

Ask In My Name
John 16:19-28, Jeremiah 29:10-14
May 21, 2017

■ Posts on facebook

- Pennycamp statue: “You will get a miracle in the next 1 hour if you type Amen then share on your wall. In Jesus Name Amen.
- Is this what it means to pray in Jesus’ name?
- (Insurance commercial window about posting in wall.)
“That’s not how any of this works”

■ We often think prayer is a sanctified wish and God is a glorified genie.

1. Jesus makes wonderful promises about asking in His name.

John 14:12-14 ***Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.***

John 15:16-17 ***You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.***

John 16:23,24, 26-27 ²³***In that day you will no longer ask ἐρωτάω = inquire me anything.***

“Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask αἰτέω = request in my name. ²⁴Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

“ ... 26 In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. 27 No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.

Acts 3:6, 16 **Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” “ ... 16 By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.”**

TR But what does it mean to ask in Jesus’ name?

- Is it just a magic formula?
- I think it is important to articulate that we are praying in Jesus name,
- But not as a phrase that turbo-boosts our prayers.

2. We pray with the Lord’s authority when we pray in Jesus’ name.

- “Mom, Dad said I can go over to Russell’s and play, if it’s alright with you.”

Psalm 2:8 **Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.**

- In other words, we ask what we are *authorized* to ask.

3. We pray for the Lord’s glory or fame or reputation when we pray in Jesus’ name.

Matthew 6:9 **“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ...”**

- Remember John 14:13 above, 13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

Joshua 7:8-9 ***Pardon your servant, Lord. What can I say, now that Israel has been routed by its enemies? 9 The Canaanites and the other people of the country will hear about this and they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth. What then will you do for your own great name?***

- If I make a donation in your name, it means you get the credit or the glory.
- Likewise, when we pray in Jesus' name we are praying for things that will bring glory, not to us, but to Him.
- **Lucille**

4. We pray for Lord's purposes when we pray in Jesus' name.

Matthew 6:9-10 ***“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ...”***

- Remember John 15:16 ***You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.***
- *“Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your prayers, that you may pray for what the Father desires.”*
- Suppose a commanding officer sent a squad on a mission and told them, “Anything you need, just ask. I’ll give it to you.” If they called for more ammunition, drones, special intelligence, the officer would provide them. But if they started asking for strawberry daquiries or fuzzy slippers or _____, the CO might say, “That’s not what I meant.”
- **Jesus is saying the Father will give us whatever we ask for to complete the mission He has given us. To bear fruit. To do His works.**

- In fact II Peter 1:3 says *His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.*

5. We dare not misuse “in Jesus Name.”

Exodus 20:7 ***“You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.”***

Matthew 7:22-23 ***Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ 23 Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’***

Acts 19:13-16 ***13 Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed τούς ἔχοντας τὰ πνεύματα τὰ πονηρά. They would say, “In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.” 14 Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. 15 One day the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?” 16 Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.***

■ Gospel presentation:

- See Acts 4:12 ***“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”***
- See Philippians 2:9-11 ***Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and***

under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- THIS is the Jesus who invites us to pray in His Name!

6. Prayer Experiment: Let's pray into Pentecost!

Luke 11:11-13 ***“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for^[f] a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”***

- Your elders have set aside 10 days of prayer in preparation for the Pentecost Festival.
- Look at your bulletin insert.

10 DAYS OF PRAYER: May 25-June 3

They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. (Acts 1:14)

For 10 days before Pentecost (**so starting this Thursday**) we will devote ourselves to a short “season of extraordinary prayer.” Each day there will be at least one prayer gathering, either at the church or in someone’s home or workplace. We will pray for God’s Spirit to move in our community, breaking addictions, fixing families and marriages, mending damaged relationships, healing people in many ways and bringing love, joy and spiritual transformation to our relatives, friends and people in our community. (God wants to answer these prayers and do these and other wonderful things!)

Plan to pray privately each day and to attend as many prayer gatherings as possible. We would appreciate it for you to host one or more gathering during those 10 days.

Sign Up Sheet
Another 40 Days, Plus 10
(May 14, 2017)

_____ I will go on at least one prayer walk/ride between now and June 4.

_____ I will pray regularly for people I know to receive God's love in Jesus Christ.

_____ I will invite people to the Pentecost Festival (June 4)
(Use fliers)

_____ I will read and pray the devotionals, May 15 –May 24

_____ I will pray daily for the Pentecost Festival during the 10 Days of Prayer May 25-June 3.

_____ I will attend a prayer group at as often as possible during the 10 Days of Prayer, May 25-June 3. (The church will be open for prayer every evening, May 25-June 3 from 5 to 9 PM, plus on mornings at a time to be determined. Home prayer meetings will be announced.)

_____ I will host a prayer group in my home _____ times during the 10 Days of Prayer. Date(s) _____

_____ I will include fasting in the 10 Days of Prayer.

_____ I would most likely attend a morning prayer gathering at (circle one) 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 AM

_____ Other _____

Name _____

Contact Information _____

- This is a 10 Day Experiment that could have a profound impact on the way we pray for the rest of our lives!
- Just think if God really answers our prayers!
- It could change our lives, our church, our community ...

- We pray for the Pentecost Festival with the Lord's **authority** because we believe He has called us to this.
- We pray for the Pentecost Festival for the Lord's glory, that more and more people will come to glorify and enjoy God through Jesus Christ.
- We pray for the Pentecost Festival for the Lord's **purposes**, to advance His kingdom in our community.

- You have a prophetic ministry to this community. You're the watchman.
- We need to bathe this in prayer so that God's good will comes to fruition.
- "Always talk to God about people before you talk to people about God"
- Distribute fliers door to door or however you like, but bathe it in prayer.
- And if all that happens is that a church radically obeys God, that will be an amazing, miraculous event.

7. Prayer is worth the investment.

- The Session is asking us to invest a lot in this, I know. But I don't apologize or mind because we reap what we sow.

II Corinthians 9:6 **Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.**

- So let's pray, my brothers and sisters.
- Pray fervently. Pray frequently. Pray alone and in groups.

- Pray with the **authority** of Jesus, **to His glory** and to **advance His purposes**.
- **Let's pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

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