

Praying “in the name of Jesus”

At the risk of sounding crass and sacrilegious, How do you motivate God to say, “Yes,” to your prayer requests? How do you persuade him to act on your behalf? How do you win him over concerning the merits of your needs and convince him that not only do you need his help, but that your request is worthy of his attention?

Jesus instructed his disciples to pray in his name.

John 14:13–14

¹³ **Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.**

¹⁴ **If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.**

John 16:23–24

²³ **In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.** ²⁴ **Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.**

Does praying in Jesus’ name mean ...?

- Conclude each prayer with “in Jesus’ name, Amen.”
- Act as God’s representative, his ambassador.
- An endorsement on a blank check.
- Boldly entering God’s presence because of what Jesus did on the cross for you.

Yes, but also much, much more.

In Scripture, God’s name reveals his character. *To pray in the name of Jesus means we come to God in light of who he has revealed himself to be.* It means we ask for things that are consistent with his character and purpose.

Old Testament examples

Genesis 18:22-25 Abraham appealed to God on the basis of him being a just judge.

Numbers 14:10-19 Moses was concerned about God’s reputation. He asked him to demonstrate his power and character.

Daniel 9:16-19 Daniel told God that his reputation was at stake.

How would your prayer life be different if you prayed this way?

Putting it into practice:

1. Study the names of God in order to understand his character and purpose. Then come to God in light of who he has revealed himself to be.
2. Study the promises of God and then ask him to keep his promises.

THE NAMES OF GOD

Yahweh/Jehovah—*The Self-Existent One*

God's personal name by which he was known to Israel

- Emphasizes God's changeless self-existence (Exodus 3:14; John 8:58)
- Assures God's presence with his people (Exodus 3:12)
- Connected with God's power to work on behalf of his people and to keep his covenant with them (Exodus 6:6)

Jehovah Jireh – *The Lord will provide* (Genesis 22:14)

Jehovah Nissi – *The Lord is my banner* (Exodus 17:15)

Jehovah Shalom – *The Lord is peace* (Judges 6:24)

Jehovah Sabaoth – *The Lord of Hosts* (1 Samuel 1:3)

Jehovah Rapha – *The Lord who heals you* (Exodus 15:26)

Jehovah Rohi – *The Lord my shepherd* (Psalm 23:1)

Jehovah Tsidkenu – *The Lord our righteousness* (Jeremiah 23:6)

Jehovah M'Kaddesh – *The Lord who sanctifies* (Leviticus 20:7-8)

Jehovah Shammah – *The Lord is there* (Ezekiel 48:35)

Elohim—*The Strong One*

Often used in relation to his greatness and mighty acts

- Sovereignty (Isaiah 54:5; Jeremiah 32:37)
- Work of creation (Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 45:18; Jonah 1:9)
- Judging (Psalms 50:6; 58:11)
- Mighty works on behalf of Israel (Deuteronomy 5:23; Psalm 68:7)

El Shaddai – *God Almighty* (Genesis 17:1)

El Elyon – *God Most High* (Genesis 14:19)

El Olam – *God Everlasting* (Genesis 21:33)

El Roi – *The God Who Sees Me* (Genesis 16:13)

Other Names of Titles of God

Adonai – Lord (Deuteronomy 10:17)

Rock Refuge Fortress

Shield Defender Savior

Deliverer Holy One

Light giver Abba, Father

Judge Redeemer Strength

Lord of Lords King of Kings

God of Gods