

# 7 Amazing Truths About the Name of Jesus Every Christian Must Know

What does it take to actually grow your faith in Christ?

In the journey of faith, it's easy to be distracted by life's challenges. But Todd Mullins reminds us that if we have Jesus, "then you've got everything that you need."

In a stunning message, Mullins shared powerful insights from Mark 4, where Jesus teaches the parable of the sower—a story that reveals how the condition of our hearts impacts our spiritual growth.

In this parable, Jesus compares the Word of God to a seed that is sown by a farmer. "The seed is the word of God," Mullins explains, and the soil represents the condition of our hearts. "This is really the parable of the soil more than it's the parable of the sewer because the sewer can't make anything grow," Mullins says. "The sewer doesn't do anything about the soil. The sewer just sows seed."

***Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!***

Mullins explains that our hearts must be prepared to receive God's word. He identifies several obstacles that hinder spiritual growth.

First, a hardened heart blocks God's word from taking root. "The more that you and I ignore God... every time we resist God...

my heart gets hardened in that area and I can no longer receive," Mullins states. Just as a rocky path prevents seeds from sprouting, our hearts can become resistant to God's influence when we turn away from His voice.

Mullins also highlights the danger of distractions, comparing them to thorns that choke the growth of plants. "The worries of this life... the deceitfulness of wealth... and the desires for other things come in and choke the word," he warns. These distractions can take many forms—fear, anxiety and misplaced priorities—but they all prevent us from fully embracing God's word and growing in our faith.

***Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up to date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!***

To see growth, we must cultivate good soil. How do we do that? We live our lives according to the Word of God. If we do not live out what the Word of God says, it will be impossible for us to cultivate strong, good soil for the kingdom of God.

"Good soil is going to not only receive the word but is actually going to do what the Word says to do," Mullins emphasizes. True spiritual growth is not just about hearing God's word, but about living it out. As James 1:22 reminds us, "Do not merely listen to the word... but do what it says."

Spiritual growth is a continual process of sowing, cultivating and tending to our hearts. When we decide to open our hearts to the Holy Spirit, eliminate distractions and live out what Scripture says, then we can truly have victory and freedom in Christ.

***Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!***

***Abby Trivett is content development editor for Charisma Media.***

---

# Could Passover Hold the Key to Jesus' Return?

"They put the blood of the lamb on one doorpost, the other doorpost, and the top—forming a triangle," he said. "Over a thousand years later, God would answer that. He would take His Lamb on beams of wood and put one blood here, one blood there, and one blood there—forming a triangle from heaven to earth. You put it together, and you have the Star of David, the covenant of God."

The cup of judgment, Cahn reminds us, symbolizes the wrath Jesus took upon Himself.

"When the Lord said, 'Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me,' that was the cup," he says. "This is the judgment that you will never know, because someone else took it for you forever."

***Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!***

But perhaps the most soul-searching moment of the evening arrives in a challenge.

"When you see the blood, you have to pass over it," Cahn says. "There are people who sinned against you, who hurt you... but when you see the blood, you have to lift the judgment. You

have to let go. You have to forgive.”

The Passover, he explains, is more than a meal or a moment in history. It’s an invitation to freedom.

“You are saved by the blood of the Lamb. You are set free by the blood of the Lamb. You are new by the blood of the Lamb,” Cahn says. “If you have the love of God, you are rich in this world.”

And just like the Israelites walking out of Egypt, Cahn says, “Once that Passover came, they were free... The past has no claim on your life because the blood of the Passover Lamb sets you free from everything that has ever been.”

***Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!***

*James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.*

---

## **7 Most Misused Bible Verses Christians Get Totally Wrong**

When was the last time you saw a miracle, or heard someone speak a prophetic word that truly resonated with your soul?

For many believers, the gifts of the Holy Spirit seem distant, like something out of a Bible story or a fairy tale. But according to Bible teacher Rick Renner, that mindset is not only outdated—it’s unbiblical.

