

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS OF ACCEPTABLE PRAYER -- # 4

I. INTRODUCTION:

It is important that we emphasize one more requirement of acceptable prayer because of the great significance now attached to the name of Jesus. After Jesus died, He was exalted by the Father who bestowed upon Him a name which is above every name. Phil.2:9-10. Notice some things related to the name of Jesus:

- (1) Salvation is in His name and in none other -- Acts 4:12.
- (2) Baptism is in His name -- Matt.28:19; Acts 2:38; 10:48.
- (3) The gospel is preached in His name -- Acts 9:28-29.
- (4) Whatever we do in word or deed -- Col.3:17.
- (5) Prayer is to be in His name -- John 14:13-14; 15:16; 16:23-24, 26.

We now turn our attention to the matter of praying in the name of Jesus and what it involves.

II. DISCUSSION:

- A. It is a full recognition of all that His name implies -
- His "authority, character, rank, majesty, power, excellence, etc., of everything that the name covers; ...". [Vines].
 1. Lord = Ruler -- Acts 2:36; I Tim.6:15; Eph.1:20-23.
 2. Jesus = Saviour -- Matt.1:21.
 3. Christ = "The Anointed One".
 - a) King -- Rev.17:14; I Tim.1:17; 6:15.
 - b) High Priest -- Heb.4:15-16; 5:1-10; 7:1-4.
 - c) Prophet -- Acts 3:22; Matt.17:5.
- B. It is an acknowledgement of our need of Him to stand for and with us in the presence of God -- a sense of reliance upon Him.
 1. As our saviour and redeemer -- I Tim.2:5; Matt.20:28.
 2. As our High Priest, Intercessor and Mediator -- I Tim.2:5.
 3. As our King.
 4. A sense of need is the very heart of prayer; a sense of humility must be possessed to the extent that without His aid we would not dare to speak!
- C. It is an identity with Him.
 1. Using the name of another **implies a relationship** with Him.
 - a) Illustrated in husband and wife relationship.
 - b) Note that the church is the bride of Christ; its members wear His name -- Eph.5:22-25.
 2. Using the name of another **implies endorsement** -- Christ will not endorse those who reject Him, His will or His authority -- Matt.7:21-23.

3. Using the name of another **admits of His superiority**
-- my will must give over to His -- **Luke 6:46;**
Col.3:17.
4. Praying in the name of Christ not only involves the new access to the Father which He has secured for us, but also that our prayers are in harmony with the Father's will -- **John 15:7; I John 3:22-24; 5:14.**

III. CONCLUSION:

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one cometh unto the Father, but by me ... whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son ... If ye shall ask anything in my name, that will I do." -**John 14:6, 13-14.** Here is the requirement and the promise, ***"ask ... and I will do it!"***

Surely we understand that praying in Jesus' name is a different matter than merely reciting the phrase ***"in Jesus' name"*** in every prayer! It is good to be always conscious of this, and there is nothing wrong with the expression of it; but be aware of what it means!