

# The Name by Which Ye Are Called

Elder B. Corey Covelier—Of the Seventy—October 2025

**1** President Russell M. Nelson taught that if the Lord were speaking to us directly, the first thing He would make sure we understand is our true identity: we are children of God, children of the covenant, and disciples of Jesus Christ. Any other designation will ultimately let us down.

**2** Jesus called His followers by many names: Disciples. Sons and daughters. Children of the prophets. Sheep. Friends. The light of the world. Saints. Each carries eternal significance and underscores a personal relationship with the Savior.

But among these names, one rises above the rest—the name of Christ. In the Book of Mormon, King Benjamin powerfully taught:

“There is no other name given whereby salvation cometh; therefore, I would that ye should take upon you the name of Christ. ...

“And it shall come to pass that whosoever doeth this shall be found at the right hand of God, for he shall know the name by which he is called; for he shall be called by the name of Christ.” (Mosiah 5:8–9)

**3** What does it mean to be called by the name of Christ? It means making and keeping covenants, always remembering Him, keeping His commandments, and being “willing ... to stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things.” It means standing with prophets and apostles as they carry Christ’s message—with its doctrine, covenants, and ordinances—across the world. It also means serving others to relieve suffering, being a light, and bringing hope in Christ to all people. Of course, this is a lifelong pursuit. The Prophet Joseph Smith taught that “this is a station to which no man ever arrived in a moment.”

**4** My great-grandfather Martin Gassner was changed forever because a humble branch president answered the Savior’s call. In Germany in 1909, times were tough and money was tight. Martin worked as a welder in a pipe manufacturing plant. By his own admission, most paydays ended in drinking, smoking, and buying rounds at the pub. His wife finally warned him that if he didn’t change, she would leave.

One day, Martin’s coworker met him on the way to the pub with a crumpled religious booklet in his hand. He had found it on the street and told Martin that he felt something different after reading the pamphlet entitled *Was wissen Sie von den Mormonen?*, or *What Do You Know About the Mormons?* I’m certain that title has changed.

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## A Children of God and Disciples of Jesus Christ

**[A1]** When Christ stood to accept the role as Savior, it was not simply the offering of a kind, wishful brother. Through the eons and eternities, He alone had lived fully every word that our Father in Heaven had instructed, and He had attained a fullness of light. Not only was He willing to perform the role of Redeemer, He also possessed the ability to fulfill such an infinite task. He was in very deed the Word of God (see John 1:1–3).

**[A2]** Some of us showed exceeding great faith in the Word and the redemption that would come through Christ’s Atonement. As spirit children of God, we were witnesses of His infinite goodness. We felt His great love for us. With this evidence as the foundation of our faith, we chose to follow Him. We exercised faith in His ability to fulfill God’s plan and were thus allowed to come to earth. We knew He was the only one with the infinite capacity and love to do as He promised. From the foundation of the world, Christ was prepared to redeem all those who would believe on His name that we might receive joy (see Alma 22:13–15). **[A3]** Elder Bruce R. McConkie explains: “He who was beloved and chosen from the beginning then became the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world; he was then chosen and foreordained to be the One who would work out the infinite and eternal atonement. ‘Behold, I am he who was prepared from the foundation of the world to redeem my people,’ he said to the brother of Jared. ‘Behold, I am Jesus Christ.’ (Ether 3:14.) And so before mortal men were, before Adam fell that men might be, before there was mortality and procreation and death—before all this, provision was made for the redemption.”

**[A4]** The knowledge of Christ’s atoning power taught to us in our premortal existence penetrated deep into the fiber of our spirits and became engraved in the spiritual countenances of those who believed in Christ (see Alma 5:14). This knowledge provided a light for all of us who chose to follow our Father’s plan and enabled us to discern good from evil in order to see our way through our mortal existence. With this light, we took courage and were confident that we could make the journey to earth and return home to our Father. **[A5]** The Light of Christ was given to every one of us that we might be persuaded to “lay hold upon every good thing” so that we could become as our Father in Heaven (see Moroni 7:15–25). It was this knowledge planted deep in our souls that caused the morning stars to sing together and all the sons of God to shout for joy (see Job 38:6–7).

Michael L. King *The Atonement of Jesus Christ—“Glad Tidings of Great Joy”* (2007)

<https://rsc.byu.edu/living-book-mormon-abiding-its-precepts/atonement-jesus-christ-glad-tidings-great-joy>

## B Children of The Covenants and The Power Thereof

**[B1]** In discoursing on the nature of the Atonement, the Book of Mormon writers constantly refer to power. “My soul delighteth in the covenants of the Lord ... in his grace, and in his justice, and *power*, and mercy in the great and eternal plan of deliverance from death.” (2 Ne. 11:5; italics added; see also 2 Ne. 9:12, 25.)

That would seem to be the final word by way of explaining things. The word *power* occurs no less than 365 times in the Book of Mormon and 276 times in the Bible. The power of the devil is also referred to, but that is only the power we give him when we “choose eternal death, according to the will of the flesh and the evil which is therein, which giveth the spirit of the devil power to captivate, to bring you down to hell, that he may reign over you in his own kingdom.” (2 Ne. 2:29.)

