



THE PRAYER CLOSET

Equipping & Encouraging Believers
In Prayer

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PRAYING IN JESUS NAME

Years ago, an area church called a minister of music named "Kevin Meador." He had the same exact name as me. It was chaos for months until everyone learned that there were two of us with the same name. I would get his phone calls and he would get mine. I had to explain regularly that I had not stopped preaching to do music ministry. People finally started asking, "Do you mean the preacher Kevin Meador or the minister of music Kevin Meador?" People were confused because ~~two different men had the same name.~~

You see, a person's name is unique and distinctive. It is spelled a particular way and it stands for that person—who the person is and what the person does. When you hear or see a name, you think of that person. You think of the characteristics and actions of a person. For instance, when people mention the name "Kevin Meador," they think of an evangelist, preaching, and The Prayer Closet. My name is connected with who I am and what I am.

The same is true for the name of Jesus. His name is unique and distinctive. It represents Him—His person and His work. His name stands for who He is and what He does. Because of this, it is the sweetest and most precious name of all time. It is the name that is exalted above every name.

In the gospel of John, Jesus teaches us to pray in His name. We are to use the name of Jesus in our praying and pleading. When we pray, we are to use this precious and exalted name. Yet, what does it mean to use the name of Jesus in our praying? How are you to use His name when you

pray?

This issue of *The Prayer Closet* will focus on praying in the name of Jesus. We will look at what it means to use the name of Jesus in prayer. We will also examine ways to adore Jesus and to pray for Christlikeness. Using the name of Jesus in prayer is more than mouthing the words. To use His name in prayer requires that you know Him and walk with Him. It is not a magical phrase that moves the hand of God. But it is a life-transforming truth that changes you and molds and shapes your praying.

The Biblical Teaching

In order to use His name in our praying, we must first see what He taught about this in John's Gospel. Jesus' invitation to pray in His name is found only in **John 14-16**. The rest of the New Testament contains only one other explicit reference to prayer in this manner, "Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father *in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*" (**Ephesians 5:19-20**).

In **John 14-16**, Jesus teaches about praying in His name in the following verses:

"And whatever you ask *in My name*, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son" (**John 14:13**).

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“If you ask anything *in My name*, I will do it” (John 14:14).

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit; and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father *in My name* He may give you” (John 15:16).

“And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father *in My name* He will give you” (John 16:23).

“Until now you have asked nothing *in My name*. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full” (John 16:24).

What does Jesus teach us about praying in His name?

- (1) We are to ask in His name;
- (2) There are no limits to what we can ask for in His name;
- (3) The Father powerfully responds when we pray in His name;
- (4) There is incredible power in praying in the name of Jesus.

The Meaning Of Praying In His Name

You may be thinking, “I can see the necessity and power of praying in Jesus’ name. And I know that I’m supposed to pray in His name. But what does that mean?” Praying in His name is characterized by four distinct qualities. *Praying in Jesus’ name means seeking the glory of God.* To pray in Jesus’ name is to ask for that which will glorify God. It is pleading for those things that will honor God and reveal His greatness. In **John 14:13**, Jesus declares, “And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” Jesus says to ask in His name so that **the Father may be glorified in the Son.**

Jesus was consumed with a passionate desire to glorify the Father. He was preoccupied with honoring and revealing the greatness of the Father. In **John 17:4**, Jesus says, “I have glorified You on the earth.” After explaining to His disciples that He

was going to die, Jesus prayed, “Father, glorify Your name” (**John 12:28**). The Word of God declares that Jesus was filled with zeal for His Father’s house (**John 2:13-17**). Even when He taught His disciples to pray, the glory of God dominated His teaching, “In this manner, therefore, pray, Our Father in heaven, hallowed be *Your name*, *Your kingdom* come, *Your will* be done on earth as it is in heaven” (**Matthew 6:9-10**).

To pray in Jesus’ name is to ask for those things that will glorify God. Your praying must be characterized by pleading for those things that will honor God. It is to ask for those things that will reveal how powerful, good, merciful, and great that God is. In order to pray in the name of Jesus, you must be consumed with passion for the glory of God.

Praying in Jesus’ name means that you depend on the person and work of Jesus Christ. The only reason that you have access with God is through the person and work of Jesus Christ. You are accepted with God through Jesus Christ. His sinless life, His obedience to the Father, His death, and His resurrection are the foundation of your praying. God accepts you because of Jesus. God listens to you because of Jesus. God answers you because of Jesus.

