

**What's In A Name?**  
**Psalm 92**  
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Today is Father's Day. Many of you have fathers that have already passed into the care of God. Some of you have fathers that are still living, and the memories may be good, bad, or mixed. No matter what you think and feel about your father, you carry his name and bloodline.

There are three ceremonies that are important in the military. They are funerals, weddings, and changes of command. A change of command is a formal process where a the old commander hands over the care of his unit to a new commander. When I was stationed at Fort Myer, VA I was involved in a lot of funerals. However, I have been to more changes of commands than funerals during my career. The main difference between a funeral and a change of command is that during a funeral the living speak almost exclusively of the one who has departed. At a change of command the one departing talks almost exclusively of the living. What is nice about the change of command is that the living often get to hear their name mentioned out loud in public.

There is something special about having your name spoken in public. It means you are thought of as special, of having importance, of adding something good to someone's life. That person then tends to walk a little taller, feels a little stronger, and experiences a little more self- respect.

The Bible makes a big deal about names. God Himself revealed His name. He called Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses and many of the other great Bible personalities by name. Jesus named and re-named his chosen disciples. The eleventh chapter of Hebrews reads like a change of command with the acknowledgment of the names of the men and women of faith. The most important fact of all is that God allows us to call Him Father. We are his offspring. We now carry His bloodline in our veins, and we have the privilege of letting others know who our Father is and what He is like.

Your name is also very important, because it carries on the name of your father. It carries a special meaning to those you know and love and those who know and love you. So, having a good name is of extremely high value. Having your good name spoken in public is even more special. To have God call you by name is particularly meaningful. Having your name written in the book of life is what we all hope for and desire. Speaking of God and His goodness, praising His name if you will, is not only a blessing to God, but imparts a special blessing to us. The Psalmist says, "It is good to say, 'Thank you' to the Lord, to sing praises to the God who is above all gods." (Ps. 92:1) We also read "Let everyone bless God and sing His praises, for He holds our lives in His hands." (Ps.66:8) As we go through this summer and this Father's Day, let us remember our Heavenly Father and that He is proud to call us His own. Remember, also, to publicly thank God. He is really the One who truly holds our lives in His hands.