



**The DAILY JESUS NEWS #288**  
**Thursday... Day of Instruction and Arrest:**  
**Jesus Delivers His “Farewell Discourse”**

**Jesus Gives the “Anything in My Name” Prayer Promise**  
**JN 14.12-14**

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*12 “Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I am doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.*

*13 “And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 Whatever you ask for in my name, I will certainly do it.*

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This “superscript ID” is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED

CONTEXT DIGEST	
Location	An Upper Room in Jerusalem
Timeline	Early April (Month 39)
Jesus’ Life Context	Stage VIII: Passion Week
	D. Thursday: Day of Instruction and Arrest
	Jesus Delivers His “Farewell Discourse”
Title	Jesus Gives the “Anything in My Name” Prayer Promise

**COMMENT:**

Today's brief reading summarizes a new teaching, and promise regarding prayer. Just like the "new" qualifier for the love command, Jesus' new **"in my name"** qualifier for prayer changed everything in one short phrase. Don't be fooled. **"In my name"** contains a depth of meaning that it will take eternity to explore, yet we will never reach its limits.

Prayer is an important theme of the Farewell Discourse. Because his death, resurrection, ascension, and gift of the Holy Spirit would transform everything his disciples had known about him to that point, it would also revolutionize prayer. Jesus expected the **"in my name"** principle to usher them into dimensions of power and intimacy with the Trinity in prayer that they had never dreamed possible. He

said: ***"Until now you have asked for nothing in my name. I command you to keep on asking, and you will receive, so that your joy may be made permanently full."*** (16.24)

Jesus spoke of the unlimited potential of praying ***"in his name"*** in today's reading (14.12-14), twice in Chapter 15 (15.7, 16), and again in 16.23. In addition, he said that the disciples had never prayed ***"in his name"*** in the past. This was a dynamic, new dimension of prayer that he was opening up to them. And, it was of sufficient significance to the Father that when his disciples pray ***"in his name,"*** the intercession of Jesus himself is no longer necessary for them (16.25-26).

This does not mean that Jesus ever ceases to pray for us. Rather, it means that the efficacy of his name in our prayers is every bit as powerful as his own prayers in our behalf. That is saying something!

The bottom line is that when we really understand what Jesus is promising us in this tiny phrase ***"in my name,"*** we will do exactly what he said: ***"In THAT day you will ask in my name..."*** Any disciple who learns how to pray ***"in my name"*** will take up the privileges of Jesus' name and secure the full benefits of it in powerful praying that literally causes the kingdom to burst into being on earth. Understanding ***"in my name"*** is the spiritual equivalent of unlocking the secrets of the power that silently works, and awaits release in the nucleus of atoms.

So what does ***"in my name"*** mean? Let's think first about what it does NOT mean. This little phrase is not magical. Tacking it on to the end of our prayers as a God-approved ending is not the point. Nor is using it as a secret codeword that makes God morally obligated to give us whatever we ask for, because he said he would if we just say the magic words. What Jesus meant by asking ***"in my name"*** was not about saying those specific words in our prayers. It is SO much more than that.

Praying ***"in the name"*** of Jesus includes two fundamental concepts. The first of these is about our attitude—our approach to prayer. It has been called our ***"position."*** Because Jesus has made us a spiritual unity with himself, patterned after the way he is one with his Father and the Spirit in all things, believers are entitled all the resources of Jesus himself. Praying ***"in his name"*** means approaching the Father in prayer in the resources and position of Jesus, instead of ourselves.

It is as if we have married the richest man on earth, and our name has been added to all of his bank, credit, and purchasing accounts. They are now ***"joint"*** accounts, with HIS name now on all of our accounts. When we approach the bank for withdrawal we have two choices. We can seek to withdraw in our own name. Our accounts are empty. There is nothing to obtain. We are not qualified to receive anything on that basis. However, we can also approach the bank ***"in the name"*** of Jesus, to draw on his accounts on the basis of HIS resources that are also available to us. This is only possible because he freely shares them with us. That is his grace.

When we pray, we can approach the Father on the basis of our own righteousness. This will not take us very far, because our sins abound. We deserve punishment, not provisions. However, when we come to the Father ***"in the name"*** of Jesus we are accepted by him on the basis of Jesus' perfect righteousness, instead of our own.

Jesus is qualified to receive anything from the Father because he is one with Him, and had never done a thing to disqualify himself from the riches of the Godhead. HE is qualified. Praying ***"in his name"*** means we are qualified, too, through believing in him and receiving his grace. In fact, as Jesus said, when we come to the Father ***"in his name"*** there is no difference between our asking, and Jesus asking, for we are one with him.

The second fundamental dimension of praying ***"in my name"*** is to pray for the concerns and interests of Jesus himself. It is to pray for what he prays for; desire what he desires; to seek for what he seeks. We

want what Jesus wants with all of our hearts. We know that his desires are perfect--so much better than our own--so we pray within the bounds of his own prayers, thoughts, and wishes. To pray like this it is necessary to know Jesus well enough to know what his desires are, and ask accordingly.

The first aspect of asking in the name of Jesus opens up ALL the resources of God to us as our birthright as joint heirs with Jesus. The second aspect of asking in the name of Jesus limits our prayers to the boundaries of his desires alone. These two aspects are actually one thing: Conformity to Jesus, which is the goal of discipleship itself--to become like him.

We are conformed to him in our position in approaching the Father, and we are conformed to his desires in everything we ask.

Prayer is therefore essential to becoming like Jesus. Praying **"in my name"** is the way we learn to conform ourselves to him in our position before God, and in our desires regarding everything in his creation. It is the most powerful force on this earth, for it opens up eternity and the endless glory of God to each of us by faith.

#### APPLICATION:

*Have you come alive to the potential of prayer "in the name" of Jesus? If so, you are persevering in your prayer life and thereby growing in it.*

*If consistency in prayer is still a dream with little reality for you, start by asking the Lord to show you the meaning of the promise he made YOU of praying "in his name." Believe he will do that, and keep on asking.*

*"In my name" is the secret of Christlike prayer.*