

## **PRAYING IN JESUS' NAME**

John 14:14 ... "If you ask anything in my [Jesus'] name, I will do it."

In man's quest to understand the Bible and God, he often subscribes to his own interpretation of scripture. Jesus spoke in today's verse to offer you hope. However, if you misunderstand these words you can become disappointed, especially if you believe that prayer should be in another form.

If you use your own intellect to explain Genesis 1:26, in which God said: "Let us make man in our own image," or Acts 16:31, which reads: "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved," or concerning praying in Jesus' name, you may miss the real meaning. You do not have to rely upon your own intellect to understand God or His Word, because – if you are born again believer – the Holy Spirit is available to help you understand his instruction.

Man is made in the image of God's character, not his physical appearance. But, the word "image," convinces many people that we must look like God. God is a spirit; we cannot look like him. The teaching to "believe in the Lord..." follows the logic that you do not simply believe what Jesus says, but you also do what he says. If you listen to Jesus but then do something other than what he instructs, you do not believe in him. Today's verse does not mean that you can simply pray: "In Jesus name I request a new car."

Praying in Jesus' name means:

- You pray as Jesus would (for opportunities to share the Gospel, courage to face persecution, healing, strength to resist temptation, resources to help others, and so on).
- You trust the Father as Jesus trusted the Father (you expect him to be faithful, accept his gift of salvation, live under his grace, and obey him).
- You mourn as Jesus mourns (for lost souls, people who reject Jesus, cruelty among men, and more).

If you ask anything in Jesus' name, which means that you ask for the same things Jesus would ask of the Father, he will respond.

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