

Jesus told us in John 14:13<sub>ESV</sub> "Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son," but I'm not so sure everyone understands what praying "in His name" means.

Remember as a kid when some special favor or treat would come available and one kid would be the fastest in saying, "That's mine, I CALLED IT!"? Sometimes I wonder if Christians get confused into thinking "As long as I end my prayer with that catch phrase, 'In Jesus' Name,' then I'll get my wish; after all, I CALLED IT!"

In 2 Corinthians 5:20 Paul had said that believers are actually "ambassadors" of Christ. An ambassador is one who acts on behalf of the King and in the King's best interest. With authority of the King, an ambassador even had the King's seal at his disposal. In other words, the ambassador's official work was "in the name of the King" in a fiduciary capacity.

This can be seen easily in the Book of Esther in the instance where Haman was allowed to work as an ambassador when the King allowed him to write a law calling for elimination of the Jews living in Persia and Media. Later, the King allowed Mordicai to write a law which saved the Jews. In each of these instances Mordicai and Haman were given the King's official seal and were allowed to make decrees in the name of the King.

Both Haman and Mordicai were working as "ambassadors" or "in the name of the King." Mordicai was working truly in the King's interest, fulfilling his duty as an ambassador, and his prayers were fulfilled. But Haman actually had his own interest at heart...so although he claimed to be working "in the name of the King" he was really working for himself. We see what happened with Haman being hung on the very gallows he had built to have Modicai hanged on!

This is only one example but there are others throughout scriptures. In Genesis, Joseph was the faithful fiduciary of Pharoah and had authority to use Pharoah's seal in official business. In 1st and 2nd Samuel, we see where both Saul and David had been chosen and anointed by God to serve as His fiduciary. David, although a sinner, repented of his sin and gave his life to faithfully work for God as His ambassador in the role of King of the chosen people, while Saul misused that same authority and forsook his fiduciary duties, thus taking the name of the Lord in vain. That resulted in God no longer even listening to Saul's prayers! (1 Samuel 28:6)

What I'm getting at is simply by remembering to add some magical little phrase at the end of your prayer, "in Jesus' name," isn't what Jesus was talking about at John 14:13. What I believe He meant is what you ask for "in His name," or "in fulfilling your fiduciary duties as His true and faithful ambassador." As you work in God's interest, you will receive. The Bible also tells us very plainly at John 9:31, "We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshipper of God, and DOES HIS WILL (emphasis added) God listens to him."

If we want to know God's will then we need to turn to His word, the Bible, to learn how to work in our own lives to worship Him and to do His will as He intended!



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—T. C. Newsome

PS: Comments? Questions? Scriptural rebuttals? They're all welcome! <u>www.Link1.info/contact-us</u>. To participate in sensible Bible-related discussions, join us at TC's Friends Club. Here's the hot link: <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/136708110091989/</u>