But whence comes this power? Does it begin with love, faith, hope, or charity? Yes, for they all work together: **[B2]** “The Lord God prepareth the way that the residue of men may have faith in Christ, that the Holy Ghost may have place in their hearts, according to the power thereof; and after this manner bringeth to pass the Father, the covenants which he hath made unto the children of men.” (Moro. 7:32; see also vv. 37–38.) Moroni says that the power source is faith: “By faith, they did lay hold upon every good thing; [for as] Christ hath said: If ye will have faith in me ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in me.” (Moro. 7:25, 33.) (continue)

**4 (next)** An address stamped on the back was just legible enough to decipher where the church was located. It was a considerable distance away, but they were moved by what they read and decided to take the train that Sunday to investigate. When they arrived, they found that the address was not the church they expected but a funeral home. Martin hesitated—because, really, a church in a funeral home sounded a little too much like a package deal.

**5** “There is a saying that you can count the seeds in an apple, but you can’t count the apples that come from one seed.” The seed planted by the branch president has produced countless fruit. Little would he have known that 48 years later, several generations of Martin’s family on both sides of the veil would be sealed in the Bern Switzerland Temple.

**6** Perhaps the greatest sermons are the ones we never hear but those we see in the quiet, unassuming actions and deeds observed in the lives of ordinary people who, trying to be like Jesus, go about doing good. What this gracious branch president did was not part of a checklist. He was simply living the gospel as described in the book of Alma: “They did not send away any ... that were hungry, or that were athirst, or that were sick, ... they were liberal to all, both old and young, ... both male and female.” And, a point we should not overlook, they did not send away any “whether out of the church or in the church.”

**7** Those who take upon themselves the name of Christ recognize, as Joseph Smith said, “A man filled with the love of God, is not content with blessing his family alone, but ranges through the whole world, anxious to bless the whole human race.”

This is how Jesus lived. In fact, He did so much that His disciples couldn’t write it all down. The Apostle John recorded, “There are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.”

**8** Let us strive to follow Christ’s example, doing good and making discipleship a lifelong priority so that each time we interact with others, they will feel God’s love and the confirming power of the Holy Ghost. Then we may join my great-grandfather and millions of others who have declared, like the disciple Andrew, “We have found the Messiah.”

In the end, our identity isn’t defined by the world. But our discipleship is defined by the ordinances we receive, the covenants we keep, and the love we show to God and neighbor by simply doing good.

<https://8ward.eu>

**B (next) [B3]** And what greater thing could we possibly “lay hold upon” than the eternal life that all the prophets have sought? It is the faith and the power that Moroni spoke of that are able to bring one into the embrace of the Lord, to be “encircled about eternally in the arms of his love” (2 Ne. 1:15) and to return and “have a place” in the presence of the Father (see Alma 5:24). It is at this point that the atonement of Christ is operative in one’s life. This is the true at-one-ment. As to the ordinances on earth—and in the spirit of Article of Faith 8 [A of F 1:8] (“We believe the Bible ... as far as it is translated correctly”), a few words in the text deserve new treatment—the Lord was clear in his prayer just prior to his suffering in Gethsemane: “While I was with them in the world, I [tested] them in thy name [by which thou didst endow me]; those that thou gavest me [have] kept [the secret], and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.” (John 17:12.) “I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of [do not come out of] the world, even as I am not of the world.” (John 17:14.) “And the glory which thou gavest me I have given to them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me” (John 17:22–23), that we may be endowed (initiated, completed) to make one, “so have I also sent them into the world” (John 17:18).

**[B4]** But if the disciple is to be sent into the world, he is not sent without help and hope: “I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. ... If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. ... These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. ... Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice [they are sorrowing because they do not understand it], because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I. ... Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.” (John 14:18, 23, 25, 28, 30.) Clearly, the Atonement begins in this world but is completed in the other world.

Hugh W. Nibley *The Atonement of Jesus Christ, Part 4* (1990)

<https://scripturecentral.org/archive/periodicals/magazine-article/atonement-jesus-christ-part-4-0>

## C Discipleship is Love. Love is the Only Lasting Therapy

**[C1]** Now controversy has never been more rife on whether having family involvements or avoiding family involvements is the superior way. Allow me just one response. Some years ago I encountered a brilliant neurosurgeon whose task at a world-famous hospital was to help patients with chronic pain. He put together a team: psychologists, psychiatrists, physicians, pharmacologists, and physical therapists—you name it. Out of all their efforts and many failures, one insight emerged: if there was no significant other—one for whom the patient really cared and who cared in return for the patient—their efforts could do little or nothing to reduce the pain. This physician has since become a Latter-day Saint. He told me one day that the following statement is scientifically certain: For many sicknesses, love, and especially family love, is the only preventive medicine and the only lasting therapy. There is something in holy scripture about that.

**[C2]** We all have some control on how much we suffer—and more control still on what we do with it and on how much we help those near us to suffer less. We live in a generation that has an infinite capacity for taking offense and for scapegoating. In this view, somehow, whatever is wrong with the world, even with one’s own private world, is the fault of someone or something outside oneself. **[C3]** Of course we should all throw our energies into causes of fairness and justice, but there is a certain madness in the method of scapegoating. The agenda is vengeance, and vengeance is self-destructive. And He who said, “Vengeance is mine,” meant to say thereby that it is not yours. One of the crucial demands of your discipleship and a proof of your maturity is to break that chain of blame and to continually perfect yourself. **[C4]** The only one who can limit your growth, your learning, and your unfolding of potential is yourself. I would that I could reach even one of you today who has had a raw, difficult, and traumatic family life. I encourage you to demonstrate your love for the living God by forgiving once and for all whoever hurt you, beginning with your parents.

Truman G. Madsen *Upon Your Heads* (1993)

<https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/truman-g-madsen/upon-your-heads/>