

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ASK IN JESUS' NAME?

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JOHN 14:13-14

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

In biblical times, a name was never merely an identifier; it encapsulated a person's entire identity—their character, authority, mission, and essential nature. To invoke a name was to invoke the person themselves, their power, and their purpose. Therefore, to ask in Jesus name is to approach God in a manner that is profoundly aligned with who Jesus is, what He represents, and what He came to accomplish. It is to pray under His authority, for His purposes, and in a way that brings glory to the Father. This divine promise is not a blank check for personal desire, but an invitation to participate in the mission and character of Christ.

1. ASKING IN ALIGNMENT WITH HIS CHARACTER AND HIS WILL

This is the core of praying in His name. You are asking for things that Jesus Himself would ask for, requests that align with the Father's heart and purpose.

The goal, as Jesus states, is
John 14:13
the Father may be glorified in the Son.

The ultimate purpose is not our comfort, but God's glory. As the Apostle John confirms,

1 JOHN 5:14

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

Praying in Jesus name is the ultimate expression of asking

according to His will.

QUOTE: “The desire that is in your heart is not there without a purpose. God put it there, and He will grant it if it is for His glory.” — Charles Spurgeon

This transformative work is described by Paul:

Philippians 2:13

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

2. ASKING UNDER HIS AUTHORITY AND IN RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

This promise was given to His disciples—those in a living relationship with Him. Asking in Jesus name flows from this abiding connection. Jesus illustrates this intimacy:

JOHN 15:7

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

It is from this place of “remaining” that our wishes become His.

Furthermore, we pray under the supreme authority of His name. The name of Jesus carries the full weight of heaven’s sovereignty, a truth powerfully declared by the Apostle Paul:

PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

To pray in this name is to approach the throne of grace with all the rights and access of Christ Himself.

EPHESIANS 2:18

For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

It is a legal right granted to us, His representatives on earth.

QUOTE: "To pray in the Name of Christ is to pray in the awareness of our union with Him, as though Jesus Himself were praying." — A.W. Tozer

This authority is not for our whims, but for the advancement of His kingdom, as Peter demonstrated when he said,

Acts 3:6 Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.

3. ASKING FOR THE SAKE OF HIS MISSION

Jesus mission was to seek and save the lost and to establish the Kingdom of God. Prayers offered in Jesus name are prayers that actively advance that mission. They are Kingdom-centric, not self-centric.

We see this priority in the Lord's Prayer, which begins,

MATTHEW 6:10

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

This reorientation of our priorities is the heart of the matter, as Jesus commanded:

MATTHEW 6:33

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

When we pray for healing, it is so the healed may serve; when we pray for provision, it is so we may be generous.

QUOTE: "The prayer that begins with trust and continues in obedience is the prayer that moves the arm of God." — Hudson

Taylor

Our ultimate model is Christ Himself, who prayed in complete submission to the mission:

Matthew 26:39

My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.

4. ASKING FROM A PLACE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

This profound aspect of praying in Jesus name rests on the finished work of the cross, where we were reconciled to God. We do not approach God based on our own merit or flawed righteousness, but clothed in the perfect righteousness of Christ.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

This right standing with the Father is the legal and spiritual ground from which we make our petitions.

Because we are in Christ, we can approach the throne of grace with boldness and confidence, not with shame or timidity.

HEBREWS 4:16

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Our confidence is not in our own purity, but in His. We ask as beloved children, fully accepted by the Father.

This assurance is further sealed by the promise in

1 JOHN 3:21-22

Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him.

In essence, when your will is so aligned with Christ's that what you ask is an extension of His own character and mission, you can pray with absolute confidence. He will indeed do it, for it is He Himself who is working through you to bring about the Father's glory.