Names of God

By Major Doreen Freeman

My husband and I have three grown daughters. When they were younger and we were living in Alaska, they would sometimes call me their "Momma Bear". As an adult, one of my daughters even bought me a keychain with a mama bear and three cubs. In addition to "Momma Bear" I also have the names of "Mom", "Momma", "Doreen", and the most precious name of "Grandma". When the girls were younger, they would even call me by my rank to get my attention.

Even though I have many names, I am still me. Each name denotes a role that I fulfill for that person, but it doesn't change who I am. Each of my names holds various meanings and roles, yet they are all me. Each name represents an identity that my family sees and needs in me at any given moment.

My husband's name is Daniel. He will not respond to Dan because names have meaning. Daniel means "God is my judge" while Dan means "To judge". Similar names but with significant differences in their meaning. Names are personal.

Isaiah 9:6 (The Voice) states,

"*Hope of all hopes, dream of our dreams,*
a child is born, *sweet-breathed;* a son is given to us: *a living gift*.
And even now, with tiny features and dewy hair, He is great.
The power of leadership, and the weight of authority, will rest on His shoulders.
His name? His name *we'll know in many ways—*
He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Dear Father everlasting, *ever-present never-failing,*
Master of Wholeness, Prince of Peace.

From the beginning of time, God has also had many names and each represents the various roles that He holds and that we need. He is always God and never changes, but at the same time He allows us to call Him privileged and powerful names that bring us comfort, peace, joy and so many other emotions. Names are significant and carry great meaning. Names are personal and that is why they mean so much to us. Names are descriptive and tell of our history or of a family trait. Some of God's names are seen in Isaiah 9:6 but there are many more throughout the Bible.

Genesis 16
El Roi – The God Who Sees Me
When the servant Hagar became pregnant with Abram's child, she ran away to the desert where an angel spoke to her. Hagar had felt unseen and rejected, yet the angel told her that God sees her and God knows her. From this encounter, Hagar began to call God *El Roi* because she was seen by Him. He knows everything about us from the hairs on our heads to our past, present, and future. Do you need to call on the God who sees you?

Genesis 22:1-14
Yahweh Yireh – The Lord Will Provide
This is a story of faith. It is the story of Abraham obeying God's spoken word to sacrifice his son and the provision God made because of Abraham's faith. Abraham chopped the wood, his son carried up the hill, and they started the fire. His son, Isaac, asked him where the sheep was for the sacrifice. Abraham replied that God will provide. A few verses later God's provision is revealed as He provided a ram for the sacrifice. Just when you think there are no other options, God provides. He is *Yahweh Yireh* if we only remember to seek Him.

Exodus 15:20-27
Yahweh Rophe – The Lord Who Heals
In Hebrew, the word *'rophe'* means to cure, heal, or restore. This passage is a portion of the story of Moses leading the Israelites in the wilderness. The Israelites were never content during this journey. At the end of the passage, God tells them if they listen to Him, do what is right, and obey His commands, they will not suffer like the Egyptians for He is the Lord who heals them. Does God need to heal your heart? Pray to *Yahweh Rophe*, ask for a clean heart and healing of your spirit.

Not only does God have names of importance and honor, but He also gives us names of privilege and responsibility when He calls us His daughters (2 Corinthians 6:18). We are daughters of the King (*Melek*). So, whether you call on God *El Roi* (The God Who Sees Me), *Yahweh Yireh* (The Lord Will Provide), or *Yahweh Rophe* (The Lord Who Heals), know that you are a daughter of the King. Straighten your crown, straighten the crown of your sisters, and never be afraid to call on *Yahweh, I Am Who I Am* (Exodus 3:14).

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