



EMPOWERMENT WELLNESS

Thrive in Christ – Align with Purpose

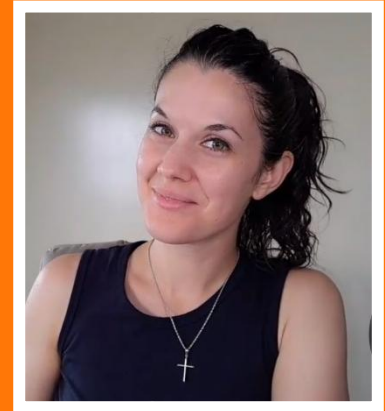
The Day God Changed My Name - A Testimony -

It was one day at church like no other I've experienced.

From a meeting that turned into fellowship and preparation, to worshipping my way into submission to God's will, to then serving on the prayer team and being led from one person to the next without rest as a powerful affirmation of God's work through me....and it all started when I stepped into obedience and a new covenant with Him.

This is a testimony, not about what "I've done" in God, but what God does through us when we let Him...

...A testimony about coming into alignment with God's direction. Something unique to each of us and His calling on our lives. Yet, while the particulars of what God asks us to do may differ, the requirement for each of us remains the same: obey. He's going to ask you to do something you won't want to do. He's going to lead you out of your comfort zone. He's going to keep you in the dark, not giving you most or any of the details about why He's asking you to do something or what's going to happen after you say "yes" to His direction for you. This is intentional. God is inviting you to rely on Him. To put aside what's "logical" by worldly standards. To let go of your way of doing things. To mature beyond the beliefs and perceptions that limit you - and limit Him working through you. I pray this testimony brings you to your knees (figuratively and literally); to the end of yourselves and your fears, and into saying "YES" to what God is leading you to do.



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Empowerment Wellness



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Isaiah 26:3

"You will keep in perfect and constant peace the one whose mind is steadfast [that is, committed and focused on You—in both inclination and character], Because he trusts and takes refuge in You [with hope and confident expectation]."

Preparation

On a Sunday in late Oct 2024, I led a prayer team meeting at a local church. I'd been on the prayer team for a while, but for the last week or so, I struggled to know what to say to my teammates during our team gathering. I prayed about this for days, and what God kept emphasizing to me was the importance of being prepared. Not just any preparation, though. Not the kind of preparation the world relies on - done in our own effort. Instead, the kind that God does *in* us that empowers us for the unknowns and challenges when people come to the altar (or elsewhere) for prayer. That by our research and knowledge alone, we can't possibly be ready for all that we're called to face and speak over. It's only through our relationship with God and personal time in His Presence that He can guide us in our knowledge, its proper application, and give us the words and insights we need in the moment. I quickly came to understand that this revelation was preparing me for far more than just prayer. It was helping me get into the right focus and mindset for what was about to happen.

Following the meeting, church service began, and I found a seat. This time, I was there without my family. To explain to you what happened next, I have to tell you what had been coming up inside of me for several months prior to that day

God told me to change my name. When I say "told," I mean that I was aware of a still small voice that declared this direction to me, and I had an inner knowing that arose spontaneously – without me contemplating it or even having it on my radar of things to do. The direction was not to change my name completely, but to add to it. That HE was changing my name. I had an idea of what He wanted me to do, but doubted and resisted it because...well, let's be honest, it's strange – at least to the world – to have God change your name. People see it as ego-driven and not Spirit-led. Things like this don't happen anymore, right? Only in the Bible and to people in the distant past, not to modern-day Christians! A name doesn't even have the same meaning it used to.

Beyond the external pressures, my thoughts added even more apprehension to this decision: *How will changing my name make any difference? I must be making this up...*

Clarity

The humbling truth is that while the societal emphasis behind something and its spiritual meaning may change or diminish over time - and we may fall into fear over what others will think of us - we have no excuse to ignore God's direction. God will often tell us something that doesn't align with social standards of what's "normal" or desirable. This is purposeful.

We must choose to which we have allegiance.

*“The desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other...” **Galatians 5:17***

Historically and Biblically, a name was given to describe that person. To God, names are powerful, even the sign of covenants entered into between Him and His people who choose to step into a new identity and mission for Him. Not a requirement for all to be His willing vessels, but a known directive of some. Despite knowing that God is absolutely still intervening in the lives of His Children and working in supernatural ways, I resisted and put off His direction for me. Fortunately, God was gracious and patient with me. Waiting for me to start looking to Him instead of running from Him.

Standing in the pews that day in October, I had that same feeling come up inside that I had felt for months. The spontaneous feeling, like a reminder, that I needed to pay attention and do something I hadn't yet done. It was on that day in October that I finally came to the point of saying, "Okay, God, tell me what you want my name to be. Show me."

For a few minutes, there was silence. An inner stillness. This was less about God and more about me finally coming to the end of my doubts, fears, and avoidance tactics, also known as: disobedience. The worship part of the service began, and the lyrics of the very first song said, "I gave you a new name." The lyrics continued with "I am who You say I am," and some others that spoke to what God was already telling me. It blew me away. Tears started welling up in my eyes as I smiled in awe and surrender, and I said again, "Okay, God, I hear You! I won't ignore You anymore, so just tell me what you want my name to be!"

