



St. Joseph's
Episcopal Church

How to Pray Effectively: A Biblical Way to Pray for Results

Week 3 | Praying in the Name of Jesus

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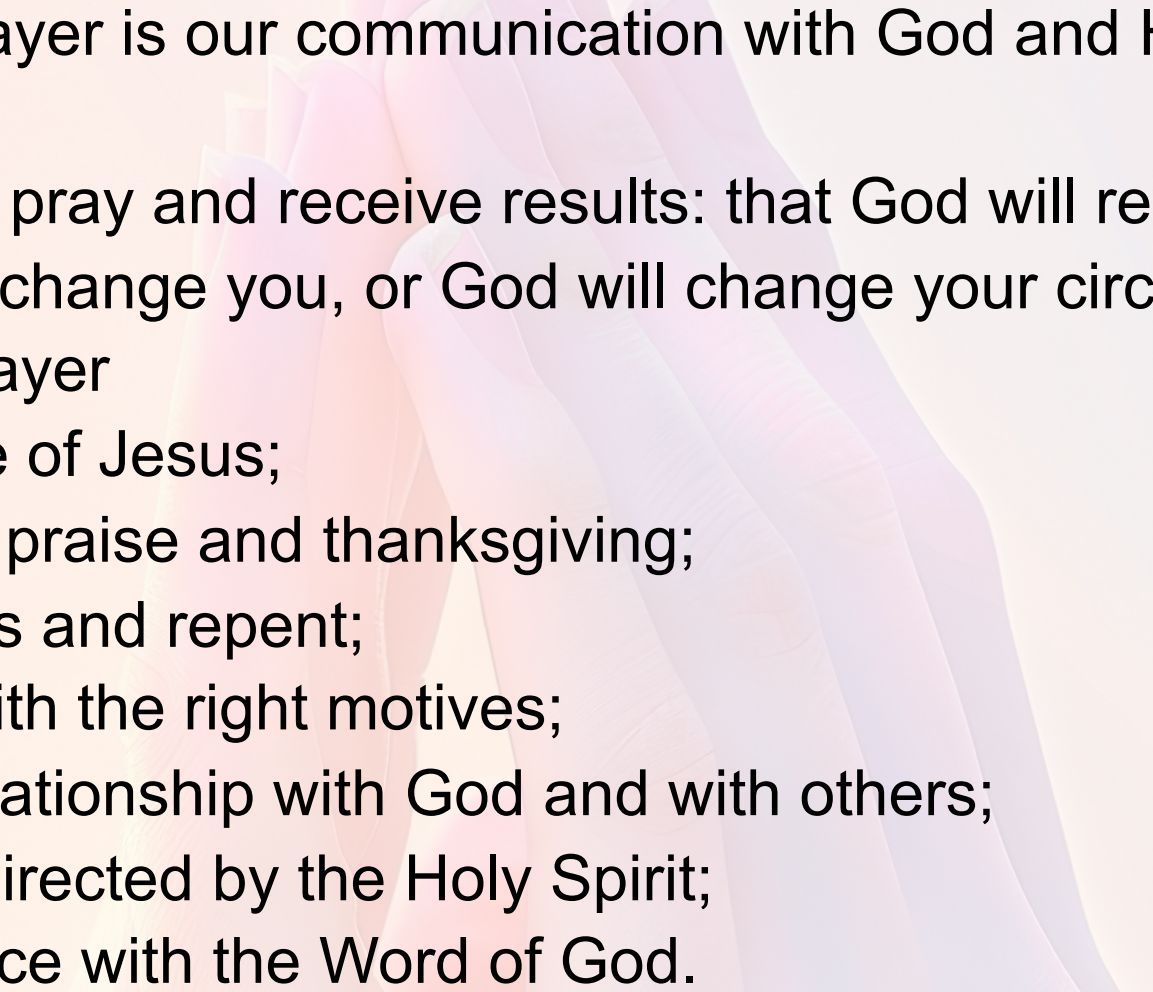
Prayer Before Bible Study

Blessed Lord, who has caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

— Collect for Proper 28:
Book of Common Prayer, p. 236)



Week 1: Keys for Effective Prayer

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- We pray because prayer is our communication with God and He delights in our prayers.
 - Effective Prayer is to pray and receive results: that God will reveal Himself, God will answer, God will change you, or God will change your circumstances.
 - Keys for Effective Prayer
 1. Pray in the Name of Jesus;
 2. Pray to God with praise and thanksgiving;
 3. Confess your sins and repent;
 4. Approach God with the right motives;
 5. Be in the right relationship with God and with others;
 6. Prayer must be directed by the Holy Spirit;
 7. Pray in accordance with the Word of God.

