

Praying in Jesus Name

John 14:13-14

Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

When you hear someone's name used, it immediately sparks a reaction because of the person associated with it.

When you do something in the name of someone or something you do something in line with that person's character/authority/position/purpose

In the name of love, let me cook dinner tonight
In the name of freedom, let me cook dinner tonight
In the name of unity, let me cook dinner tonight

Doing something in the name of something or someone is like you're calling on a bigger purpose or authority than your own to give a reason for why you're doing it.

In some cases, this may be used as an excuse to right things that are actually wrong. For example, the crusaders in the 11th century who killed thousands of Jews in the name of Christ.

"According to Hebrew notions, a name is inseparable from the person to whom it belongs, i.e. it is something of his essence. Therefore, in the case of the God, it is especially sacred"

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Context

Context of Chapter 14-17 is Jesus' final discourse to prepare his disciples for his departure from earth.

He encourages them in many things such as that

- They will know the Father
- That they will be reunited with Jesus one day
- That he won't leave them but send a Helper
- That they will do greater things than he did, in other words, that they have a purpose after his departure.

Through all this Jesus is encouraging them for the task that lies ahead.

Their purpose on the earth after his departure.

V. 12 → *Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.*

What does this mean?

This does not refer to believers who will do more spectacular things than Jesus but rather the extent of the work of Jesus in proclaiming and bringing the Kingdom across the world.

No one do what Jesus did in a greater way except by extending it further than he did while on earth.

Jesus in his earthly ministry and human body was limited to Israel but after his resurrection. Jesus, through the early disciples as well as through us, brings the gospel to the whole world, over generations of time.

How will it be possible that they and we are able to do greater things than Jesus did?

1. Prayer (v.13-14)
2. Holy Spirit (v.15-31)

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Praying in the name of Jesus

3686 ónoma – *name*; (figuratively) the manifestation or revelation of someone's character, i.e. as distinguishing them from all others. Thus "praying in *the name of Christ*" means to pray as *directed (authorized) by Him*, bringing revelation that flows out of being *in His presence*. "Praying in Jesus' name" therefore is not a "religious formula" just to end prayers (or get what we want)!

When we pray in Jesus' name we associate ourselves with Him, we connect with Him. Who he is, what he has done, and his purposes.

1. His finished work
2. His purposes
3. The ultimate goal of glorifying God

1. Based on his merit / righteousness / works

“In the name of” in greek = to know his character and authority & purposes. In line with Him.

Jesus’ character and purposes on earth were so clearly displayed. He came to serve God the Father by laying down his life for us.

Jesus came to seek and save the lost, to those who were lost without him and were destined for eternal punishment because all fall short of God’s standard. He came to make a way back for them to know the Father.

John 14:1-5 Jesus promises that the disciples will follow in his way to his Father’s house.

John 14:6 → Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Jesus said in John 14:7 → if you had known me, you would have known my Father also.

Even the disciples didn’t get this, in chapter 14:8 Philip said to Jesus, “Lord show us the Father, and it is enough to us”.

All of us were lost and without access to the Father without him. Perhaps the disciples, who knew the OT thought of what they were taught as e.g. the psalmist says in psalm 24:3-4 → *Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?*

4 *He who has clean hands and a pure heart who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.*

None of us can see and approach the Father without judgment for our sins. They, and us, couldn’t understand how they could be with and know the Father given their sinful conditions. Except for Jesus to make a way:

Hebrews 10:19-23 → **19** *Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.*

When Jesus says in John 14:11 → *believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.*

He points to what the writer in Hebrews says. The curtain, the access to the Father, the way, is opened through Jesus death and it has been proven and confirmed by his resurrection.

The only way we can pray in Jesus' name is if we believe that he is the only way to the Father. Not mary, not good works, not any prayer formula can bring us closer to God. It's through our salvation by Christ alone from our sins that we can approach the throne of grace with confidence.

Then, once we are transformed by his grace & mercy internally we start desiring the things of God and praying in line with his will.

2. Pray based on his will & purpose

Here's where we really start learning how to actually pray in Jesus' name and what to ask for.