The Word of God declares in **Romans 5:1**, “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” A person experiences peace with God when he or she turns from sin to trust in Jesus Christ. A person is brought into a right relationship with God through faith in Jesus as his or her Lord and Savior. Because the person trusts in Jesus, God accepts the person. He grants the person access into His presence, “For through Him (Jesus) we both have access by one Spirit to the Father” (**Ephesians 2:18**).

You have the remarkable privilege of prayer because of the person and work of Jesus Christ. The “name” of Jesus represents who He is and what He does. It is because of His name that you can call God your Father. It is because of His name that you can cry out to God and know that He is listening and answering.

Praying in Jesus’ name means realizing that you can pray because of who Jesus is and what He has done. This truth should affect you in two ways. First, it should humble you. You have no right to

know God as your Father. You have not merited or earned anything from God. Everything that You have as a child of God is because of Jesus Christ. The privilege of prayer is granted to you because Jesus has opened the way into the Father's presence. God accepts you and listens to you because of His Son Jesus Christ.

While this truth should humble you, it should also inspire boldness in you. It should make you confident in entering the Father's presence. It should inflame your heart to ask boldly of your Father. When you pray to your Father, you are not coming on the basis of your worth or merit. You are coming on the basis of who Jesus is and what He has done.

Numerous people have come to me at prayer conferences confessing feelings of unworthiness. They either feel unworthy to pray or unworthy to ask boldly of God. Perhaps you feel this way. You must remember that you are not praying to God because of your worthiness. You are not asking of God on the basis of your merit to receive from Him. You are entering His presence because of Jesus Christ. He is your only and true living way to God (**John 14:6**). Because Christ lived and died for you, you are accepted, forgiven, and heard by God. When you pray, you are talking to your Father who loves you, accepts you, and listens to you because of His Son, Jesus Christ. Depend on who Jesus is and what He has done when you pray. Praying in Jesus' name means resting in and relying on His character and work in order to communicate with God and to ask of Him.

Praying in Jesus' name means understanding and obeying His Word. The only one who can pray in His name is the one who is striving to understand and obey His Word. Jesus declares in **John 15:7**, "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you." The last phrase in this verse connects it to the verses where Jesus speaks of praying in His name. Notice the similarity between the phrase "you will ask what you desire and it shall be done for you" with the passages we are examining, particularly **John 14:13-14**. This provides you with powerful insight into the meaning of praying in His name.

Jesus is saying that His Word must guide your praying. You must fill your life with His

Word and seek to obey it. When you do this, it will shape and conform your praying to the will of God. Obedience helps you desire and pray for what God desires. When this happens, you can ask whatever you will and receive it (**1 John 5:14**). It is because your will is being changed to ask what God wills. When you are striving to understand and obey His Word, you are more in tune with what Christ desires. As you walk in His Word, you gain insight into what God's will is. When Christ's Word becomes a part of you, you begin to think according to His will. Understanding and obeying God's Word enables you to desire and pray for what God desires.

Praying in Jesus' name means putting into practice what Jesus has taught. You cannot pray in His name if you are not striving to obey Him. To use His name in prayer apart from obedience to Him is hypocrisy and an abomination. Praying in His name flows out of knowing and obeying His Word.

Praying in His name means praying in the same way that Jesus would. A popular slogan among Christians today is "WWJD." This stands for "What Would Jesus Do." According to Jesus in **John 14-16**, we would have to modify that to "WWJP," or "What Would Jesus PRAY!"

In Scripture, the name of a person stands for what that individual is and does. The name is so closely identified with the person that, in many cases, the name effectively equals the person. For instance, **Psalms 20:1** says, "May the name of the God of Jacob defend you." Also **Psalms 116:13** says, "I will take up the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the LORD." In both instances, the word "name" stands for God Himself. The same is true in the New Testament. When John speaks of "those who believe in His name" (**John 1:12**), he is referring to faith in Jesus Himself.

Praying in Jesus' name means representing Him. It is praying in the way that He would concerning a person or situation. Those who pray in His name are so identifying themselves and their requests with Jesus that they are in effect claiming to pray what the Savior Himself would pray. Samuel Chadwick wrote, "To pray in the Name of Christ . . . is to pray as one who is at one with Christ, whose mind is the mind of Christ, whose desires are the desires of Christ, and whose purpose

is one with that of Christ" (Samuel Chadwick, *The Path of Prayer*, Marshall, Morgan, and Scott, 1936).

To pray in Jesus' name is to ask the question, "What would Jesus pray in this situation?" It is praying in harmony with what is revealed about Jesus, His desires, and His ways. It is to seek the mind of Christ when you pray, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (**Philippians 2:5**). Praying in Jesus' name is not a magical formula that anyone can use to get whatever he or she wants from God. It is when a follower of Jesus Christ seeks to pray according to character and desires of his or her Lord and Savior.

