

PRAYER ACCEPTED BY GOD

John 16:24

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Every Christian prays at some time or other and usually the name of Jesus Christ is included in the prayer, however sometimes His name is not mentioned. Why can't a person go directly to God without mentioning the name of Jesus Christ? Does God hear prayers that do not have the name of Jesus Christ mentioned? Why is the name of Jesus Christ included in so many prayers? Will God listen more quickly to a prayer that includes the name of Jesus Christ? How does one get God's attention in prayer?

I. PRAYER THAT IS ACCEPTED BY GOD

1. Every human being can be classified as an outlaw, a criminal, under condemnation according to the Bible.
 - True Christians, however, are not under condemnation any longer however they will never be able to have a relationship with God where they are accepted by their own name and acts.
 - Christians can never come to a relationship with God when they won't need to approach Him Jesus Christ.
2. For ANY sinner (all people are sinners) to approach God, it must be through a Mediator.
 - Sinners cannot come into God's presence by their own recognition/names.
 - Any sinner who is united to Jesus Christ, however may approach God for Jesus is his/her Mediator.
 - It is Jesus Christ, not the sinner, that approaches God and there is no way for a sinner to approach God except by Jesus Christ.
3. Using the name of Jesus Christ in prayer implies that that person recognizes his/her position of being a sinner and has repented and put his/her trust in God's Son, Jesus Christ.
4. Using the name of Jesus Christ in prayer implies that that person recognizes his/her inability to approach God in his/her own name and that only in the name of Jesus Christ will he/she ever be heard by God.
 - Any person using the name of Jesus Christ in his/her prayer should know exactly why he/she is using it.
5. Using the name of Jesus Christ in prayer implies a sense of realizing one's true condition in opposition to God's character and person.
6. Using the name of Jesus Christ in prayer is in a sense Jesus doing the praying.

II. WHAT IT IS TO PRAY IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

1. When praying in the name of Jesus Christ one is not to be asking for one's self.
 - When asking in Jesus Christ's name, it is asking FOR Him.
 - If asking for the sake of Jesus it is because the one praying belongs to Jesus and any answer to that prayer will be only because the one praying belongs to Jesus.
 - No prayer in the name of Jesus Christ is to be made merely to please one's self.
 - No person has the right to approach God at any time for any reason unless it is for Jesus Christ.
2. God cannot answer any prayer by any person who is not a part of Jesus Christ.
 - As often as a person wishes, who is a part of Jesus Christ and comes to God in the name of Jesus Christ can approach God with confidence and boldness and be welcome.
3. God cannot promise nor give anything to any sinner apart from Jesus Christ, therefore the only way to have answered prayers is to approach God in the name of Jesus Christ.
4. To use the name of Jesus in prayer implies that the one praying is doing so by faith.
 - Anybody can use the "name" of Jesus Christ but to do so in faith implies that the one praying has accepted Jesus Christ as his/her Lord and Savior.
5. To use the name of Jesus Christ in prayer implies complete and total dependence upon Him.

III. WHY PRAY IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST?

1. Every human being is a sinner, under the sentence of condemnation, who is dead in trespasses and sins, all under the sentence of death.
 - To approach God under one's own name and/or character is to deny one's condemnation and the holiness and sacredness of who God is and His character.
2. To approach God in one's own name and person is to insult almighty God who is supreme in all things.
 - It would be rushing rudely into the face of one's Maker.
3. To try to approach God on one's own would be pouring contempt upon God's authority, denying God's wisdom and His prescribed method of any sinner approaching Him.
4. God cannot have any relationship with sinners who are under sentence, condemned rebels who are to be destroyed UNLESS they can find a Mediator - SOMEONE to speak up for them.
 - To try to approach God without Jesus Christ is to appear at a banquet in filthy clothing.
5. To not use the name of Jesus Christ in prayer is to shun what Jesus Christ has done and who He is.
 - God has made Jesus Christ every human being's advocate, mediator and to not come to God in the name of Jesus Christ is to blaspheme Jesus Christ's work and God's setting Jesus as Mediator.
 - It would be like forging one's employer's name on a check to get money for him/herself.
 - Many use the name of Jesus without hardly knowing why they do as it is just a matter of formality.
6. To use the name of Jesus Christ's name is to claim for one's own self whatever God has promised to His Son, Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION:

1. When YOU pray, using the name of Jesus Christ, first recognize just who YOU really are compared to God's holiness and WHO God is.
2. God has appointed Jesus Christ mediator for all those who would believe in Him and ONLY through Jesus Christ is there a promise of God hearing one's prayer and having a place in eternity with Him.
3. Whatever YOU ask God in the name of Jesus Christ is asking God for what Jesus would ask for.
4. Every Christian has the right to approach God if he/she uses Jesus Christ's name for the right reason.
5. Remember, Christian, Jesus has given you authority to ask in His Name of God.