1. **Luke 13:3** – when all excuses have been made... the Prophet has spoken
 2. **Mark 16:15-16** – when all debating is exhausted... the Prophet has spoken
 - d. So when you hear Him called Prophet or consider Him as such, remember what that means:
 - i. I will live by and follow every Word He has spoken and authorized in the Word.

IV. His Servant (v13,26)

- a. This phrase is used twice here and later in a prayer (**Acts 4:27-28**). And it says something about, not who, but WHOSE, He is. Jesus serves you. Jesus washed apostles' feet and gave His life for your benefit. But He is not YOUR Servant.
- b. Jesus belongs to His Father and serves His Father. He came here to do His will:
 - i. **John 4:34** – His nourishment, His purpose, is to serve the Father's purpose
 1. *"my food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work"*
 - ii. **Matthew 26:39** – Even to the greatest and most agonizing of ends.
 1. *"let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will"*
- c. Seeing Jesus as "God's Servant" is helpful to us in two ways:
 - i. I realize He does not exist to do as I please. He is not our genie in the bottle.
 1. **Acts 3:26** – He is on a mission from God: to turn us from sin!
 - ii. *He loved His Father and He loves serving Him and if you are to be like Jesus and you are to have a relationship with Jesus, then you must live to serve His Father too and live His message.*

V. Holy and Righteous One (v14)

- a. Certainly on the surface this seems like a simple phrase. We know what both of these words mean. **Holy – Set Apart** and **Righteous – Good**. And without a doubt, we all know that Jesus is both of those things in a way like no one has been or ever will be.
 - i. **Mark 1:24** – Even the demon said, *"I know who you are, the Holy One of God"*
 - ii. **Hebrews 4:15** – *"tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin"*
- b. But Peter isn't using this phrase just to announce who Jesus is, but to clearly show the Jews what they had done. To reveal the foolishness of their choice to reject and put away the Son of God!
- c. **Acts 3:14** – "You DISOWNED the Holy and Righteous One!"
 - i. You don't disown perfection! In Jewish culture you would disown an unclean man or a defiled man or a sinner, but not set apart perfection!
 - ii. If anyone deserved to be disowned it was the Jewish people! They were not holy at all and were extremely unrighteous, and yet God continued to show patience with them and welcome them back, and Jesus gave His life for them.
 - iii. This phrase was meant to humble them and bring them to repentance (**3:19**).
 1. **Acts 2:36-37** - We, the sinners, put to death the sinless and good One!"
- d. And so, when you think of Him as Holy and Righteous, think beyond the simple truth of it. Consider that we are none of those things. We deserved to be disowned, but He has taken ownership of us. He has welcomed and received us: the unholy and unrighteous. Dare you? Dare you ever, through love of sin or self, choose to disown Him? The Holy and Righteous and Worthy One?

VI. Prince of Life (v15)

- a. Of all the 6 terms used in this discourse, this one drew my attention and awe the most. However, the meanings of the words are actually quite simple. It is the implications of the words that carry the real weight.
 - i. "**Prince**" – When you think of Prince, you might think of Ruler or Authority. And that is a good definition of this word, but here is a better one: **Hebrews 12:2** – "Author." This is the same word and represents Creator, Leader, and Director ... but of what?
 - ii. "**Life**" – I don't want to limit this to eternal life, though it certainly includes that. ALL life, from the first breathe on this earth to the undying breath of life in heaven.. He is Prince.
- b. But again, it is less about what the words mean and more about how Peter is using them.
 - i. You *"put to death the Prince of Life."* This phrase is used to expose the foolishness of their sin. You sinned wickedly in killing, but your sin was futile, He is Life and has proven it by overcoming death, a fact to which hundreds were eyewitness.
 - ii. Let me tell you about sin. Sin was the reason the Prince of Life died. Sinful actions of men put Him to death on a cross. And... **Hebrews 6:4-6** – to return to sin is to kill Him again. Sin is a fool's game! The Prince of Life will not be killed by sin! And so, we have two choices:
 1. Willfully sin and attempt to destroy the Prince of Life.
 2. Or stop trying to crucify Him, turn from sin, and accept His gift and His purpose:
 - a. Author of Life, Perfector of Faith, Savior of Souls!

Conclusion: Now you know His names, at least, 6 of them. He is Jesus (God is Savior). He is the Christ (Anointed one from God for you). He is Prophet (the messenger of God's plan of salvation). He is His Servant (having come to carry out the Father's will for your wellbeing). He is Holy and Righteous (greater than us yet offered for us). And He is the Prince of Life (sin cannot destroy Him, and death cannot capture His people).

Only one thing remains to be said. If you have not followed Jesus fully; if you have not listened to Him nor obeyed His command to be baptized into His body or serve Him in newness of life: *"Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord" 3:19.*