

Prayer: Conversations with God

Pray In Jesus' Name

Lesson Three

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Scriptures: John 14:13, 14; 15:16; Ephesians 5:20; Colossians 3:17;

Lesson Goal: To explain that our prayer should be through Jesus.

Memory Verse: "...I will do whatever you ask in my name so that the Son may bring glory to the Father."
John 14:13

Our memory verse today gives us the words of Jesus. He was talking to a group of His disciples. He was giving them information they would need when He was no longer with them. These words Jesus spoke were for those who believed in Him, both then and now.

A lot of people focus on the word "whatever," in the memory verse. They want Jesus to be the great Santa Claus in the sky who will give them anything. However, it is more important to focus on the "in my name" part. It is obvious, from all the other promises of Jesus, that He was not promising Christmas every day when He said that He would do "whatever" we asked in His name.

The Bible word "name" means all of who a person is, their values and character. When we pray in Jesus name, we pray for that which He is and that which He taught. So, asking in Jesus name is praying for humility, because He humbled Himself, Philippians 2:7, and became a servant. Asking in Jesus name is praying for the opportunity to give up ourselves and allow Him to live in us. Refer to Galatians 2:20. Asking in Jesus name is seeing the world through Jesus' eyes. Refer to Matthew 9:36.

When we pray in Jesus' name, we can look forward to many opportunities to help others; to make the lives of others better; to bring hope to those who feel hopeless; to bring happiness to those who are in pain; and to point people to the greatest gift of all, the gift of eternal life in Christ.

Why is it necessary to pray in Jesus' name if God the Father hears us anyway? One major clue is in Hebrews 7:25 where we are told that Jesus intercedes for us. An intercessor is someone who represents, or speaks for, someone else. Colossians 3:1 tells us that Jesus is now seated at the right hand of God.

After Jesus left earth, God the Father invited Him to sit down at the place of honor, God's right hand. He is there today speaking to the Father on our behalf. We pray in Jesus' name because He represents us to God the Father.

Pray, Always:

To God
Through Jesus
By God's Holy Spirit

In Thanksgiving
With Joy
For Others

For Forgiveness
For Salvation
To Confess

For Necessities
For Ability

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God does want us to have the desires of our hearts. In John 15:7, Jesus said, “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask what you wish, and it will be given you.” He goes on to say, in the eighth verse, “This is to my Father’s glory, that you may bear much fruit...” John 15:8

We should remember that as we mature in life, our wishes...our desires change. We go from wanting toy trucks and dolls to wishing for better jobs, healthy families and ability to meet life’s crises. Just so, as we mature as Christians, we better understand what it is to live, serve, and yes, ask, in Jesus’ name. Our prayers are molded by His character and become much more like what He would be praying for, were He in our shoes.

God wants us to be blessed. Jesus lists the blessings afforded to His followers in the Sermon on the Mount. To know the blessings that right praying will lead to, read Matthew 5:3-12.

We have seen, in both our memory verse, and in John 15:7 and 8, that what we ask for can bring...actually should bring...glory to God the Father. Our praying in Jesus’ name will mean that we have considered what will glorify God. That is definitely part of the promise of Jesus. You can bring glory to God when you pray in the right way, for the right things.

When we bow our heads to pray it would be wise to ask, “Can I pray this prayer in Jesus’ name? Will God hear this prayer as He would hear His own Son praying?”

One thing for certain, a good prayer can always end with, “Thy will be done.”

*Underlined sentences in the Teacher’s Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher’s Guide.

Pray, like Jesus:

When Jesus was preaching the Sermon on the Mount, He said, “This, then is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’”

Matthew 6:9-13

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Memory Verse: "...I will do whatever you ask in my name so that the Son may bring glory to the Father."
John 14:13

>When we pray in Jesus _____, we pray for that which He is and that which He _____. So, asking in Jesus name is praying for _____, because He humbled Himself, and became a servant.

Asking in Jesus name is praying for the opportunity to give up _____ and allow Him to live in us. Asking in Jesus name is seeing the _____ through Jesus' eyes.

>When we pray in Jesus' name, we can look forward to many opportunities to _____ others; to make the lives of others _____; to bring hope to those who feel _____; to bring happiness to those who are in _____; and to point people to the _____ gift of all, the gift of eternal _____ in Christ.

>After Jesus left earth, God the Father invited Him to _____ at the place of honor, God's right hand. He is there today _____ to the Father on our behalf. We pray in Jesus' _____ because He represents us to _____ the Father.

>In John 15:7, Jesus said, "If you _____ in me and my _____ remain in you, ask what you _____, and it will be given you."

>Our prayers are molded by His _____ and become much more like what He would be praying for, were _____ in our shoes.

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that there is a God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.

Fifth, believe that He has answered your prayer and be ready to live for him all the rest of your life.