

Calling on the Name of the Lord

Acts 2:21

- ▶ The expression, “Call on the name of the Lord” is a fundamental, filled with meaning and often misunderstood phrase.
- ▶ It is found a handful of times in the NT, and is based upon **Joel 2:32**.
- ▶ Today, let us examine this expression.

“Calling on the name of the Lord” implies

Authority

- ▶ This was understood - **cf. Acts 4:7-12, 17-18**, etc.
- ▶ **Acts 25:11** - Paul appealed to Caesar
- ▶ “In the name of the Lord” implies that we are appealing to His authority for what we are doing - **cf. Colossians 3:17**

“Calling on the name of the Lord” implies

A recognition of God

- ▶ One willing to “call on the name of the Lord” acknowledges that God exists.
- ▶ While the Bible is written with the assumption that there is a God, it appeals to evidence for Him -
cf. Romans 1:20, Psalm 19:1
- ▶ **Genesis 4:26** - first mention of the phrase. Abraham - **Genesis 12:8, 13:4, 21:33**; Isaac - **26:25**

“Calling on the name of the Lord” implies

A recognition of Jesus

- ▶ It was in His name that Peter and others preached. It was His name they were ordered to stop proclaiming - **Acts 5:28, 40, etc.**
- ▶ This is understood by MOST when using this expression
- ▶ **Romans 10:13, Acts 2:21, 22:16, etc.** are appealing to Jesus
- ▶ **Acts 10:43** - to Cornelius, “through His name whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins”

“Calling on the name of the Lord” implies

We realize we have a need

- ▶ Without Jesus, we are hopeless lost -
Romans 6:23
- ▶ We NEED a Savior, and Jesus is the answer
- cf. **John 6:66-69, 14:6, Acts 4:12**
- ▶ The theme of the Bible is - man is lost because of sin and redemption is found in Jesus.

What does “Calling on the name of the Lord” mean?

It is not a prayer

- ▶ Many see the expression as praying to the Lord for salvation (“faith only”, “pray through”, etc.).
- ▶ The “sinner’s prayer” is NOT found in the Bible. They might appeal to **Acts 2:21**, **Romans 10:13**, **Luke 18:13**. Possibly Abraham, or **Psalm 116:4**, or **Psalm 51**. Examining each of these contexts shows prayer is NOT a step in the process to one’s initial salvation.

What does “Calling on the name of the Lord” mean?

It is more than acknowledging Jesus as Lord

- ▶ IT is a summary term that means we will submit to whatever He demands to be saved (**cf. 1 Peter 3:21**), OR to restore one's favor with Him (**David, tax collector**) OR an ongoing acknowledgment of Him being Lord of our life (**Abraham**).

What does “Calling on the name of the Lord” mean?

It is more than acknowledging Jesus as Lord

- ▶ **Matthew 7:21-23, Luke 6:46**
- ▶ **Romans 10:9-10** - involves belief in resurrection, confession “unto salvation”

What does “Calling on the name of the Lord” mean?

It follows hearing the word

- ▶ Before one can call on the name of the Lord, they must HEAR the word (preached - **Acts 2:14, Mark 16:15**, etc.) and believe

What does “Calling on the name of the Lord” mean?

It follows hearing the word

▶ **Romans 10:13-15**

▶ The context addresses this - **Romans 10:8-17**

- Involves belief & confession - **10:9-10**

- About salvation available to everyone - **11-12**

- **Vs. 13** - quotes **Joel 2:28-32**.

This is Paul’s point AND Peter’s point in **Acts 2**

▶ The expression is not a formula, but a summary description of surrender

What does “Calling on the name of the Lord” mean?

It involves obeying the gospel

- ▶ **Romans 10:16**
- ▶ Paul notes that some had not called on Him. They had not “obeyed the gospel”.
You CANNOT separate the 2 phrases!
- ▶ **Acts 2:36-41** - as Peter concluded his sermon, “repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ...”
- ▶ **Acts 22:16**
- ▶ This accords with other passages - **Mark 16:16, 1 Peter 3:21, etc.**

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It involves obeying the gospel

- ▶ Note: Some might ask why Paul did not include baptism in **Romans 10:9-15**.
- ▶ Because it was not part of the point he was making - the expression “whoever calls on the name of the Lord” was sufficient to identify true believers vs. those who rejected Jesus.
- ▶ ALSO, he had already addressed baptism in **Romans 6:3-6ff**

What does “Calling on the name of the Lord” mean?

It involves faithful living

- ▶ When one obeys the gospel that is just the beginning.
- ▶ We must continue to call on His name throughout the rest of our lives!

Romans 12:1-2, Revelation 2:10

- ▶ **2 Timothy 2:22** - pursue righteousness with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Everyone WILL call on

His name -

Philippians 2:9-11

The only question is,

WHEN?

**Have you called on His
name?**

Let us pray!