

Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Whom ye crucified, Whom God raised from the dead, even by Him doth this man stand here before you whole. . . . Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Acts 4:10–12

All the nations compassed me round about, and by the Name of the Lord I warded them off.

Surrounding me they compassed me, and by the Name of the Lord I warded them off.

They compassed me about like unto bees around a honeycomb, and they burst into flame like a fire among the thorns, and by the Name of the Lord I warded them off.

Ps. 117:10–12

Flog your enemies with the Name of Jesus, for there is no stronger weapon in heaven or earth.

The Ladder of Divine Ascent, St. John Climacus, Step 21:7

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Pearls from the Holy Fathers

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THE MORE THE RAIN falls on the earth the softer it makes it; similarly, Christ's holy name gladdens the earth of our heart the more we call upon it.

St Hesychius the Priest, *On Watchfulness and Holiness*, #41
Philokalia, Faber & Faber, Vol. I, p. 169

WE HAVE LEARNED FROM EXPERIENCE that for one who wishes to purify his heart it is a truly great blessing constantly to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus Christ against his intelligible enemies. Notice how what I speak of from experience concurs with the testimony of Scripture. It is written: 'Prepare yourself, O Israel, to call upon the name of the Lord your God' (cf. Amos 4:12. LXX); and the Apostle says: 'Pray without ceasing' (1 Thess. 5:17). Our Lord Himself says: 'Without Me you can do nothing. If a man dwells in Me, and I in him, then he brings forth much fruit'; and again: 'If a man does not dwell in Me, he is cast out as a branch' (John 15:5–6). Prayer is a great blessing, and it embraces all blessings, for it purifies the heart, in which God is seen by the believer.

Ibid., #62, p. 173

WE WILL TRAVEL the road of repentance correctly if, as we begin to give attention to the mind, we combine humility with watchfulness, and prayer with the power to rebut evil thoughts. In this way we will adorn the chamber of our heart with the holy and venerable name of Jesus Christ as with a lighted lamp, and

PRAYING BY THE PRAYER OF JESUS is a divine institution. It was instituted not by means of an Apostle or by means of an Angel; it was instituted by the Son of God and God Himself. After the mystical supper among other sublime, final commandments and orders, the Lord Jesus Christ instituted prayer by His name. He gave this way of prayer as a new, extraordinary gift, a gift of infinite value. The Apostles partly knew already the power of the name of Jesus; they healed incurable diseases by it, they reduced devils to obedience, conquered, bound and expelled them by it. This most mighty, wonderful name the Lord orders us to use in prayer. He promised that such prayer will be particularly effectual [he quotes John 14:13 & John 15:23]

will sweep our heart clean of wickedness, purifying and embellishing it. But if we trust only in our own watchfulness and attentiveness, we shall quickly be pushed aside by our enemies. We shall be overturned and cast down by their extreme craftiness. We will become ever more fully entangled in their nets of evil thought, and will readily be slaughtered by them, lacking as we do the powerful sword of the name of Jesus Christ. For only this sword, swiftly turning in the undivided heart, is able to cut them down, to burn and obliterate them as fire the reed.

It is the task of unceasing watchfulness – and one of great benefit and help to the soul – to see the mental images of evil thoughts as soon as they are formed in the mind. The task of rebuttal is to counter and expose such thoughts when they attempt to infiltrate our mind in the form of an image of some material thing. What instantly extinguishes and destroys every demonic concept, thought, fantasy, illusion and idol is the invocation of the Lord. And in our mind we ourselves can observe how our great God, Jesus, triumphs over them all, and how He avenges us, poor, base and useless as we are.

Ibid., #152–53, p. 189

IF YOU REALLY WISH TO COVER YOUR EVIL THOUGHTS with shame, to be still and calm, and to watch over your heart without hindrance, let the Jesus Prayer cleave to your breath, and in a few days you will find that this is possible.

Ibid., #182, pp. 194–5

What a wonderful gift! It is a guarantee of unending, infinite blessings! It came from the lips of the unlimited God, clothed in limited humanity and called by the human name of Saviour [which in Hebrew is *Jesus*]. The name by its exterior form is limited, but it represents an unlimited object, God, from Whom it borrows infinite, divine value or worth, the power and properties of God.

Bishop Ignaty Brianchaninov, *On the Prayer of Jesus*,
tr. Father Lazarus Moore,
London, John M Watkins, 1965, pp. 18–9