



# FAITH: NAME-IT-AND-CLAIM-IT ERROR

The clear teaching of Scripture concerning faith must be understood lest we seek a man-centered view. Scripture shows faith to be our trust in a holy God despite our circumstances. The so-called name-it-and-claim-it view sees faith as a way of controlling God to give us what we want. From this view faith is a force where we can get what we want by claiming it. God becomes obligated to accommodate your desire. The notion that our thoughts control reality or the outcome, is not taught in Scripture. This exalts man and his "faith" above God. The idea of controlling one's future with his thoughts or faith is very appealing to sinful man. And it is no surprise many follow this direction. This teaching insults the God of Scripture Who is sovereign. This is a Christianized quest for power based on the flesh. The name-it-and-claim it view is focused on us getting the things the world has to offer in this life.

 <b>SCRIPTURE</b> 	<b>FALSE CLAIM</b>	<b>BIBLICAL MEANING</b>
"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I <b>am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.</b> " (Jn.10:10)	God wants us to have abundant riches in this life.	The sheep know the Shepherd's voice and follow Him. The abundant life is everlasting life which is the overall context of John's gospel. The abundance here is knowing and being known by Jesus.
"Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet <b>ye have not, because ye ask not.</b> " (Jm.4:2)	If you do not "have" you have not prayed enough, or have enough faith.	They are asking with selfish motives (v.3), which from God's view, is not asking at all. When we ask with wrong motives, God is not hearing us.
"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, <b>that ye through his poverty might be rich.</b> " (2Co.8:9)	Jesus came to make us rich.	Because of the grace of God, the Son becoming man, we should empty ourselves of our riches in service to our Savior. In verse 14 Paul urges the Corinthians to give their wealth away to their needy brothers. We are to seek others before ourselves.
" <b>If ye shall ask any thing</b> in my name, I will do it." (Jn.14:14)	God will answer any prayer by those who ask.	"In my name" is not a magic formula, or something added at the end of a prayer. It includes asking according to God's mind and will.
" <b>Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper</b> and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." (3Jn.2)	God wants all believers to prosper.	A polite opening of a letter to Gaius who was strong spiritually, but not physically. This refutes the notion that being poor in health is the result of sin.
"And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, <b>If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.</b> " (Mt.17:20)	Faith gives us the ability to do anything.	Jesus said even a small amount of faith could move a huge mountain, assuming moving the mountain is God's will. True faith is always based upon a command or promise from God's Word (see Hebrews 11 life examples). Performing some spectacular stunt to gratify personal desires is not faith, but presumption.
"Delight thyself also in the LORD; and <b>he shall give thee the desires of thine heart</b> " (Ps.37:4)	God wants to give us our heart's desires.	The "evildoers" (v.1) seem to prosper in their iniquity. David asks them to not be envious of them. The Lord will bring about divine justice. This is conditioned upon obedience of delighting in the LORD.
"But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this life" (Mk.10:29-30)	Give expecting more in return.	God will spiritually increase what we lose physically. The expectation is that we will lose something in this life.
"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse" (Ml.3:10)	Fund-raising tool. Give expecting more in return.	This was the national storehouse for the priests. Many priests had to leave their priestly duties and start farming to survive (Ne.13:10-13).
"That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles" (Ga.3:14)	New Covenant and material entitlements.	The earnest (down-payment) of the Holy Spirit is promised to those who believe on Christ. The blessing of Abraham is that the whole world will be blessed through Abraham's seed.
"With his stripes we are healed" (Is.53:5)	Physical healing promised.	Jesus died for our sins healing our spiritual condition.
"to give you a future and a hope" (Je.29:11, NKJV)	God promises wealth in this life.	The LORD promises Israel's captivity in Babylon will end in 70 years (v.10), then they will return to the land of Israel. The purpose of the exile was to get Israel to return to her God (Du.30:1-10). The context is coming judgment.

## BIBLICAL PROBLEM

**Context:** The depth and meaning of the text is ignored. Often the meaning applied is the opposite of the intended meaning.

**Physical vs. Spiritual:** The larger theology of the Word concerning future and spiritual blessings are limited to this life and material wealth.

**Faith in Faith:** The name-it-and-claim-it concept where what we want controls the outcome is not concerned with God's will.