

Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God has exalted Him to the highest place and given Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Several days ago, I had awakened early and was looking forward to my daily quiet time with Jesus on our cozy sunporch. As I was about to prepare my coffee, I was jolted by a raucous and repetitive *RAT-A-TAT-TAT* emanating from our living room fireplace but echoing throughout the house. While it sounded like a machine gun, I was pretty sure it wasn't...so I ventured outside and saw two woodpeckers perched on the metal rim of our chimney.

Glaring at the offenders, I shouted, "Get out of here!" But they merrily continued in their clamor, likely thinking that roosters had nothing on them when it comes to waking up an entire neighborhood. A second time, I yelled at them to go, but they didn't even flinch. I picked up a little stone and tossed it at them - but it wasn't even acknowledged.

Finally, the Holy Spirit reminded me that I have authority in the name of Jesus over the beasts of the field, the fish in the sea...and the birds in the air! So I said in a quiet but firm voice, "Go in the name of Jesus. You have no authority here."

They stopped immediately and did not return...until yesterday. This time I was enmeshed in my quiet time, so I told my husband that it was his turn. He went over to the fireplace and said, "Get out of here!" Nothing happened.

I said, "No, you have to tell them to leave in Jesus' name!" So he commanded, "Leave in Jesus' name!" - and they did. Silence. Perfect peace.

The name of Jesus is above every other name, in heaven, on earth and under the earth. But it isn't a magic charm to be used just to get rid of annoyances. His name is a ministry that brings everything into the King's domain - His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven - because it is empowered by the Holy Spirit.

The power in the name of Jesus comes from knowing Him. When we truly know Him and are filled with His Holy Spirit, we have authority in His

name to speak to the powers of darkness and expect them to flee, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.