

Bridgeway Community Church
Dr. David Anderson
Series: The Name I Need
December 26, 2021

The Name I Need: His MIRACULOUS Name

INTRODUCTION

Question: Has God been present with you this year?

When people ask me how I am doing I often respond by saying, “***I’m alive and grateful***”. What a wonderful way to think about how you’re doing. “Alive and Grateful”!

- No matter what you have been through
- No matter what trials you’ve had to endure
- No matter what sickness you’ve had to fend off
- No matter what grief you’ve had to suffer
- No matter what relationship you’ve had to struggle with
- No matter what temptation you’ve had to resist
- No matter what devil you’ve had to fight

If you’re standing here today, you can still say, “I’m alive & grateful”
If you’re still breathing, you can still say, “I’m alive & grateful”

“Everybody didn’t make it to the end of this year.”

Everybody hasn’t experienced ministry with blacks and whites and Asians and Hispanics, Arabs, Europeans, and Jewish people all serving Jesus together under one roof like I have!

Everybody doesn’t have an amazing spouse or wonderful children who honor you and rise up and call you blessed!

So when you ask me, “David Anderson, how are you doing?” I will tell you “I’m alive & grateful.”

Why?

Song: When I Think About the Lord by Huey James

When I think about the Lord
 How He saved me how He raised me
 How He filled me with the Holy Ghost
 How He healed me to the uttermost
 When I think about the Lord
 How He picked me up and turned me around
 How He placed my feet on solid ground
 It makes me wanna shout

Hallelujah thank You Jesus
 Lord You're worthy of all the glory
 And all the honor and all the praise
 It makes me wanna shout
 Hallelujah thank You Jesus
 Lord You're worthy of all the glory
 And all the honor and all the praise

“I hope you can say, ‘I’m alive and grateful’ and it is all because of God being with us!”

“The name of Jesus is miraculous because He is Immanuel, which means “God with us” no matter what we’re going through in this life! God wants to be with you and with me everyday of our lives through the rest of eternity.”

Matthew 1:20-23 NIV84

But after he [Joseph] had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.”

Isaiah 7:14 NIV84

Therefore the Lord himself will give you [house of David] a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Matthew 1:21 tells us that through the name Jesus, God wants to **rescue** us - God saves us

Matthew 1:22 tells us that through the name Immanuel, God wants a **relationship** with us - God with us

“God not just wants to save us, he wants to be with us. See, both names are important because if you just have someone save you that doesn’t mean they want to be with you. If you call a first responder because the house is on fire, they will come in and rescue you. The EMTs may even take you to the hospital, but they don’t want to take you home! They may want to make sure the fire is out, but then they want to go on to their own life, they don’t want a relationship with you.”

Not so with God! He wants to *rescue* you and be in a *relationship* with you.

“God wants to save you - that’s Jesus, but he also wants to have a relationship with you - that’s Immanuel. God loves us so much, that he wants to be a long-term companion not just a 911 rescue event in our life.”

God even changed his son’s name to Jesus to reflect his mission here on earth.

God wants to be “WITH US” in 3 Ways:

1. PERSONALLY (Salvation - God is with us by being in us)

“When you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior then Jesus himself, the very Spirit of Jesus, comes into your spirit and now he lives in you. God wants to have a personal relationship with you so whatever you’re going through, he’s going through as well.”

2. CORPORATELY (Christian Fellowship - God is with us through other people)

“Sometimes we think that God only wants to be with us vertically - between us and him, me and God. But he also wants to be with us horizontally...the relationship we have with others. One of the ways that God wants to be with us is to be with us through other people.”

“ ‘God, I want you to be with me!...God, don’t you care?!’ God is saying, ‘can’t you see I am with you through them?!...The way I’ve decided to come into your life is to be with you through others.’ ”

3. **ETERNALLY** (Everlasting Union - God is with us forevermore in glory)

“The everlasting union that we will always have with Jesus...he will always forevermore be changed. He will not only be God but he'll always be 100% human too...for the rest of eternity, his very composition of divinity and humanity are ever-woven together throughout eternity just so he could be with us.”

Revelation 21:1-4 NIV84

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

“Heaven is about being with God. The ‘with-ness’ of God - that’s what salvation is. Not just to rescue you, but to have a relationship with you for the rest of eternity.”

Revelation 21:4-6 NIV84

He [God] will wipe every tear from their [his people] eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” ⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.

The miracle of Christmas and the miracle of His name, Immanuel, is that the God of the universe became a human being, lived a perfect life, died a cruel death, and rose again from the dead just so He could be WITH US forevermore!