



## What is in a Name?

Adapted from “X-Factor” series by Scott Erickson.

Names are powerful. They stay with us a lifetime. I read an interesting article about the name Richard M. Nixon. The article described how there was no end of harassment for a 19-year-old steel corporation employee here, who planned to enter college in the fall. His name was Richard M. Nixon. The “M,” though, was for Mark. He was a Democrat and he was not related to the former president with a similar name. “People are always saying things like. ‘Hello, Mr. President, how are things at the White House?’” Richard said, “If I try to charge something at a store, I’m usually told, ‘Sorry, your credit’s no good, ha, ha!’ It isn’t even funny anymore, but I try to be polite and smile once in a while.”

Richard said he was stopped by a policeman one night and when he gave his name as requested, the cop snapped: “Okay, you smart punk, now put your hands on the car and don’t move.” After the frisking, the cop ran a check on Richard’s license plate, since he’d lost his driver’s license and car registration. “When he found out I was telling the truth,” said Richard M. Nixon, “he started laughing like crazy.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Paul Lee Tan, *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times*, (Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc. 1996), 591.

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## COURAGE

**C1:** My Grandfather would often say, “You can lose everything you have but as long as you still have your name you can make it.”

- Why is your name important?

**C2:** God gives men the pattern to enjoy a life of victory and success. Read and answer the following.

**Exodus 20:1–7 (ESV)** And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.”

- From verse 7, what is the command God gives to us?
  
- From verse 7, what is the consequence if one misuses God’s name?

**C3:** Take a few moments and write out what you desire your name to be synonymous with among your spouse, family, friends, and coworkers.

- On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being very actual and 4 being not actual, how close are you to this being actual?

## STRENGTH

**S1:** The name of God is profoundly sacred. Orthodox Jews will not even use His Name. Read and answer the following.

**Psalm 8:1 (ESV)**

**Psalm 111:9 (ESV)**

**Proverbs 18:10 (ESV)**

- What three things do these verses reveal to you about the name of God?
- On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being very sacred and 4 not sacred, how sacred is God's name to you? Why?

**S2:** Names in many parts of the world have a meaning attached. Read and write the name of God beside each verse.

**Exodus 3:13–14 (ESV)**

**Exodus 15:26 (ESV)**

**Exodus 17:15 (ESV)**

**Exodus 20:2 (ESV)**

**Matthew 1:21 (ESV)**

- Which of these five names for God do you most know? Why?
- Which of these five names for God do you know least? Why?

**S3:** Careless words including misusing God's name is a terrible sin. Read and answer the following.

**Isaiah 29:13 (ESV)**

**Ephesians 5:4 (ESV)**

- From these verses, what are two ways we must be careful when we speak God's name?
  
- Why do you think God is so particular about His name?

**Matthew 12:36–37 (ESV)**

- According to these verses, why should we be careful with our words?
  
- On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being very well and 4 being not well, how careful are you with your words? Write out a plan to improve in this area.

## ENDURANCE

**E1:** Many men tend to find their identity in their work and their commitments. Read and answer the following.

### **Exodus 20:8–11 (ESV)**

- From these verses, what is God’s remedy for being overworked and overcommitted?
- On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being not at all and 4 being over the top, rate yourself on how overworked and overcommitted you are?
- What can you do to improve these areas in the next 60 days?

**E2:** We all occasionally need a day to rest from the normal demands of life. Someone has said, “When you burn the candle at both ends, you are not as bright as you think you are.” Read and answer the following.

### **Mark 2:27–28 (ESV)**

- When you read the word “Sabbath” what does it mean to you?
- What do you think Jesus means in this verse?

**E3:** Many blessings of God await us as we honor the Lord, wait in His presence and listen to His voice. Read the following verses and list three things that maintaining the Sabbath will do for you?

**Isaiah 58:13–14 (ESV)**

**Mark 1:21 (ESV)**

**Luke 4:16 (ESV)**

**Hebrews 4:9–11 (ESV)**

- From these verses, write out a 3-fold plan for rest.
  
- What action steps can you take to enter a day of rest, weekly?