Week 2: Components of Prayer

- There are 4 key components of prayers that you should follow. Each component can be its own prayer and put into different orders. The acronym ACTS (or CATS and CAST) helps us to remember these four areas.
 1. A | Adoration
Adoration is giving praise and worship to God, who is worthy of our praise.
 2. C | Confession
We must confess our sins to God as the first step in cleansing our soul.
 3. T | Thanksgiving
We must thank God in all our circumstances, high and low, as he has blessed us with life and continues to bless us.
 4. S | Supplication
We can never be too proud to beg God for ourselves and for all who surround us.

For the Answering of Prayer

Almighty God, who hast promised to hear the petitions of those who seek to ask in thy Son's Name: We beseech thee mercifully to incline thine ear to us who have now made our prayers and supplications unto thee; and grant that those things which we have faithfully asked according to thy will, may effectually be obtained, to the relief of our necessity, and to the setting forth of thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—Book of Common Prayer, page 834



Praying in the Name of Jesus

The first key in the [Seven Keys for Effective Prayer](#), is to:

1. Pray in the Name of Jesus.

The Name of Jesus is our calling card, so to speak, our identification when we pray to God. We do this as Jesus' instructed us.

On that day you will ask nothing of me. Very truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. As and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

—John 16:23-24



Authority of Jesus' Name



Authority of Jesus' Name

The first reason we pray in the Name of Jesus is because he has the power, and as he said in Matthew 2:18, all authority in heaven and on earth was given to him.

Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. — Philippians 2:9-11

This passage states that Jesus' authority extends from heaven, to earth, to under the earth. How extensive is this power?

Authority of Jesus' Name

I. Jesus has authority over demons.

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!” He said to them, “I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. Indeed, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” — Luke 10:17-20



Authority of Jesus' Name

II. Jesus has authority over illness.

Peter said, “I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk.” And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. — Acts 3:6-8, 16



Authority of Jesus' Name

III. Jesus has authority over circumstances.

When there are storms in our lives, be they physical, emotional, or spiritual, Jesus' Name has authority over those circumstances.

And waking up, he rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Be silent! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” — Mark 4:39-41



Authority of Jesus' Name

A. Be aware of Jesus' presence in our lives:

As with the the first persona of the Holy Trinity, so it is with the Son. Jesus is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent as well as the Father and the Holy Spirit. We pray with the awareness that Jesus is in our midst.

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. — Matthew 18:20

B. Maintain a personal relationship with Jesus:

Prayer is relationship. When the priest says, “The Lord be with you” and we respond with “And also with you” we are talking about relationship with God and with one another.



Authority of Jesus' Name

B. Maintain a personal relationship with Jesus:

The ultimate goal of prayer is intimacy with God and union with God. We may approach God as Father, as Creator, as Sustainer; we may approach Jesus as a Friend, as a Brother, as an Advocate. We may approach the Holy Spirit as a Counsellor, as Guide, and as Truth-teller. But the most important is our relationship with God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Being intimate with God involves abiding with God, obeying God and loving God and one another.



Authority of Jesus' Name

B. Maintain a personal relationship with Jesus:

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God, and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us. — 1 John 3:21-24



Authority of Jesus' Name

C. Know the will of Jesus for us:

What does Jesus want for us?

I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

— John 10:10b

For surely I know the plans I have for you says the Lord,
plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a
future with hope. — Jeremiah 29:11





Claiming God's Promise



Claiming God's Promise in Jesus' Name

God has promises in every condition and circumstance for us to claim when we are faced with challenges and difficulties.

For in him (Jesus) every one of God's promises is a "Yes." For this reason it is through him that we say the, "Amen," to the glory of God. — 2 Corinthians 1:20

Through prayer, we can claim God's promises of salvation, healing, and victory over evil.