Then, I heard from Him. In a calm, small voice inside, He said "I already told you. You just didn't listen." ...I couldn't argue with that. He was right. He then reminded me of what He told me months ago: that I would add an 'h' to my name. Biblical examples of this were when God changed Abram to Abraham and Sarai to Sarah.

Later, I would research what this means in Hebrew. The Hebrew letter 'h' (or Hei) used toward the end of a name is more feminine, whereas in the very middle or beginning, it's masculine. It *means* many things, but spiritually can be used independently to represent "God." It has the numerical value of 5 (which is special for me with my 5 kids, yet could perhaps be a side note that stood out to me and less of a reason - but I won't limit God's intentions). It's added to a name to represent divine revelation, the breath of the Creator, and the open hand of God and His Grace or power in your life. It represents a new calling or direction in your life, and is the person displaying how they're choosing to enter into a partnership or covenant with that divine direction.

It's an outward sign - a seal of my inner commitment to step fully out of the old and into the new. That I now walk in *His* calling on my life. Not in some opinion of what that calling is, and not in fear of where His direction will lead.
I declared that He is the author of my identity and mission.

Biblical Examples				
Born as	God's direction	Changed to	Meaning	Testament
Abram	Yes	Abraham	Father of Many, Strength, Protection, New Covenant	OT
Sarai	Yes	Sarah	Princess, New Covenant	OT
Jacob	Yes	Israel	Persevered, He Retains God	OT
Hoshea	Yes – through Moses	Joshua/Jehoshua	Yahweh Is Salvation	OT
Solomon	Yes - through prophet	Jedidiah	Hand (in) Hand (with) The Lord, Beloved Of Yahweh	OT
Simon	Yes - Jesus	Peter/Cephas	Stone Man – Foundational layer of Rock	NT
James & John	Yes - Jesus	Boanerges	Son of Thunder, Testosterone, Battle Cry	NT
Saul	Thought to be self-adopted change - unknown if God led	Paul	Small Whisper Propagates Into A Roaring Multitude, Extraordinary, Distinguished, To Stop/Cease	NT

First Confirmation

Immediately after that revelation sank in at worship, God affirmed this covenant with me. The prayer team was called up, the music continued, and I wasn't standing at the altar long before God told me to go pray for a man who was worshiping in the front. After some hesitation, I knew I just needed to obey, even if I didn't understand. I got a male prayer team member to go with me. As we walked up to him together, I told him God wanted me to pray for him. That there was something God wanted to give him, or some breakthrough he would be seeing that I was to stand in agreement for. I placed my hand on the man's shoulder as I said this and began to pray. I had no clue what it was specifically. I felt mostly in the dark...

...but that's often God's way, not telling us the whole picture. He's getting us to rely on Him rather than on our own understanding.

Since I didn't know exactly WHAT to pray, I began to pray in tongues to just let God work and speak what He wanted. I felt my hand get warm, but then my thoughts started jumping in with doubt and thinking how crazy I must seem to this guy! Right then, the man reached up and placed his hand over mine. It startled me out of those momentary thoughts. He began praying to God for me....he said, "I feel like there's embers coming out of your hand, it's trying to light a fire inside. God, I pray for it to be released and flow freely." As he said that, God started working. I felt that fire throughout my body and hand and just knew certain things to say in that moment. Looking back, I realize that this was just as much about God speaking a prayer over me - THROUGH that man - as it was about me praying for him.

Second Confirmation

No sooner had I finished praying I felt God leading me somewhere else. I turned around and there was a group of women huddled at the corner of the altar. I was told to go there...For some reason they stopped praying as I walked up to them and told me what one of the women needed prayer for. I mention this detail because – in my experience – this never happens. Normally, if you walk up on a prayer that's already in progress, they continue, and you act to support and agree with that prayer. Prayer never stops, it goes on with the one who started praying and then sometimes others add things at the end. But for reasons I don't know, this wasn't the case that day, and they had me lead the prayer. After I was told what the need was, God moved from flowing into that man, to now flowing into this woman. So much warmth and power. His words came through me and the woman began shaking...I just let God work and said things that I don't even fully remember.

Third Confirmation

I was immediately directed to help a third time. God led me to find one of the men from our prayer team who also operated in a deliverance ministry. I didn't see him in his seat, so I looked around and found him in the aisle with a woman who needed help releasing dark associations to her past and spiritual entities that had attached to her. This day at church ended with me and two other believers leading this woman and her fiancé into spiritual deliverance from demonic possession. Something they would receive further liberation from in layers with continued support, and later develop into powerful conduits for God's Kingdom. They were just two of the numerous people God placed in my path that year to assist with deliverances. Not something I expected, or even really believed in much before then. God certainly has His ways of opening our eyes to the reality of things we've decided don't exist.

God had been preparing me for this day for many months. Once I chose to step into obedience and follow Him where He was leading me, I heard Him more clearly, the inexplicable happened, and His Body was collectively drawn closer to Him.

It was a tremendous affirmation of the results possible when we come into alignment and partnership with Him, rather than doubting and denying Him.

Conclusion

Letting Christ be my center is now represented in my name and is a very personal sign of my devotion to following God's calling on my life and allowing His will to flow through me. Jordan became Jordahn, and I'm here today as the humble servant of God, pointing to His goodness.

Does this mean that everyone must change their name to follow God? No. Does this mean that we must follow God and His direction for us, no matter how difficult or seemingly trivial? Yes.