

# Jonestown Bible Church

---

14 Silvertown Road, Jonestown, PA 17038  
717-865-4732 [www.jonestownbiblechurch.org](http://www.jonestownbiblechurch.org)

**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.  
To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna,  
and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone  
which no one knows but he who receives it. Revelation 2:17**

February 14, 2024

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are so excited to see the tremendous turnout on Wednesday nights for our Olympian and Teen ministries. This new year the Lord has blessed us with many new youth who are hungry for the Word and Christian fellowship. It is always important for leaders to know the names of each one and working to remember those names throughout the year. Names give the student an identity which is unique to them and sets them apart from others. I read a story that relates to this which has a wonderful spiritual application for us.

In the 1960s, many of those who were part of the hippie generation went against the norm and began naming their children after things related to that culture. They didn't name their children Melissa or Brett. People grew accustomed to their children playing Frisbee with little Time Warp or Spring Fever. And eventually Moonbeam, Earth, Love, Precious Promise, and Peace all ended up in public school. That's when the kindergarten teachers first met "Fruit Stand" in Santa Cruz, California. Every fall, according to tradition, parents bravely apply name tags to their children, kiss them good-bye and send them off to school on the bus. So it was for Fruit Stand. The teachers thought the boy's name was odd, but they tried to make the best of it. "Would you like to play with the blocks, Fruit Stand?" they offered. And later, "Fruit Stand, how about a snack?" He accepted hesitantly. By the end of the day, his name didn't seem much odder than Heather's or Sun Ray's. At dismissal time, the teachers led the children out to the buses. "Fruit Stand, do you know which one is your bus?" He didn't answer. That wasn't strange. He hadn't answered them all day. Lots of children are shy on the first day of school. It didn't matter. The teachers had instructed the parents to write the names of their children's bus stops on the reverse side of their name tags. The teacher simply turned over the tag. There, neatly printed, was the word, "Anthony."

This should remind us that God is going to give each one of us a new heavenly name which will be unique to us and known only to us. It will be given to us by the Lord Jesus Christ according to Revelation 2:17, *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.*

In biblical times names meant something. They spoke of a person's character. We also see God giving people new names to match their new role and/or responsibility. It began with Abram and Sarai. God changed their names to Abraham and Sarah, which according to His description said they would be the father and mother of many nations, *Genesis 17:5, 15-16.*

February 14, 2024  
Page 2

God changed Jacob's name, which meant deceiver, to Israel, or one who prevailed with God, *Genesis 32:28*.

The name God changed that holds the greatest significance is when Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter, which means, "rock," *Matthew 16:18*. This is significant because Jesus gave Peter one of God's own names, *Deuteronomy 32:3-4*.

It's such a name we'll receive in heaven, a new name that represents our new nature in Christ. Dear believer, perhaps you are discouraged or troubled by the things in this life. Hold on to the hope you have in Christ and think upon who you are in Christ and how much He loves you. So much so that one day in heaven He will give you a brand new name that He chose specifically for you. For all eternity He will call you by that name because He redeemed you with the price of His precious blood and at His name we shall bow.

*So that at the name of Jesus very knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father, Philippians 2:10-11.*

In Our Savior's Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pastor Larry".

Pastor Larry