In summary, praying in Jesus' name is characterized by four distinct qualities:

- *It is praying for that which will glorify God.* Just as Jesus was consumed by a passionate desire to glorify God, your praying must be characterized by a passionate desire to ask for that which will honor and glorify God.
- *It is praying that rests on and relies in the person and work of Jesus.* You pray and ask of God on the basis of who Jesus is and what He has done. It is His merit that opens the door for you to seek the Father.
- *It is praying that flows out of obedience to the Word of God.* It is asking of God as you seek to understand and obey Jesus.
- *It is praying in the way that Jesus would pray.* It is asking the question, "What would Jesus pray for this person or in this situation?"

Learning To Pray In His Name

Learning to pray in His name requires that you cultivate these qualities in your life and your praying. The following practical suggestions are offered to help you develop these qualities.

- (1) **Pray that God will create a consuming passion in you for the glory of God.** Praying in Jesus' name means asking for those things that will glorify God. Call on God to burn within your heart the desire to glorify Him in all things, especially in your praying. You can use **1 Corinthians 10:31** to plead for this, "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

- (2) **Ask God to enable you to confront and remove selfishness from your life, especially in your praying.** A hindrance to praying in a way that glorifies God is selfishness. It is impossible to pray for that which glorifies God when the focus is only on one's needs and desires. Pray that God will help you develop a life of prayer that is God-centered instead of self-centered.
- (3) **Plead that God will help you purify your motives in asking of Him.** Your heavenly Father desires that you bring all of your requests to Him. He longs for you to share your heart and life with Him. Sometimes those requests may be self-centered. It is important to ask Him on a continual basis to purify your motives in making requests of Him. Don't ever stop making requests of your Father. Never hesitate to ask of Him. Yet, always ask Him to purify Your motives for asking and receiving. Be willing to change your request as He leads you.
- (4) **Praise God for Jesus and remind Him of Christ's work for you.** As I pray, I often praise God for Jesus Christ. I rejoice in and exalt Him for His person and His work. At the same time, I continually remind my Father of the fact that I am clothed in His righteousness. I declare to my Father that I stand before Him on the basis of His merit. I do these things for two basic reasons. First, the Father and Son are worthy of such worship. Jesus has done for me what I could never have done for myself. Second, God doesn't need reminding that I am in His presence because of Jesus. However, I need it. It creates confidence in me and inflames my pleading with God. Even though I feel my unworthiness in His presence, I know that He has made me worthy through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. Even though I don't have any right to ask, because of Jesus, I can. As you pray, saturate your praying with praise for Jesus—His person and work. Fill your prayers with honor and glory for Jesus the only Lord and Savior.
- (5) **Memorize and plead Ephesians 2:18 and Ephesians 3:12.** These two verses state in no uncertain terms that you have access into God's presence. You have this access along with confidence and boldness. You might consider

memorizing these verses and using them as you enter the presence of God and for your praise of Him. The Holy Spirit can use these verses to shatter any feelings of unworthiness and encourage you to pray with boldness and faith.

- (6) **Plead that you will be a doer of the Word and not just a hearer only.** Praying in His name means understanding and applying the Word of God. It is not enough to hear the Word. Reading and knowing the Scripture will not equip you to pray in His name. It is only as you hear and obey that you will be transformed. And it is only as you are changed that you can pray as Jesus would. Daily plead **James 1:22** with your Father, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."
- (7) **Ask yourself the question, "How would Jesus pray for this person or this situation?"** Praying in Jesus name is praying like He would. Ask Jesus to guide in you in your praying. Call on Him to grant you insight on how He would pray.
- (8) **Pray for the mind of Christ.** In order to pray as Christ would, you must think like Him. You must view things from His perspective. Ask the Holy Spirit to cultivate His mind in you. Pray that His desires and burdens would become yours. Pray that His teachings would fill your heart and mind.
- (9) **Read and study the gospels regularly.** To pray like Jesus you must get to know Him. The primary way to get to know Him is by reading and studying the gospels. You can develop your own plan for doing this. You might consider focusing on a gospel a year. For instance, you might choose Matthew. For the entire year, you read and study Matthew. Then the next year you can read and study Mark. My practice is to read and study a gospel each year. I attempt to read the particular gospel each week for the year. This allows me to read it 52 times in a year. At the end of the four years, I start the cycle over. However you choose to do this, the key is to immerse yourself in the life and ministry of Jesus. As you do this, notice what Jesus says and does. Pay attention to His reactions. Listen to His words. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand Jesus as never before in your life.

