

# SERMON SINGLES

# HIGHER AIM

# **Aligned To Pray**

John 14:13-14; John 15:5-8; John 16:23-24

INTRODUCTION	NOTES
My job as a pastor is to make sure that God's people are equipped to do the work of ministry. One of the things that I am charged with doing is teaching people how to pray. With many of us, we wonder why our prayers don't get answered. Today, I hope that our focus on being aligned to pray will challenge you and encourage you. I pray for the light to go on in your hearts and in your lives so that you can align your prayers with God's will and, as a result, see your prayers answered.	
KEY POINTS	-
When we pray aligned appropriately, we are praying:	
1. In The Name Of Jesus When you pray, you are not talking to anyone else. You are talking to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and His name is Jesus. Therefore, we are always to pray in the name of Jesus because there is power in that name. Praying in His name communicates that we are aligning our hearts with His heart and our will with His will.	
2. Accepting His Plea In today's key Scripture passages, Jesus was saying then and is speaking to us now that when we are using His name, we are accepting His plea. Jesus is telling you that He wants you to pray in His name. When we do this, we are responding to what He told us to do. We are to pray in His name and make sure we are aligned.	
3. Acknowledging His Presence Jesus promises us to never leave us or forsake us. We can trust that He is with us no matter what. Although you don't physically see Jesus, He is always with you. He is over you and He has you covered. You might say, "I don't feel Him." But let me assure you, if He says He is here, then He is here! You can rest assured that when you pray, He is right there at your side.	

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## 4. Agreeing With His Purpose

When you pray in the name of Jesus, you are agreeing with His purpose. Some people say, "I just want to ask whatever I want." But that is not how it works. You must remain in Christ. The relationship with Jesus will not only give you what to pray, but it will also give you confidence when to pray. The Bible tells us that as we remain in Him, His Word remains in us. As a result, what we pray will be the very thing that He wants us to pray. He gives us the desire to pray for His purpose.

#### 5. Abiding In His Person

Our goal with our prayers should be to pray the very prayers that Jesus would be praying. We must always align with His Word and be aligned with His will. Because you are remaining in Him, what you pray will flow out of your relationship with Him. You will pray for the very things that He wants to pray. Otherwise, you are just playing a game called, "Write down my grocery list with God." That is why our prayers don't go very far; we are not remaining in Him. We are not abiding in Him. Our focus is not on our relationship with Him; it is on what we want from Him.

#### 6. Activating His Power

When we pray aligned and we are praying in the name of Jesus, we are activating His power. Do you realize that when you speak His name, heaven is brought to attention? The name of Jesus is not an average name. His name is above every name. When you speak His name, hell quakes because they know they are already defeated in the name of Jesus. His name is very powerful, and we can activate that power in our lives when we pray in Jesus' name!

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#### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

- 1. What do you like/enjoy about your prayer life right now? What about your prayer life needs improvement/attention?
- 2. When was a time you chose to pray for your own will instead of aligning your prayers with God's will? How did that situation turn out? What did you learn?

3.	What is one area of your life where you'd like to see God's power activated?

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