“I grew up in a context where we were told we didn’t need them, and they didn’t even exist anymore,” Renner said in a

recent teaching on spiritual gifts. But his tone changes quickly when he begins comparing Scripture: “There are only 23 references in the whole New Testament about water baptism ... and not one word of instruction about how to do it.”

On communion, he continues, “There are only 28 references ... yet we believe in communion, we practice it with heartfelt faith and commitment.”

***Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!***

Then comes the clincher: “If you count the verses in the New Testament that address the subject of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, you find that there are 103 verses—four times more than anything about water baptism or communion.”

So why have spiritual gifts been so easily dismissed in modern church circles?

For Renner, it’s a mix of poor theology, tradition and a lack of personal experience. But that personal experience, he says, is where everything changes.

In one service, he shared a word of knowledge about someone’s leg being healed. Later, a woman approached him to say, “I’m the one. I couldn’t move my leg. When you prayed, the power of God hit my leg and I could just move my leg just perfectly.”

These moments are more than emotion—they’re evidence.

Renner points to 1 Corinthians 14:26 where Paul writes, “Let all things be done unto edifying.” He explains, “When all these things are in manifestation in the church, it causes the church to increase spiritually ... the gifts of the Holy Spirit

really enlarge us spiritually.”

According to Renner, here’s what the gifts do:

- Confirm the reality of Jesus
- Make the gospel tangible
- Bring spiritual maturity
- Enrich the church with knowledge and power
- Foster a partnership between believers and Christ

“When I saw a leg grow for the first time in a meeting, suddenly Jesus the healer stepped off the pages of the Bible and I saw Him,” he said. “It brought to me a revelation—not of a fairy tale in the Bible—but of Jesus the present-day healer.”

He contrasts this with a visit to Russia’s Hermitage Museum during the fall of the Soviet Union. Several paintings depicting Jesus’ miracles were labeled as “fairy tales.” But then he reflected, “That wasn’t really much different than the church I grew up in.”

***Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!***

Renner doesn’t just defend the continuation of spiritual gifts—he connects them to Christian maturity. Quoting 1 Corinthians 1:7-8, he notes the gifts were to continue “waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,” and goes further: “The gifts of the Holy Spirit are intended to bring us to a greater level of spiritual maturity.”

The argument is simple, yet profound: If God dedicated so much biblical space to spiritual gifts, how can we ignore them?

In Renner’s words, “Let all things be done.”

Let them be done, not for performance, but for the building up of the body of Christ—and for the undeniable revelation of a living Savior still moving among His people.

***Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!***

***James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.***

---

## **Struggling with Jesus' Tough Teachings? Here's the Truth Behind the Parables**

Sometimes the parables that Jesus spoke almost came off a bit harsh. So, why would a good, loving and kind God use language that would shock us?

In a recent TikTok video, Kelly K looked at the parable of the wedding feast to uncover just exactly why God would use the kind of stark warning that He did in this story.

[@kellykministries/video/7489205560647372078?is\\_from\\_webapp=1&ender\\_device=pc&web\\_id=7376331489186743838](https://www.tiktok.com/@kellykministries/video/7489205560647372078?is_from_webapp=1&ender_device=pc&web_id=7376331489186743838)

In Matthew 22, Jesus shares a powerful parable about a king who hosts a wedding feast for his son. The king sends invitations to a select group of guests, but many decline, too busy with their own lives. Frustrated, the king opens the invitation to everyone—good, bad, Jew, Gentile—hoping that anyone willing to come will join the celebration.

***Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!***

However, when one guest arrives without the proper wedding clothes, the king orders him to be thrown out into outer darkness. The question arises: why such a harsh response to something as seemingly trivial as attire?

Kelly K addresses this question by emphasizing that the parable isn't about a "dress code" to heaven. The key to understanding this lies in the symbolism behind the wedding clothes. In ancient times, a king hosting such a grand feast wouldn't expect guests to bring their own attire. The king would provide the necessary garments.

K explains that the king wasn't asking the man why he didn't bring clothes from his own closet, but rather, "Where's the clothes I gave you?" The man's failure to wear the clothes provided by the king represents rejecting the king's offer—just as rejecting Jesus' righteousness is akin to rejecting God's invitation.

