2. HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME

A name is everything in the Bible. For example, when someone has a significant life change in the Bible, they change their name. When Jacob wrestles with the angel, he is never the same, and his name is changed to Israel. When Simon encounters Jesus and begins to follow him, his name is changed to Peter. When Saul is struck down by the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus, his name is changed to Paul.

As we look at the meaning of “Hallowed be your name”, two words help us: revelation and reverence. You cannot reverence the name of God until you have received the revelation as to what the name means.

When Jesus prayed, Hallowed by Your name, he wants us to recognise 4 truths about God.

1. GOD HAS A NAME.
   1. Elohim
      Refers to God as the Creator. It is the most frequent Hebrew word for God (over 2,500 times in OT):
      Genesis 1:1: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

   2. Adonai
      Refers to God as Lord or Master:
      Genesis 4:1: Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man.”

   3. Yahweh
      Means the Self Existent One:
      Exodus 3:14: God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

      Jesus identified himself with this name:
      John 8:58-59: 58‘Very truly I tell you,’ Jesus answered, ‘before Abraham was born, I am!’ 59At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

2. GOD’S NAME IS HOLY

God is ‘our Father’, but sometimes we can be too familiar and forget that God is also holy, “Hallowed be thy name”. On the one hand you have the closeness of God and on the other, the awesome holiness of God. You need to have both!

When we have an encounter with God we realise our sin:

Luke 5:8: When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!”

Isaiah 6:1-5: 1In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2Above him were seraphim, each with six
wings: with two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.’ 4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. 5 ‘Woe to me!’ I cried. ‘I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.’

3. GOD WANTS US TO WORSHIP HIM.
John 4:23: Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

Worship is surrender! It’s saying I am a disciple (apprentice) that wants to be taught by Him, learn from Him, and be like Him.

When we worship, when we pray “Hallowed by Your name”, we are remembering that God is: Greater than our problems, greater than our sorrows, greater than our needs, greater than our fears, and greater than anything we face:
Matthew 11:28-30: 28 ‘Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.’

There are too many churches where His name is not hallowed and worship is not life changing or taken seriously.

A.W. Tozer maintained that the church’s greatest loss today was the loss of reverence for God himself. It was his firm conviction that God would honour any group of believers who honoured Him.

4. GOD DOES NOT FORCE US TO HONOUR HIM.
Luke 19:37-40: 37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:
38 ‘Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!’
‘Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!’
39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, ‘Teacher, rebuke your disciples!’
40 ‘I tell you,’ he replied, ‘if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.’

What happens when we refuse to acknowledge or worship God? Read Daniel 4:29-37!

When we worship the Lord this is what happens:
Proverbs 3:5-6: 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

When we worship we are led to service.
Isaiah 6:8: Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"