

***Satan has been deceiving
unsuspecting people who truly love
God into using words that are
dishonoring to His precious name
for too long!***

According to *Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary*, the word, golly, is "a euphemism for God." (Euphemism is the act of substituting a mild, indirect, or vague term for one considered harsh, blunt, or offensive.)

Webster's definition for gosh is exactly the same. Gosh is "a euphemism for God."

Gee is "a euphemistic contraction of Jesus."

God has commanded us not to take His name in vain. *You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain* (Exodus 20:7). The word, vain, means with evil intent or uselessly.

The New International Version puts it this way: *You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.*

Because of their awesome fear of misusing the name of God and coming under God's judgment, the Hebrews wouldn't speak His name. Instead, they deliberately used euphemisms, such as initials, for the name of God.

When Jesus came, He gave us, believers, the right to use His precious, all powerful name! Is it any wonder that Satan's strongest attacks have been against the name of Jesus?

How often have you heard the words, God, Jesus or Christ, used in abusive, violent, blasphemous ways – in swearing?

Why don't we hear the names of Mohammed, Buddha, Confucius, or any of the other false gods, used to swear?

The reason is obvious. Satan has no reason to bring disrespect to these names. His attack is always on the name of God. His attack is to bring familiarity and disrespect to the very name that can defeat him.

Most believers don't swear using the name of God, but often we hear Christians and Christian leaders using gosh, golly or gee in their conversation – even when teaching the Word – even when leading others into worship of the most high God – even when they are writing in Christian magazines.

Some believers are using the name of God or Jesus or Jesus Christ so often, and so pointlessly, it sounds as though they are swearing. If it sounds like swearing, let's be honest, it is!

Another word Christians are using that has eternal significance is darn. Darn is a euphemism for damn which means "to put a curse on, to condemn to eternal punishment as in hell." Should a Christian be putting curses on anyone or anything?

The list of corrupting words that have crept into our language is long and we are not mentioning all of them here. A few of these words are shoot, shucks, dag-nab-it, dad-gum it, son of a gun, heck, teed off. If we are saying any word as an interjection, we need to check out its meaning in a good dictionary.

Because we love God, we should feel deep hurt whenever we hear a person swearing and using His name in vain. We should be sensitive to the Holy Spirit within us being quenched. As we do become responsive in these areas, the Holy Spirit may speak to us concerning other harmful things we are saying.

Paul said in the book of Ephesians, *Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it*

may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God (Ephesians 4:29,30).

In the early seventies, we heard Sir Lionel Lockhoo speak. He is known as the world's most successful lawyer, a man who knows the importance of precise words. We have never forgotten the awesome way he said *Jesus*. About the third time, he paused and then said *Jesus*, tears began to flow. He spoke in a normal flow of words, but always before he said *Jesus*, he would pause, and say the name of his Lord and Savior with reverence.

He never spoke *Jesus* lightly or carelessly, and the proper, awesome reverence he gave the name of Jesus brought a new revelation into our spirits – a reverence for the name of God. This has been a revelation that has been growing ever since that night.

When Jesus taught us how to pray, He said, *In this manner, therefore, pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name'* (Matthew 6:9). Most of us skip lightly over "hallowed be Your name." Of course we think, God's name is holy. But what does "hallowed" really mean?

It means to make holy, to mentally purify, consecrate; and venerate. We are to pray, "Father, I make holy – I purify in my thinking – I consecrate – I venerate your name." What does "venerate" mean?

Jesus said we are to pray, "Father, I admire – appreciate – cherish – esteem – look up to – hold dear – honor – marvel at – praise – prize – regard – respect – give reverence to – value – think highly of – treasure – worship – your name."

Salvation is through the name of Jesus. The apostle John wrote, *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of*

God, even to those who believe in His name (John 1:12).

We are baptized in the name of Jesus. *Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ'* (Acts 2:38a).

It is through the name of Jesus we can approach the throne of God in prayer. Jesus said, *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, he will give it you* (John 16:23).

The Holy Spirit was sent in the name of Jesus. *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name ...* (John 14:26a).

Jesus said we are to cast out demons, speak in new tongues, and lay our hands on the sick – all in the name of Jesus (Mark 16:17,18).

The apostle Paul said, *Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus* (Colossians 3:17a).

The first miracle the disciples did after the death and resurrection of Jesus was in the name of Jesus. *Peter said, 'Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk'* (Acts 3:6).

To avoid persecution, all the disciples had to do was leave out the name of Jesus. *And they (the religious rulers) called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus* (Acts 4:18).

Over and over as we read through the New Testament, we find verses about believing and acting in the name of Jesus.

Why is the name of Jesus so important? Why are we to believe in His name? What does the name, Jesus, mean?

The prophet Isaiah wrote, *Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel* (Isaiah 7:14).

Matthew said, *She will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins – they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us'* (Matthew 1:21-23).

The name, Jesus, means Savior – God with us. In a moment of danger, it can be a complete prayer in one word – Jesus – God save us!

In Proverbs, we read, *The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe* (Proverbs 18:10).

It is through the name of Jesus we have life. It is through His name we are to bring salvation to the nations. It is through His wonderful name we are to bring healing to the sick. It is through His name we have power over all the power of the enemy.

With all the wonderful benefits we have been given in His name, isn't it time we refrained from even the slightest misuse of that wonderful, holy, awesome name?

Let's think back to the commandments of God, *You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name* (Exodus 20:7 NIV).

If God has been speaking to you about some of the words you have been using – if what you are reading is being confirmed in your own spirit, don't let condemnation come. Ask God to forgive you and help you change your habits!

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All verses, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the New King James Version of the Bible.

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