This truth is rooted in Isaiah 61:10, which says, "For he has dressed me with the clothing of salvation, and he draped me in the robe of righteousness." K points out that "the clothes you needed to come to this party that were bought and paid for for you" were already provided, but the man chose not to wear them.

***Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up to date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!***

The righteousness offered by Jesus is not something we can earn; it's a gift given to us through His sacrifice. Christians must quit relying on their own efforts to earn favor with God. As K explains, "You and I, who had no right

standing with God, get to be in right standing with God because Jesus, who knew no sin, traded us His righteousness for our sin.”

Righteousness isn't something we can achieve on our own. It's a gift from God. The only thing we need to do is put it on, acknowledging that we are made right with God not by our actions, but by the righteousness of Jesus. As K puts it, “The only thing you need to get into the greatest party of all time—eternity with the creator of the universe—you just gotta put on the right clothes.”

Many are called to God's kingdom, but only those who accept His gift of righteousness—who “put on the right clothes”—are chosen. The question is: will you choose to put on the robe of righteousness Jesus is offering you today?

***Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!***

***Abby Trivett is content development editor for Charisma Media.***

---

## **God Isn't in a Hurry—Learn to Respect His Speed Limit**

Have you ever wanted to go to a secluded place and scream at the top of your lungs, “God, why are You taking so long?” I have. Everything about my life has seemed too slow. My last name even means “gradual.”

Some people might look at my life and say, “You are blessed and successful.” But I waited a long time to see that fruit. Nothing came quickly.

My first job lasted eight difficult years, and the pay was horrible. Then, at age 31, the ministry I worked for imploded. After that, I went through lengthy seasons of dryness. I often wanted to quit.

I watched as many of my friends seemed to achieve financial success while I felt as if I were stuck in a holding pattern. God's blessings eventually came, but not as fast as I expected. I didn't start preaching until I was 43, and I didn't enter full-time ministry until I was 52.

***Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!***

Now, I'm mentoring younger Christians who are eager to be used by God. But they are also encountering delays, disappointments and total roadblocks. They are asking me tough questions:

- \*\* Why am I not married yet?
- \*\* Why does it seem like I can't get ahead financially?
- \*\* Why can't I discover God's purpose for my life?
- \*\* Will I ever have a family? And should we even try after a miscarriage?
- \*\* Why can't I develop a strong network of friends?
- \*\* What do I do with promises from God that seem like they have expired?

Through all my delays, I've learned that we must learn to drive the speed limit on the road of life. When God wants to change us into His image, He slows down the process.

British preacher Charles Spurgeon wrote: "God is in no hurry. His purposes can be accomplished without haste, and though He would have us redeem the time because our days are evil, yet in His eternity He can afford to wait, and by His wisdom He so orders His delays, that they prove to be far better than our hurries."

God's blessings rarely happen overnight. The Lord's timing is different from yours. We want Him to answer our prayers instantly, but before He answers He may lead us into a wilderness of testing to shape our character. The apostle Peter wrote: "Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time" (1 Pet. 5:6). The "proper time" is God's time, and it rarely syncs with your schedule.

If you rush through life, anxiously pursuing your own goals, or manipulating people and circumstances to force your own desired outcomes, you will miss His best. Give God your schedule and take your hands off of it. Let Jesus reign over your hours, days, months and years. Be patient, and you will see a harvest in the end.

If God has imposed a speed limit in your life right now, slow down and enjoy the journey. Revving your engine or spinning your tires won't help. God's delays burn out the spoiled attitudes in our hearts. Adjusting your speed limit will crucify your flesh.

We see this painful process in David's life. During his long journey to become king, David ended up in an obscure town called Ziklag. Scholars aren't sure where this place was, only that it was in the remote Judean wilderness. Ziklag means "pressure," and it refers to the process of shaping molten metal. While David was in this dark place, he wrote, "My soul thirsts for you...in a dry and weary land where there is no water" (Ps. 63:1).

***Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!***

David didn't lose faith while he was in the Lord's lonely school of testing. He stayed thirsty for God. He prayed

constantly—knowing that he was in the fire of preparation. God was applying heat and pressure to shape him for greater responsibility. In the end, David got out of Ziklag and sat on the throne in Jerusalem. The pain of delay shaped him for the promise.

What was David's secret to enduring trials? Just as the apostle Paul and Silas sang hymns of praise in the Philippian jail, David wrote most of his psalms in the bleak wilderness, and he sang them there. He worshipped while he waited. He trusted God when there was no visible sign of a breakthrough.

Paul told the Corinthians: "For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison" (2 Cor. 4:17). God uses our delays to shape our character and spiritual fruitfulness. If we understand this deep truth, we will respond differently when He imposes a speed limit in our lives.

If you are in a holding pattern right now, don't despair. A breakthrough is coming. God is preparing you to handle the promise when it comes.

***Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!***

---

## **5 Deceptions Keeping the Church Broke**

**1. What's so special about these ancient**

## manuscripts?

Huff walks viewers through the three major ancient manuscripts used to analyze Mark's ending: Codex Vaticanus, Codex Sinaiticus and Codex Alexandrinus.

Here's what makes them significant:

- **Codex Vaticanus** omits verses 9–20 but leaves an entire blank column at the end of Mark—a unique feature nowhere else in the manuscript. “Nowhere in the entirety of Vaticanus’s New Testament do we ever see anything other than when the book is finished, the next book immediately starts in the following column,” Huff said. “The only place... where an entire blank column is left is at the end of Mark.”
- **Codex Sinaiticus** also omits the longer ending but features unusual scribal behavior: a change in handwriting, expanded lettering, and a highly decorative marker. “Mark’s [decorative scribal marker] is not only more decorative in style but measures 6 cm in length. It’s more than twice the size of the other decorative markers we find.”
- **Codex Alexandrinus**, the earliest to include the longer ending, also has a standout decorative flourish. “That particular manuscript, though it does include Mark 16:9-20... differs significantly from the ending of the other gospels and is larger.”

These paratextual details—the spacing, styles and visual cues—are not random. They’re intentional.

*“Scribes and copyists tend to do things on purpose when it comes to these features,” Huff said.*

## 2. How many endings of Mark are there?

Believe it or not, there isn't just one disputed ending—there are five different endings found in the manuscript tradition.

According to Huff, these include:

- An abrupt ending at verse 8 (as in Vaticanus and Sinaiticus)
- A shorter alternative ending
- The longer ending (verses 9–20, most commonly printed today)
- A version in Codex Washingtonianus with an extra paragraph between verses 14 and 15
- A hybrid version combining elements of more than one ending

Of all these, only two are seriously considered by scholars:

*“What we’re looking at are either the complete longer ending or the shorter ending simply stopping at verse 8,” Huff explained.*

## 3. So, is it Scripture or not?

Huff makes his position clear. He doesn't believe verses 9–20 are original to Mark's Gospel—and, therefore, he doesn't view them as inspired Scripture.

*“I do not think Mark 16:9–20 is original. I don't think Mark wrote it and therefore I don't think it's inspired Scripture.”*

Still, he believes the ancient scribes were doing their best to preserve what they had and alert future readers to the discrepancies. In his words:

- “I think the internal evidence for its exclusion is strong.”
- “The scribes... are themselves aware of idiosyncrasies going on in the manuscripts that they are copying from.”
- “They are noting in the margins or in somewhere around the text to indicate to the reader and to subsequent copyists that something’s going on here. You need to take notice.”

***Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!***

Huff also points out the abrupt ending in verse 8 isn’t as grammatically odd as it seems. While it ends in the Greek word ‘gar’ (“for”), that’s not without precedent.

*“Plato actually ends his work The Republic with gar as the last word,” he noted.*

So what does this all mean for the everyday reader?

At the very least, it shows that early Christians and scribes cared deeply about accuracy—enough to leave markers, spacing and clues for future generations to investigate.

Whether you accept the longer ending or not, the textual tradition reminds us that Scripture transmission was taken seriously, even in the uncertain moments.

***Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!***

***James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.***