

Eternity Daily Bible Study

(A ministry of Eternity Christian Fellowship)

Walking In The Spirit - 67

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Topic: Praying In Jesus' Name

Date: 2nd November 2009

To speak in someone's name is to speak with their delegated power and authority. British policemen carry out their duties 'in the name of the Queen' . This authority only exists when he or she is in uniform and acting in Her Majesty's name. The authority of the name is not personal authority belonging to the policeman. If they should leave the police force it would vanish entirely. The policemen are also given tasks, ranks, areas of operation and so forth that indicate where their authority is primarily to be used.

All salvation is through the name of Jesus (Acts 4:12): whether it be salvation from judgment (justification) or salvation from the power of sin (sanctification) or salvation from illness (healing). In fact the bible describes Christians as those who 'call upon the name of the Lord' for salvation:

1 Corinthians 1:2 MKJV *to the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called out with all those in every place who call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours. (see also Acts 9:14,21)*

The name of Jesus means Savior:

Matthew 1:21 MKJV *And she shall bear a son, and you shall call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.*

And to call on that Name, by faith, brings healing and wholeness:

Acts 3:6 MKJV *But Peter said, Silver and gold have I none, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!*

Acts 3:16 MKJV *And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, this one whom you see and know, His name made firm.*

Of course the Name of Jesus brings salvation to eternal life:

John 20:31 MKJV *But these are written so that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you might have life in His name.*

Acts 4:12 MKJV *And there is salvation in no other One; for there is no other name under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*

Acts 10:43 MKJV *All the Prophets give witness to Him, that through His name whoever believes in Him shall receive remission of sins.*

Romans 10:13 MKJV *For everyone, "whoever shall call on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

With this in mind let's look at the NT passages about praying in the Name of Jesus:

John 14:12-14 MKJV *Truly, truly, I say to you, He who believes on Me, the works that I do he shall do also, and greater works than these he shall do, because I go to My Father. (13) And whatever you may ask in My name, that I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (14) If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*

John 15:16 MKJV *You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and ordained you that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatever you shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it to you.*

John 16:23-24 MKJV *And in that day you shall ask Me nothing. Truly, truly, I say to you, Whatever you shall ask the Father in My name, He will give you. (24) Before now you have asked nothing in My name; ask and you shall receive, that your joy may be full.*

John 16:26 MKJV *At that day you will ask in My name; and I do not say to you that I will pray to the Father for you,*

Lets deal with the puzzling John 16:26 first. In this verse Jesus is saying that we will have direct access to the Father in His Name. Jesus won't have to ask the Father for us. If we are acting and praying in Jesus' proper delegated authority God will automatically hear us and we can ask of God the Father by ourselves without having to 'go through' Jesus.

The other 'in My Name' verses in John's gospel use terms such as '*if you ask anything in My Name*' and '*whatever you may ask in My name*'. What does this mean?

Let's go back to the illustration of the British policeman. The policeman cannot go into a restaurant and order caviar on toast and a whole roast turkey 'in the name of the Queen'! But he can commandeer a car or truck in an emergency situation to save lives. Within certain limits at certain times that policemen can 'ask anything' and get it.

All these high-powered promises 'in Jesus' Name' are found in the Upper Room discourse in John 14-17 where Jesus is speaking to the Eleven (Judas has left the room) and where He is now teaching those who will soon be going out into ministry. The meaning is something like: "As you go out ministering the gospel of the Kingdom, you can ask anything you like in My Name and I will give it to you, so that you may bear much fruit and glorify My Father's Name."

Lets see how the early Church used the name of Jesus. Firstly to heal the sick:

James 5:14-15 MKJV *Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. (15) And the prayer of faith will cure the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up. And*

if he has committed sins, it will be forgiven him. (See also Acts 3:6,16 above)

And in Acts 16:18 the name of Jesus is used to cast out demons:

Acts 16:18 MKJV *And she did this many days. But being distressed, and turning to the demonic spirit, Paul said, I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her! And it came out in that hour.*

And in Acts 4:29-30 to do wonders as a testimony to the gospel:

Acts 4:29-30 MKJV *And now, Lord, behold their threatenings, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your Word, (30) by stretching forth of Your hand for healing, and miracles, and wonders may be done by the name of Your holy child Jesus.*

Praying in the name of Jesus involves taking up the plans, purposes and delegated authority of God and asking for those things which will glorify His Name such as healing, exorcisms, signs, wonders, Kingdom proclamation and 'greater works' that will bear abiding fruit for the gospel of God. As we see revival breaking out our righteous joy will be made full!!

Blessings,

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