

About Chanting YHWH's Name

First, we're going to quote Jesus. "Fear not!"

We receive numerous comments on The Calling's website. Many of the 'negative' comments we receive are based in fear, implanted by Christian teachings. Out of all the documents on our site, the following paragraph has been the most scandalous and controversial, meaning we get this response repeatedly.

The offending paragraph is contained in "God is Not God's Name," toward the end. It's one of the 'Four Practical Meditations':

Calling upon the name: Sit in quiet contemplation, and either say out loud or to yourself, "Yod-He-Vav-He" 100 times in the morning and 100 times at night. Every month add 100 times more times to both morning and evening practice, so that by month three you are repeating "Yod-He-Vav-He" 300 times, morning and night. *This is not meaningless repetition: this is the most meaningful.* And you are not doing it to be *heard*, but to *hear truly*. As you call upon the name of **YHWH**, think about the significance of this name to you. Over the course of time, you will find that the name **YHWH** is indeed full of all power and revelation.

To this paragraph, we routinely get this comment (in some form or another):

"This is just wrong. Jesus commands us to NOT use meaningless repetitions. And if God is real, then we don't need to do this repeating stuff. I just don't understand why this is here."

Okay. Let's answer this with a modern American example that we can all relate to: the football fan. The football fan follows his (her) team during the off-season, buys the posters, gets the jersey, reads the statistics, buys the ticket to opening day and stands there for hours, screaming at the top of his lungs DEE-FENCE! DEE-FENCE! DEE-FENCE! And nobody finds this odd.

And yet, you would not *believe* (maybe you would) the *hate mail* we get about the idea that we could benefit from chanting YHWH's Name! It rather boggles the mind, frankly.

So, what is going on with our football fan? Simply put, football fan is bathing his/her consciousness in football; quite literally, football fan is SWIMMING in an ocean of football. Within that context, we know quite a lot about the physiology / psychology link between *speech* and *thought*. The people in the football stands

really think that if they chant (also known as “root,” the secular term) hard enough, they can affect the outcome of a play, the game, even the season.

Here comes the fun part. According to decades of data, where this experiment has been performed *thousands* of times in sporting events across the globe, it has been proven *statistically significant* that the fan is correct! Chanting for the home team **works**! Many people, working together to focus their consciousness, “chanting” for victory, is a contributing factor to making victory come to pass. Home teams win well above a statistical average of 50%. It’s true there are many factors, but the “home crowd” is consistently credited with playing a major role.

Should you be interested in further study, there are multitudes of examples where a chant / mantra / confession / affirmation (which are focusing tools for the mind and soul) actually work.

So when it comes to chanting the Holy Name, what is really going on?

God always hears you. It may not seem that way sometimes, but it’s still true. God’s timeframe is very different than ours...and sometimes the answer is “No.”

We do not chant to be heard, but to *hear* God.

Like the football fan, as you chant you are removing all other thoughts and bathing your consciousness / soul with ONLY GOD. You are swimming in God, a very powerful thing to do.

*We continue this document with a **WARNING!** We are going to use terms created in India thousands of years ago. Again, “Fear not!” We’re not doing this to be cultic or scandalous, but simply because the ideas behind the terminology have not been well developed in the West. However, the ideas do have Biblical counterparts. Warning complete.*

Consider a work of art. Why do we put paintings on the wall and stare at them for *years*? In “pre-industrialized” countries, such a thing is called a *yantra*, a visual chant or meditation piece. Here’s how it works:

- A *mantra* is the vocal representation of the idea (chant / word / name)
- A *yantra* is the visual representation of the idea, in the form of a drawing, painting or even sand sculpture
- The *tantra* is the living representation (actions / deeds) of the idea.

Life works best when your *mantra*, *yantra* and *tantra* are focused and united. In the West, we might say balance comes when our thoughts, words and deeds are working as one.

Here's an example of balancing these three areas. Let's say there's a married couple, late 50's, hard-working, honest folks. Their life's dream is to visit Australia. Their means are limited, so they can't just up and buy a travel package. What are they doing to make this dream reality? This:

- Mantra: "Australia, 2020!" posted on their refrigerator door. They talk often about their trip, share their plan with friends, and confess (affirm) to one another, "We're going to do this, honey!"
- Yantra: their ever-growing collection of pictures, travel brochures and videos from "down under." The dog-eared coffee table book about Australia in their living room.
- Tantra: The monthly savings plan, their approaching retirement, the excitement of making a deposit on the package deal

There is nothing scandalous or even odd about anything our married couple is doing. It's how people live and reach for their goals. The only thing that stands out is that we are using different cultural words in the domain of Christian religion!

The thoughtful reader may have noticed something remarkable: YHWH has placed His Name into this three-fold context:

- The *mantra* is the chanting of the Name,
- The *yantra* is the pictogram of the human being when YHWH is spelled vertically (not to mention the mind-blowing fact that, properly understood, every human being is a living *yantra* of YHWH!)
- And the *tantra* is the loving, devoted religious life.

Again, these are Jewish / Christian ideas combined with Hindu words, and we're sorry if this offends you, but the West hasn't done as well as the Hindus in defining these terms.

Chanting God's Name will probably do little, in and of itself. It's not a magic incantation. However, chanting the Holy Name with your mind clear and focused entirely on Yahweh and your relationship, in concert with a life working in *all ways possible* to be attuned, aligned and integrated with God, will find that chanting *can and WILL* prove to be an incredibly powerful tool.

Using a *tool* or technique is another very powerful idea we usually ignore in the context of Christian religion. Often, Christianity in the U.S. (where The Calling lives) centers on arguing about ideas that can't be proven or disproven, instead of equipping the faithful with tools to grow their faith.

Also, the part about “Chant the Name 100 times every morning and evening” is just a recommendation. Doing this has proven to be an easy, convenient and powerful method, but it is only that. Official tongue-in-cheek notice from our legal department:

"The Calling wishes to state categorically that there is no magic power or formula stated or implied here, either in the practice or theory of meditating on or chanting YHWH's Name. Neither is there any implied or stated magic to the number 100."

Chanting has a history in the Judeo /Christian tradition, usually referred to as “Calling on the Name of The Lord,” or more properly, “Calling upon the Name of YHWH.” The Bible is full of references to the Saints and Patriarchs of old “Calling on the Name of the Lord.” This practice (still carried on today) consists in sitting quietly, focusing on YHWH, and slow or fast, silently or aloud, repeating His Name. For centuries, Jewish, Christian and Muslim devotees have practiced “calling on the Name of the Lord,” and this is historical fact. No doubt you have heard your favorite football fan “call on the Name of the Lord” for their team’s victory!

So, The Calling isn’t inventing something new or injecting Eastern mysticism into Western dogma. We seek only to revive an ancient practice as a tool to grow the body of Christ.

Finally, let’s look at Jesus’ quote that we’ve all been told *prohibits chanting*. Matthew 6:7:

“And when you are praying, do not use *meaningless repetition* as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.”

Jesus is absolutely correct, of course. We shouldn’t do that. However, chanting YHWH's Name has *nothing to do* with this prohibition, because the repetition is *not* meaningless! YHWH’s Name is the most *meaningful* Word known to humankind. It would seem that only the church and Bible translators consider it meaningless.

YHWH always hears us. We chant not to be heard, but to hear.

Test us, and see.