

## “Whatever you ask in My name”

*John 14:12-17*

*12 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. 13*

*"Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 "If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.*

*15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.*

*16 " [And] I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper [another Counsellor of the same kind as I am], that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.*

This is a power-packed passage! There are 4 really big deals in these six verses.

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1. Greater works (verse 12)
2. Answered prayer (verses 13-14)

3. Loving Christ (verse 15)

4. Another Counselor-the Holy Spirit (verses 16-17)\

Last time, we probed the meaning of verse 12.

*John 14:12 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.*

So now we move on to the second big deal in our passage: the subject of answered prayer.

*John 14:13 "Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 "If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.*

/Verses 13-14 explain how the great work in verse 12 will come to pass. \  
"If you **ask** anything in **My name**, I will do it".

/Notice that Jesus will do these greater works through believers.\

/Notice also the purpose: that the Father may be glorified in the Son.\

/ Notice the means: prayer in Jesus' name. \

But what does it mean to ask for something in Jesus' name?

Some treat this as some kind of magic incantation. Others turn it into a prescribed format that must be tacked on to the end of every prayer or else that prayer will not be granted.

Nonsense!

We begin with Jesus. He spoke about His Father's name.

*John 5:43*

*43 "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him.*

/Jesus came in His Father's name. He did His works in His Father's name. He prayed to the Father that the Father's name would be glorified (John 12:28). \

*John 12:27-28*

*27 "Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. 28 "Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again."*

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/Jesus set the precedent for us.\

Now, Jesus will in turn send out His disciples.

*John 20:21*

*21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you."*

So now the disciples will ask for things in Jesus' name. The purpose does not change: "so that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

*John 14:13 "Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son."*

Therefore:

/To ask for something in Jesus' name is to ask for something that will glorify the Father in the Son!\

This gives us the key test as to whether or not a prayer is in Jesus' name:

/If this prayer is answered, will the Father be glorified in the Son? \

So far, so good. But how do we know what prayers will accomplish this?

Let's dive deeper into what Jesus means by "in My name". It means:

/Having Jesus approval and endorsement. \

/Operating under the authority of Jesus.\

/Being of one mind with the Lord concerning this request.\

What does this tell us about asking for things in Jesus' name? It tells us that -

/One cannot ask for anything in Jesus' name until he has come to know Him.\

Paul came to realize the central importance of this:

*Phil 3:8-11*

*8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; 11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

/When a believer has come to know Christ, that believer will know what he should ask for in Jesus' name.\

The apostles- including Paul- are a special and unique class. They asked for - and we're granted- miraculous things . See the book of Acts.

But these miraculous things served the one great purpose of glorifying the Father - and the Son.

These miracles were by no means of course the only things that the apostles asked for in Jesus name, but what they all shared was that /they furthered the mission: preaching the good news about Jesus Christ to all men and women.\

God is glorified by showering His grace and mercy on the hopeless and undeserving.

*Rom 3:23-24*

*23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;*

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/To pray for the ability to spread the gospel message is to pray in Jesus name.\

The specific provision of course varies according to the situation.

In the book of Acts, there were a few instances where the apostles asked for miracles.

In the epistles, Paul asked for unique spiritual provisions - for himself, and for the church. He asked the church to pray for him too.

*Col 4:2-4*

*2 Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; 3 praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; 4 that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.*

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But always the principle is the same. It's the same for us as well:

/a person cannot effectively ask for anything IN JESUS NAME until he or she has come to know Jesus sufficiently well to know for a fact that Jesus endorses that request.\



On that night in the Upper Room, the apostles received an endorsement from the Lord that they in fact had come to know him in some measure. And in the ensuing days and months and years they would come to know Him better.

/It was their commencement.\

*John 16:23-24*

*"In that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you. 24 "Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.*

They would come to know Him better not by performing miracles but by continuing in His word, by learning the truth from their new teacher- God the Holy Spirit, and- most importantly- by doing what Jesus commanded them to do.

/Jesus called this a life of abiding: Abiding in His love, His word abiding in them.\

John 15:7-11

*7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. 9 "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. 10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 11 "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.*

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/It's what John, in 1 John 5:14-15, meant by the expression "according to His will".\

*1 John 5:14-15*

*14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.*

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/This would revolutionize their prayer lives.\

*Col 1:9-12*

*9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.*

/The apostles – including Paul - would come to understand that they could ask for and receive a power greater than miracles.\

*2 Thess 1:11-12*

*to this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, 12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

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Let us pray today, asking for the same things that Paul prayed for

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1. That we may come to know the Lord Jesus Christ;
2. That we may be filled with the knowledge of God's will;
3. That we may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects;
4. That the Lord will open a door for us to proclaim the gospel .\

/So that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in us, and us in Him.\