V. 12 says Jesus will, and he does, continue to do great works. Just like he did on earth, he now continues at a much larger scale through us and in us all everywhere at the same time through his Holy Spirit.

To bring people back to the Father and bring the kingdom of God.

John 14:13 & 14 says "I will do it"

Do what?

Greater works according to the Father's will.

It's is the Father's will that you repent & believe and grow in Christ and in fruitfulness in Him.

(Acts 17:30 → God commands all people to repent)

These things don't happen out of one's own will power or strength or good character, they come when we seek God.

Spurgeon said: "whether we like it or not, asking is the rule of the kingdom"

For every area where we seek God's will to take place, where we seek for his kingdom to penetrate, we need to ask. On our knees with humility and dependence

due to our lack of ability, yet with expectant hearts and confidence that God will hear us and do what he promised he will do.

Apostles prayers pattern to pray for those things that are part of God's will

These are recorded for a purpose. Not just to see how they lived but as an example for us today. Over 40 prayers by the early apostles.

Many of them have the same pattern and ingredients: to know Christ better, to be fruitful in Him and everything to the glory of God.

Eph 3:14-21 → For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of this glory, he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith - that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Phil 1:9-11 → And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

To be full of God, full of fruit, to his glory

When you pray in Jesus name, in line with Jesus' authority, character and also his will you can be assured that if you pray according to his will, it will come to pass and be answered.

1 John 5:14-15 → And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

Earthly things?

When it comes to earthly things like a new job, a house, health, we're not always sure what Jesus' will for us is. We can and should definitely ask and pray about these things with confidence and trust that we can follow his leading by the Spirit, wisdom and council from other believers, and church leadership to shepherd you within the boundaries of God's word.

When we pray for these things, end with a quietness in your heart to say, may your will be done and may your name be glorified, whatever the outcome.

How do I pray according to God's will?

Lots of specific examples of things to pray for in scripture (leaders, unity in the church, more workers to bring in the harvest, fellow believers, to not love the world and to be strong against temptation)

John 15:7 → *If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*

His words and his life give us his purpose of growing love for Jesus and to be fruitful in his kingdom.

Psalm 139:23-24 *Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!*

Testimony

During 2021 been praying for openings in the community → meerhof, GHS, old age home, winterveld.

The more you abide in Him, the better you know his will and the more your prayers will be aligned with his purposes.

3. To the Father's Glory

Now imagine, you start praying according to the will of God and start to see prayers answered. How does that make one feel?

We all know that if you've been involved in something that is successful, that gets seen by people we like to take credit for it.

One of men's greatest traps is pride and selfishness.

In today's day and age as well as in the times of Jesus, we see many who seek to preach Jesus and the Kingdom for their own gain. They may know the message of Jesus and even perform miracles using his name, yet they don't know Him. They are not abiding in Him and in His words. Therefore they miss his purposes.

Outwardly many may seem like they are powerful and used by God but God knows the secrets of their hearts and lives.

It's this kind of people Jesus speaks to in Matthew 7:21-23 → *Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord', will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the*

will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'. And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

Or the ones that Paul refers to in Phil 1:15-17 → *Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.*

It might be easier to put on a front to be seen and recognized by people but if you're not really desiring to bring glory to God, if you're not internally renewed, you won't stand on judgment day.

The final & ultimate purpose for everything we do as those who follow Jesus is to glorify God through our lives.

Colossians 3:17 → And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

A great place to start with this is in your prayer life. More specifically, when you are praying for God's will to be done, whatever that may be, that whatever may happen will be to the glory of God.

Whether it be because you are becoming more obedient and loving towards Him, or that others may get to know Him, may it all be to the glory of God.

It's His kingdom, it's His power, he deserves all the glory.

When you see answered prayers taking place in the kingdom, remember it's not you. It's Jesus doing the work.

Closing

Jesus is still working to build the Kingdom of God
We get involved through prayer according to his will
Let our prayers and desires be to glorify God.

End with corporate prayer (Meerhof, GHS, Winterveld, Oom Johan & Tannie Ina, Churches in Harties)

Start praying for those areas and lives where the Kingdom of God needs to come and grow.

Read John 17

Share list of Paul's prayers

Pray and practice to pray in Jesus' name

