

GIVE IT BACK SATAN!

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). Here, Jesus mentions “the thief,” however, He speaking about a larger grouping of thieves, robbers, wolves, and strangers who come to harm the sheep (John 10:1, 5, 8, 10, 12). In this context, those who came before Jesus, claiming His authority, were thieves and robbers (verse 8). Such people tried to approach the sheep without going through the shepherd (verse 1). This was because they wanted to exploit the sheep, whereas Jesus was prepared to die defending His sheep from these thieves, robbers, and wolves. We often quote this verse and miss its direct application. That said, satan does have a mandate to steal, kill and destroy - and he is “the thief.” And remember, Jesus always addressed the spirit that’s behind such things and not necessarily the people doing them. We see this in Mark 8:33 when Jesus rebuked Peter, saying, ***“Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”***

I want you to understand the words of Jesus in John 10:10. He said, ***“The thief comes ONLY to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”*** Jesus said that the thief will come. There is no doubt about that! In fact, read what Peter says in 1 Peter 5:8, ***“Be alert, be on watch! Your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”*** The devil has no other plan except to steal, kill and destroy. Jesus makes this very clear, “he comes ONLY... That means; the devil will surely come, and when he comes he has just one interest or purpose for you - he comes to turn everything upside down in your life by acting like a thief and taking what doesn’t belong to him.

The devil wants to devour you. In other words, he wants to wipe you out. He wants to kill your joy, erode your confidence, steal your peace and happiness by any means necessary. That is his ultimate plan. As the matter of fact, he will use anything and everything to disappoint you, to scare you, to take away your trust in God, to shake your strong foundation and fill your soul with fear and doubt. He's your enemy and his plan is to completely destroy your life. He's not your friend, and definitely not your buddy! Remember, he is after anything that you possess which brings you joy. That can be a whole array of different things - relationships, material possessions, dreams and even your ministry. But be of good cheer, he is a defeated foe and is subject to the authority you can legal exercise over him. And such authority is only "activated" through the correct use of the Name of Jesus!

Before we look into our authority in the Name of Jesus, I would like to briefly examine the biblical concept of **restitution**. In the Old Testament, the Law specified restitution in a variety of circumstances. Exodus 22:7 says that when the thief is found he must pay back double what was stolen. In Exodus 22:1, if a man steals an ox or a sheep and slaughters it or sells it, he must pay back five head of cattle for the ox and four sheep for the sheep. Leviticus 6:25 covers other situations in which the stolen property is restored to the owner, plus one-fifth of its value. The amount paid back varied anywhere from 100 to 500 percent of the loss. However, a "seven fold" principle is mentioned in Proverbs 6:31. *"Yet when he (the thief) is found, he must restore sevenfold..."* Restitution is also mentioned in the New Testament. In Luke 19:8-9 Zaccheus willingly made restitution by giving half of all his possessions to the poor, and returning four times what he had falsely taken from anyone else. Now, I want you to understand this: Jesus not only came to give us an abundant life, He also came to **save that which has been lost** (Luke 19:10). Notice, is doesn't say that Jesus came to save 'those' who were lost but 'that' which has been lost!

Therefore, the Greek word for “save” in this verse cannot be used in the context of salvation as it relates to “that” which has been lost. Implying, that everything which the devil has stolen must be restored. If you have lost something that is precious to you - whatever that may be - Jesus came to save it and give it back multiplied! Hallelujah! Some of you may have lost a relationship, a marriage, a career, a business, an inheritance, a property, or even a dream. Let me give you this assurance, today you are going to confront the very person who stole that which was valuable and precious and demand that he gives it back to you multiplied. According to God's word, Jesus accomplished everything He came to the earth to do. It is finished! Having gone to the cross, having died and then resurrected from the dead, ***He disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it*** (Colossians 2:15). Now the devil must march to your tune, obey your commands - provided you exercise the authority Christ has given you over demons and all the forces of darkness. ***“Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name”*** (Luke 10:17).

In his first letter to the church at Corinth the apostle Paul acknowledges them as the Father's elect children who have the right to call upon the *name of Jesus Christ*: ***“To the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints along with all who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place***. ***Grace be to you, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”*** (1 Corinthians 1:2). So what does the phrase *'in the name of Jesus Christ'* really mean? Why is it necessary for us to use the name of Jesus Christ when confronting the devil? The practical definition of the word 'name' in both the Hebrew and the Greek languages denotes a mark or the identification of a person or thing. However, many times the 'name' of an individual mentioned in the Bible is used to express that person's authority, status, character, or reputation.