As you get to know Him, it can equip you to pray as He would.

Praying For Christlikeness

Praying in the name of Jesus requires the intense pursuit of Christlikeness. If you are going to pray like Him, you must become like Him. The following prayer guide is offered to help you plead for this. In order to grow in your ability to pray, as He would, ask for:

□ *The mind of Jesus Christ*

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (**Philippians 2:5**).

Plead with the Holy Spirit to create the mind of Christ in you. Ask Him to enable you to think like Jesus. Pray that His thoughts and desires will become yours.

□ *The eyes of Jesus Christ*

"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered like sheep having no shepherd" (**Matthew 9:36**).

Pray that the Holy Spirit will help you see what Jesus sees. Ask that you will see the needs and hurts of people. Call on Him to help you see the spiritual needs of people.

□ *The heart of Jesus Christ*

"For the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost" (**Luke 19:10**).

Ask the Holy Spirit to create Christ's heart for the lost in you. Plead that you will have a burning passion to help and witness to those who need Jesus Christ.

□ *The knees of Jesus Christ*

"Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place, and there He prayed" (**Mark 1:35**).

Pray that you will seek the Father as Jesus did. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you grow in your dependence of the Father through prayer.

□ *The feet of Jesus Christ*

"Then He said, 'Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God'" (**Hebrews 10:9**).

Plead with the Holy Spirit to help you walk in the path of God's will. Jesus obeyed His Father's will. Call on the Holy Spirit to empower you to obey the Father.

□ ***The character of Jesus Christ***

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such there is no law" (**Galatians 5:22-23**).

The fruit of the Spirit is the character of Jesus. Pray that the Spirit will manifest and cultivate the fruit of the Spirit in your life. In this way, you can grow in Christlike character. This will help you gain insight on how to pray as Jesus did.

□ ***The submission of Jesus Christ***

"Then Jesus answered and said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner'" (**John 5:19**).

Jesus was completely submissive and obedient to the Father's will. He spoke and acted only as the Father led him. How we desperately need this aspect of Jesus' life! Learning to pray in His name requires that you develop the same humble and submissive spirit. Plead with the Holy Spirit to do this in your life.

Praying in the name of Jesus means pursuing Christlikeness. Will you begin to plead for these things in your life? One of the ways that you might consider praying for these things is to divide them up according to the days of the week. There are seven areas listed above. Assign each area to a particular day. For instance, on Monday you could pray for the mind on Jesus Christ. On Tuesday, you could ask for the eyes of Jesus Christ. You could do this for the rest of the week.

Adoring The Son Of God

Another way to develop your ability to pray in His name is to adore Jesus. It is to spend time praising Him and exalting Him for who He is and for what He has done. As you do this, your mind is instructed to His ways and purposes. Your heart is

filled with gratitude. And your will is broken and molded to the will of God. These things are crucial to learning to pray as Jesus would.

The following is a list of areas that you can use to praise and adore Jesus. This list or the Scripture references is by no means exhaustive. But it is intended to help you get started adoring Him and becoming like Him. Read the Scriptures and develop your praise from the truth that is revealed about Him.

- *His Virgin Birth*-**Matthew 1:16, 18, 20, 24-25; Luke 1:35, 3:23**
- *His Humanity*-**John 1:14; Philippians 2:7-8; Colossians 1:22, 2:9; Hebrews 2:14-17; 1 John 4:2, 2 John 7**
- *His Deity*-**Matthew 10:40, 11:27; John 8:58, 10:30, 36, 20:28; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Hebrews 1:3; 1 John 5:20**
- *His Sinlessness*-**Matthew 27:3-4; John 7:16-18, 8:29, 46, 50; Romans 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 1:9; Hebrews 4:15**
- *His Death*-**John 3:16, 19:30; Acts 17:3, Philippians 2:8; Hebrews 2:14; Peter 3:18; Revelation 5:12**
- *His Ascension and Exaltation*-**Psalm 110:1; John 6:62; Acts 2:33, 5:31, 7:55; Ephesians 1:19-22; Philippians 2:9-10; Hebrews 12:2; 1 Peter 3:23**
- *His Resurrection*-**Matthew 28:5-7; Luke 24:5-7; John 20:26-27; Acts 2:24; Romans 6:4; Hebrews 13:20**
- *His Intercession*-**Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1**
- *His Return*-**Matthew 25:31; 1 Corinthians 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 3:13, 4:13-17; Titus 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:2.**
- *His Offices*-
 - Your Prophet*: **Luke 24:19, John 7:40; Acts 3:22**
 - Your Priest*: **Psalm 110:4, Hebrews 2:17, 3:1, 4:14, and 6:20**
 - Your King*: **1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 17:14, 19:16**
- *His Lordship*: **Romans 10:13, Acts 2:36, 10:36, 15:11, 16:31**

Asking The Master Intercessor

The Word of God reveals that Jesus lives now to make intercession, "Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them" (**Hebrews 7:25**). He prayed while on earth. He now intercedes at the right hand of the Father. Jesus is the master Intercessor.

