

WHY PRAY IN JESUS' NAME?

There are few practices as universal among Christians as praying in Jesus' name. In fact, it is such a common practice that it is often adopted without question. Many do it without ever understanding why we are to pray in Jesus' name. Still others wield Jesus' name in prayer like it is the spiritual equivalent of saying something like "Abracadabra," the magic word recited at the end of a long incantation.

But, according to the Bible, praying in Jesus' name is to invoke his person, position and power. To pray in Jesus' name is to call upon him as the only means to the Father (John 14:6), as the sole mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5, Hebrews 4:14-16, Hebrews 7:25, Hebrews 13:15), and as the only person who possess the name by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12). For this reason, to pray in Jesus' name assumes that we are praying for what he would want us to receive (James 4:2), and for the purpose of bringing glory to his Father (Matthew 6:9-10).

Jesus gave us his name for the purpose of prayer.

Until now you have asked for nothing in My name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete. John 16:24 (HCSB)

If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. John 14:14 (HCSB)

Praying in Jesus' name invokes his presence and power.

Again, I assure you: If two of you on earth agree about any matter that you pray for, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:19-20 (HCSB)

Praying in Jesus' name brings answers, which produces joy.

Until now you have asked for nothing in My name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete. John 16:24 (HCSB)

Praying in Jesus' name gives us access to the Father and brings him glory.

Whatever you ask in My name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. John 14:13 (HCSB)

Praying in Jesus' name celebrates Jesus' love for us and demonstrates faith in him as God.

In that day you will ask in My name. I am not telling you that I will make requests to the Father on your behalf. For the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came from God. John 16:26-27 (HCSB)

Praying in Jesus' name is means to bearing fruit.

You did not choose Me, but I chose you. I appointed you that you should go out and produce fruit and that your fruit should remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you. John 15:16 (HCSB)