

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Our Muslim brothers and sisters have 99 names for God, while our Jewish sisters and brothers, while refraining even from writing or speaking the divine name, will sometimes refer to God simply as “HaShem,” meaning “The Name.” Our fellow monotheistic faiths recognize, as does our own Christian tradition, that any name we use for God is at best incomplete.

In our prayer lives we can easily fall into the rut of relying on the same few words or phrases, and unintentionally constrict our understanding of the One to whom we pray. We need many names, many images, to begin even to glimpse the immense reality of our God.

As you spend time in personal prayer, glance through the following list. What word or words attract your attention? Is there one that seems particularly appropriate as an address for our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer?

From Kris Haig, “Words of Life.” *Presbyterians Today*. September 1999: 5.

Emmanuel (Matthew 1:23)	Word (John 1:1)
Messiah (Matthew 1:1)	Example
Mighty God (Isaiah 9:6)	Son of the Most High (Luke 1:32)
Liberator	Dawn from on high (Luke 1:78)
True Vine (John 15:1)	Way (John 14:6)
God with Us (Matthew 1:23)	Lamb of God (John 8:12)
Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)	Son of God (John 1:34)
Holy One of God (Mark 1:24)	Truth (John 14:6)
Wisdom	Light of the World (John 8:12)
Good Shepherd (John 10:11)	Lord of all (Acts 10:36)
Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)	Teacher and Lord (John 13:13)
Prophet	Root (Revelation 22:16)
Holy and Righteous One (Acts 3:14)	Author of Life (Acts 3:15)
Bright Morning Star (Revelation 22:16)	Alpha and Omega (Revelation 21:6)
Son of Mary	King of Kings (Revelation 19:16)
Lord of Lords (Revelation 19:16)	Life (John 14:6)
Healer	Root of David (Revelation 5:5)
The Righteous (John 2:1)	The Gate (John 10:7)
Living Water	Righteous Judge (2 Timothy 4:8)
Shepherd and Guardian of Souls (1 Peter 2:25)	Friend
Head (Ephesians 1:22)	Our Peace (Ephesians 2:14)
Cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20)	Brother
Son of David (Matthew 1:1)	Lion of Judah (Revelation 5:5)
Lord and Savior (2 Peter 2:20)	Wonderful Counselor (Isaiah 9:6)
Word of Life (1 John 1:1)	The Door