Since He is the master Intercessor, you can plead with Him to teach you how to pray like He would. You can ask Him to grant you the ability and insights to pray as He would. Plead with Jesus to teach you.

"Jesus, You are the master Intercessor. Fervent and faithful prayer characterized your life. You are now interceding at the right hand of the Father. I plead with You to teach me how to pray. Lord Jesus, help me pray as You would. Grant me the insights and power to pray for people and situations as You would. Remove anything from my life that would hinder me from doing this. Transform my prayer life. Amen."

Do You Know Jesus?

This issue of *The Prayer Closet* has dealt with praying in the name of Jesus. Yet, before you can pray in the name of Jesus, you must surrender your life to Jesus. The question is, "Do you know Jesus?" I'm not talking about a factual understanding of who He is. And I'm not referring to a careless acknowledgment of Him. But, have you surrendered your life to Him as your only personal Lord and Savior?

The Word of God says in **1 John 4:14**- "And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world." The Bible teaches that God sent Jesus to be the Savior of the world. This is the plain and unchanging truth of the Word of God. Jesus is the Savior for people of all races and colors. There are no limits to His love or grace. There are no boundaries to His power. No matter what you are or who you are, Jesus is the Savior who can set you free and give you a new life. Jesus is not so much concerned about the color of your skin, your location, your past, or your present. He is much more concerned with your life right now.

A life that is headed in the wrong direction. A life that is filled with sin and misery. A life that is plagued with pain and regrets. A life headed for eternal damnation. A life that He only can change.

Jesus will receive you as you are. No matter who you are or where you are, He is ready to receive you and save you. Will you cry out to Him now?

"Jesus, I have many needs in my life. But my greatest need is You. I'm a sinner. I'm lost. I believe that You are the Savior sent by God. I ask You to forgive me and change me. I give my life to You and I ask You to guide me. Teach me how to pray. Amen."

If you have yielded your life to Jesus, pray now for someone who needs Jesus, the Savior of the world? Thank Him for saving You and for granting you the privilege of prayer through His name.

"Jesus, I adore You. You are the Savior sent by God. You are the Savior of the world. You are the powerful Savior who saves men from all races and out of every nation. You are the merciful Savior who looks at the heart and not the outward appearance. Because of You, I am now forgiven and accepted by God. I have the incredible privilege to pray. I can now call God my Father and speak with Him and listen to Him. Jesus, I bless You. I praise You with all my being. To You belongs all the glory, credit, and honor."

Jesus, _____ is lost. _____ needs You. As the Savior sent by the Father, I plead that You would save and deliver _____. As the Savior of the world, I pray that You would have mercy on _____ and save him/her. Jesus, Savior of the world, reveal Your love, grace, and power by saving _____. Amen."

Preparing For Pastor Appreciation Month

Pastor Appreciation Month is October. It is a time to show your gratitude and support for your pastor. The Prayer Closet Ministries can help you make preparation for this month with the following materials.

Praying For Your Pastor Key Ring

What's the best way to show your gratitude and support for your pastor? It is to stand in the gap for your pastor with fervent prayer. This key ring provides you with Scripture prayers to help you cover your pastor's life and ministry in prayer.

Suggested Donation: \$2.00

Praying For Your Pastor's Wife Brochure

Your pastor's wife needs and deserves the prayer support of the church. This brochure is filled with Scripture prayers that you can use to cover her life and ministry in prayer.

Suggested Donation: \$.25

Praying For Your Deacons

People often talk about their deacons but how many pray for them? This key ring provides you with Scripture prayers to equip you in praying for the deacons.

Suggested Donation: \$2.00

Praying For Your Church Manual

The only way that a church can please God and carry out His will is through prayer. This manual will help you saturate every aspect of your church's life. It contains Scripture prayers and strategies for your church's life and health.

Suggested Donation: \$10.00

TRANSFORMING MY CHURCH PACKAGE – All of the above materials in one packet (one each) –
Suggested Donation: \$12.00



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