Claiming God's Promise in Jesus' Name

1. Claim salvation in Jesus' Name

“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” — Acts 14:12

2. Claim healing in Jesus' Name

Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up, and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.— Acts 14:12

Claiming God's Promise in Jesus' Name

3. Claim victory over evil

One day as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a female slave who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, “These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.— Acts 16:16-18





Pitfalls

Pitfalls with Using Jesus' Name

Beware of using the Name of Jesus as a talisman or magic formula as this is taking the Lord's name in vain.

Then some itinerant Jewish exorcists tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. But the evil spirit said to them in reply, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?" Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered them all, and so overpowered them that they fled out of the house naked and wounded. When this became known to all residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks, everyone was awestruck, and the name of the Lord Jesus was praised. — Acts 19:13-17





Pitfalls with Using Jesus' Name

Modern day cults are false prophets and false Christs whose leaders use the Name of Jesus for their personal gain, evil purposes, and to deceive faithful people.

Many will come in my name and say, “I am he!” and they will lead many astray. — Mark 13:6

1. Peoples Temple and Jonestown Massacre:
The Jonestown Massacre occurred on November 18, 1978, when more than 900 members of an American cult called the Peoples Temple died in a mass suicide-murder under the direction of their leader Jim Jones. It took place at the so-called Jonestown settlement in Guyana, South America.

Pitfalls with Using Jesus' Name

1. Peoples Temple and Jonestown Massacre:

Jones had founded what became the Peoples Temple in Indiana in the 1950s, and relocated his people to California in the 1960s. In the 1970s, following negative media attention, the powerful, controlling preacher moved with some 1000 of his followers to the Guyanese jungle where he promised they would establish a utopian community. On November 18, 1978, US Representative Leo Ryan, who had gone to Jonestown to investigate claims of abuse, was murdered along with 4 members of his delegation. The same day, Jones ordered his 918 followers to ingest poison laced punch while armed guards stood by. Jones did not drink the cyanide, but his aide shot him.



Pitfalls with Using Jesus' Name

2. Branch Davidians of Waco, Texas:

David Koresh was the leader of the Branch Davidians, an apocalyptic doomsday cult founded in 1955. Koresh believed himself to be a messiah, and he and his followers stockpiled weapons in anticipation of a holy war and the apocalypse at their compound, Mount Carmel, near Waco, Texas. On February 28, 1993, the ATF attempted a raid on the Branch Davidian compound resulting in the death of 5 Branch Davidians, and 5 ATF agents. This was followed by a 51 day standoff that ended when the compound erupted in flames. Koresh was among the 76 dead (including children) after the fire was extinguished.



Pitfalls with Using Jesus' Name

3. Apollo Quiboloy of the Philippines:

Quiboloy is a notorious pastor with longstanding ties to the highest circles of power in the Philippines, including former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte and the current Vice President Sarah Duterte. He claims to be the “appointed Son of God” and his church is called “The Kingdom of Jesus Christ, TheName Above All Names.” He was recently arrested and now faces numerous allegations of trafficking and child abuse. He’s also on the FBI’s “Most Wanted” list. In the Philippines, he faces charges of sex trafficking, sexual abuse, and statutory rapes.



Pitfalls with Using Jesus' Name

3. Apollo Quiboloy of the Philippines:

He allegedly exploited his church members for sex at his convenience and used them to beg for money in the streets as fund-raising to support his church and lavish lifestyle. While Quiboloy is accused of serious crimes in the Philippines, he's also been indicted in the U.S. on charges that depict a complex sex trafficking, fraud and money laundering scheme that operated throughout the United States.





Summary

Summary

Praying in the Name of Jesus is a powerful way of aligning ourselves with God's will.

1. Jesus has authority over demons, illness, and all circumstances;
2. We must be aware of the presence of Jesus, maintain a personal relationship with Jesus, and know the will of Jesus for us;
3. We can claim God's promises of salvation, healing, and victory over evil in Jesus' Name;
4. We must be wary of false prophets and cults using Jesus' Name as a talisman or magic formula.



Discussion Questions

1. How would you know if a church is a cult and the leader/leaders use the Name of Jesus in vain?
2. The Name of Jesus is a powerful and awesome name. Is there an area in your life which prevents you from praying effectively in Jesus' Name?