

## PRAYING IN THE NAME OF "JESUS"

**John 16:24**

**(Not entirely original with me)**

**Introduction:** When Christians pray, they usually add at the end of their prayer, the name of "Jesus." Why is His name added to a prayer, especially the prayer of a Christian? Isn't the Christian saved? Doesn't the Christian belong to the Family of God? Jesus told His disciples that when they prayed to ask in His name and their joy would be full. What is the difference in a person praying directly to God without using the name of Jesus and then praying directly to God in the name of Jesus? Why add Jesus' name to one's prayer?

### I. USING JESUS' NAME MAKES ONE'S PRAYER ACCEPTABLE

1. One must realize and remember that he/she is a "criminal," under condemnation according to God's declaration, for all mankind is separated from God because of sin.
2. When one becomes a Christian, he/she never comes into a position with God that he/she doesn't need to approach God through His Son, Jesus Christ.
3. When approaching God in prayer, the Christian must "put on Christ," making his/her requests of God as if it would be the Lord Jesus asking for Himself.
  - The Christian lives in Jesus Christ and is accepted by God as Jesus is accepted.
  - The Christian is a part of Christ, of His family, a member of Jesus' own body, a living part of Jesus Christ, Himself.
4. Using the name of Jesus Christ in one's prayer indicates that the one praying recognizes his/her true relation to God as being a sinner and that he/she has no right to ask of God anything except through His Son, Jesus.
  - The praying Christian realizes that he/she has no right to approach God in his/her own name but only in Christ's name alone.
  - Not in the name of Moses, or Abraham, or Paul or anybody else.
5. Using the name of Jesus in one's prayer indicates that one realizes his/her character is far different from that of Almighty God.
  - In using the name of Jesus, one must truly realize why he/she is using it in the first place.
6. When using the name of Jesus in one's prayer, he/she is praying for what Jesus came into the world to do and for His Church and what Jesus wants to happen on earth.

### II. WHEN USING JESUS' NAME IN PRAYER, ONE MUST ASK FOR THE RIGHT REASON

1. All that the Christian has and is belongs to Jesus.
  - Whatever a Christian asks of God, it is to be for the Lord Jesus, not for one's own self.
  - Jesus did not authorize anyone to pray in His name asking selfishly or for that which Jesus would not ask for Himself.
  - Using the name of Jesus for one's own gain and personal reasons does not have Jesus' permission.
  - The Christian belongs totally, entirely to the Lord Jesus and anything asked of God is to be used for the Lord Jesus.
2. It is through His Son, Jesus Christ, that God will give anything to a sinful person.
  - Christians are welcome to go to God and ask but they are to ask ONLY in the name of God's Son, Jesus Christ.
3. To use the name of Jesus in one's prayer is to do so in faith.
  - One must rely completely on the Lord Jesus for all things in his/her prayers.
4. To ask in the name of Jesus reveals one's total dependency upon Him, even in approaching God.

### III. WHY ONE IS REQUIRED TO PRAY IN JESUS' NAME

1. Every human being is separated from God because of sin, *"...dead in trespasses and sins..."*
  - No person has the authority to approach God on his/her own recognition.
  - God will not hear any person forbidden to approach Him.
2. To try to approach God on one's own merits is to show contempt to God's authority.
  - God can have no relationship with sinners and to try to approach God on one's own merits is to deny God's chosen method of accepting a sinful person.
  - Without the Lord Jesus Christ, God cannot have a relationship with sinful people.
  - To come to God without the Lord Jesus Christ is to appear in filthy garments instead of the Lord's righteousness.
3. Not using the name of the Lord Jesus Christ in prayer is to ignore and thrust aside Jesus as being the sinner's advocate.
  - Many have unanswered prayers because they do not use the Lord's name rightly.
    - Multitudes pray for themselves selfishly, refusing to recognize that they belong to the Lord Jesus Christ and think that they deserve their prayers to be answered for their own sakes.
4. To refuse to go to almighty God in the name of Jesus is a hindrance to prayers being answered and it is as if there were no Jesus Christ at all.
5. Sadly, many use the Lord's name without really knowing why they do.
  - It is just a habit for some.
  - Some heard others use Jesus' name and so they add it to their prayers.
  - Coming to God in the name of Jesus is to claim for one's self whatever God has promised the Lord Jesus Christ.

### CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus is the sinner's representative, becoming poor that sinners might be rich.
  - Only because of what Jesus Christ did can a sinner approach almighty God and only approach God in Jesus' name.
2. Jesus offers His righteousness to all undeserving mankind and has thrown the door wide open and one can have free access to the presence of God through one's belief in the Lord Jesus Christ and to approach almighty God in the name of Jesus, God's Son.
3. God will do all that He can for sinful man, but it is all done through His Son, Jesus Christ.
4. Only through Jesus Christ can one ever approach God and ONLY in the name of Jesus, used properly, will God hear the prayers of sinful man.
5. *"...Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My name; ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full..."*