

The Wednesday Word, April 24, 2019: Praying in the Name of Jesus

John 16: 23-24 And in that day you shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever you shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have you asked nothing in my name: ask, and you shall receive, that your joy may be full.

Why must we pray in the name of Jesus?

First, before we answer this, we need to realise that, **When we pray in Jesus' name, we are not simply adding a little formula to our prayer to make it work.** It's not as if God is listening and saying, "Nah, I don't think so. Nope, nope, nope. Oh hang on, they said, 'In the name of Jesus'. Oh, okay, since you put it that way."

No! When we pray in Jesus name, we are declaring dependance on Christ alone for access to God. Ephesians 3:12 says, "*In whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.*" There is no access to God but through Christ. In John 14:6 Jesus taught, "*No one comes to the Father but by Me.*" They that attempt otherwise to come to God without Christ will find the door tightly shut. That's one of the reasons why we pray in the name of Jesus.

Another reason is that, **When we pray, in the name of Jesus, we are declaring that Christ Jesus is our mediator.** We are confessing that there is no access to God without a Mediator. Consider this, "*... your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear*" (Isaiah 59:2).

Sin had distanced us from God and bolted the door to heaven. However, Christ opened that door wide. He has paid for our sins. "*If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous*" (1 John 2:1).

When we pray in Jesus name, we are, therefore, admitting the bankruptcy of our own name. Our name cannot move heaven and earth. The Father is not thrilled with our name...but when we are identified, by faith, with Christ we now come to the Father in the name of our mediator, the Lord Jesus. He is our righteousness. His is the lovely name, the name that declares Christ alone is our mediator.

As we pray in Jesus' name...**We identify with the person of Jesus Christ.**

Jesus has literally given us His name to use. When we use that name, we are confessing that He is ours and that we are His. It is like going to the bank of heaven, knowing we have nothing deposited. If we go in our name, we will get absolutely nothing. But Jesus Christ has unlimited funds in heaven's bank and has granted us the privilege of going there with His check book.

Not only so, but, **Praying in the name of Jesus, is declaring to the Father that we are submitted to His will.** Jesus' authority rested with his submission to the Father, so our authority also rests with our submission to Him. To ask in His name is to ask according to Christ's nature, and His character is one of submission. This, by the way, is why prayers that ask for things contrary to the Word of God will never be answered.

We cannot ask God to bless adultery in Jesus' name.

We cannot ask God to bless our sin in Jesus' name.

We cannot ask God to bless our bitterness in Jesus' name.

We cannot ask God to bless our plans for robbery in Jesus name.

Praying in the name of Jesus is a bold declaration that we are submitted to His will.

What a beautiful name Jesus has. It's a simple name, a strong name, a saving name, the supreme name and it's the asking name.

And that's the Gospel Truth!