It is well known in biblical and rabbinical teachings that the phrase 'in the name of' is used to connect the person having authority to the one from whom the authority comes. Uttering the phrase '*in the name of Jesus Christ*' has no power or meaning in and of itself. More importantly, these words have no real power over anything, nor do they have the ability to cause anything to occur in the physical or spiritual realms unless the person who uses these words is authorised to use the authority and power that resides with God the Father in Christ Jesus. To speak '*in the name of Jesus Christ*' is to use one's authorisation as His representative - to speak in His stead and on His behalf. It is one thing to just say the words '*in the name of Jesus Christ*' without understanding what they are intended to mean or invoke. But it is another thing to understand the "authority" behind these words, when they are spoken by someone who has been duly authorised by God to use the resurrection power of the Holy Spirit (through Christ Jesus).

While Pilate was questioning Jesus, he asked, "Where do you come from? When Jesus did not respond to him, Pilate said, Why don't you speak to me? Don't you know that I have the authority to crucify you, and I have the authority to release you? Jesus answered and said, "***You would have no authority over me if it were not given to you from above***" (John 19:9-11). Likewise, we have no authority except the authority that has been given us from above! The truth is, ALL authority has been passed on to you and to me, (Matthew 28:18-19) and this authority is activated only when we use the 'name of Jesus Christ'. The early church new exactly what it meant to use that wonderful Name. ***And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes, as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, "By what power or by what name have you done this?"***

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole” (Acts 4:5-10).

Earlier, in Acts 3:6 we see why everyone was so upset... Then Peter said, ***“Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”*** When Peter used the Name he got miraculous results! This put fear into the rulers and religious people of his day. ***“So that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name”*** (Acts 4:17). There’s authority in the name of Jesus Christ! You can apply Jesus’ authority to whatever challenges are confronting you because the ‘name of Jesus’ has power over every evil thing that has been named. Think about this! Anything that has a name must submit to the ‘name of Jesus Christ’ - in heaven, on earth and under the earth (Philippians 2:9-11). Jesus plainly told his disciples, ***“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask Me for anything in My name, and I will do it”*** (John 14:12-14 NIV). Note, the word “ask” does not mean ‘prayer’ it means “command”. Like when Paul commanded the devil to come out of the women in the name of Jesus, and he came out. Someone may say, but I'm not Jesus - I can't do that, and you would be right, but it's not you doing it. Jesus is doing the work through you - ***“In My name, I will do it!”***

E W Kenyan said, *“The degree to which you use the name of Jesus, is the degree to which the forces of darkness will obey you.”* The Name of Jesus was given to the church ‘to use’. Every mention in scripture of the use of the Name is in direct reference to the Body of Christ. When we became “coheirs with Christ” (Romans 8:17) we inherited His wonderful name. Therefore, whatever He has obtained, so have we! By inheritance Jesus obtained a more excellent name - a name that is exceedingly, far above and superior to every other Name. And, by inheritance it's ours too! The Name of Jesus legally belongs to the church (His bride). When exercising **authority** on this earth we have the Name of Jesus. When we pray to the Father in His Name, God responds the same way He would if Jesus Himself had made the request. “In that name” the Father hears and gives us whatever we ask for (John 16:23)! Furthermore, Jesus has promised to personally endorse all our petitions to God, provided they are made in His Name (and are in line with His will). God’s anointed Son is standing in the throne room of grace making intercession and what the Son approves, so does the Father!

The wonderful name of Jesus has total authority in three realms – in heaven, on Earth and under the Earth (that is to say in the spiritual and physical realms and even over dark spiritual forces). It is just as powerful and as effective in whatever dimension it is proclaimed. The early church knew this, and they prayed accordingly. Acts 4:30, ***“By stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.”*** When using the Name of Jesus you must be confident that you will get a response in the all three realms. The response you desire! Now, are you ready to command that the devil give back everything that he has stolen from you? You must get serious about this, as it is no small matter. When a thief habitually steals from you, there must be an appropriate response.

I believe that God ordains restitution “in the spirit.” When the thief (satan) steals, he must give back sevenfold. Yes, when the devil comes to kill, steal, and destroy, God has set forever in eternity that you must get back what you’ve lost in this multiple. And God will restore it to you in a better way than it was at first, as well as, cause increase and multiply “that which was lost.” That is our God - because our God is good! We all need this revelation concerning restitution. I am convinced that, ***in the Name of Jesus*** restitution will be made immediately! The Hebrew word translated “restitution” means... *To hand back, make amends, make an end, finish, give again, make good, repay (again), cause to be at peace; make prosperous, recompense, restore, and reward.* All these things are in the heart of God concerning you today! So let’s use the **authority** invested in the Name of Jesus Christ and demand restitution!

Satan, ***in the Name of Jesus***, give back sevenfold what you have stolen - right now!!