

“...In Jesus’ Name”

Centuries ago a captain in the king’s army approached a cottage and called for all the sons of the family who were old enough to fight in battle. The parents released their sons and the sons went willingly – The captain had come *in the name of the king!*

We understand that the word of the captain was not his own, but rather the word of the king. The family did not see the king’s face or hear his voice, but they recognized the king’s authority and responded accordingly.

As Christians, we have been given the right to approach God and make requests *in the name of Jesus*. When we say the words, “in Jesus’ name,” we are not casting a spell or a charm. There is no magic that compels God as if we have power over Him by speaking the right words in the right order.

In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will request the Father on your behalf; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from the Father. (John 16:26-27—NASB)

In this statement Jesus assured His disciples that in His absence they themselves would have the right to speak to God. “In Jesus’ name” was not a new rule for ending prayers, but the way in which the disciples of Jesus would identify themselves when approaching God in prayer.

Does God know you?
“Yes, of course,” you reply.
Yet, in what way?

Without Jesus you are no different than any other sinner. God gives no special privileges to sinners. So, as a sinner you have no expectation that God would respond to *your* words or *my* words when we speak on our own, that is, *in our own name*. Would we dare to approach God to speak to Him face-to-face in our name?

Without Jesus we are rebellious sinners. We have broken the original relationship the Creator had with his created. We are unholy.

However, God does recognize Jesus. So, when Christians approach God, speaking in the name of Jesus...God springs forward to listen, to give gifts, to protect, to assist, to forgive. He responds to those he loves, and He loves those who have devoted their lives to Jesus.

Do not take lightly the words that you speak in prayer to God. The words, “in Jesus’ name,” are not added to a prayer as a command; they are not magic as if to control or manipulate Deity; they must not become a trite ending to our prayers like an “excuse me” after a sneeze.

We have been given the right to speak to God *in the name of Jesus*. So then, our words should reflect the will of our Savior. It is only then that we can stand before God with the assurance that Jesus spoke of, and it is only then that God will listen and respond to those who come to him with a heart of humility and faith...

In Jesus’ name.

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