

# Notes for the Ones Called-Out to Meet

Info: (651) 283-0568 Discipleship Training Ministries, Inc. [www.dtminc.org](http://www.dtminc.org) Today's Date: March 12, 2023

## Seven Invitations to Pray

by Dan Trygg

- 1.) "Whatever you ask *in My name*,  
that will I do,  
that the Father may be glorified in the Son." – Jn. 14:13
- 2.) "If you ask *Me* anything *in My name*,  
I will do it." – Jn. 14:14
- 3.) "If you *abide in Me*,  
and My words abide in you,  
ask whatever you wish,  
and it shall be done for you." – Jn. 15:7
- 4.) "...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 to you." – Jn. 15:16
- 5.) "...if you shall ask the Father for anything,  
He will give it to you *in My name*." – Jn. 16:23
- 6.) "Until now  
you have asked for nothing *in My name*;  
ask, and you will receive,  
that your joy may be made full." – Jn. 16:24
- 7.) "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." – Jn. 16:26,27

We so often have heard verses out of their context, ...lifted out of the surrounding narrative that is meant to clarify and help interpret their meaning, or to give emphasis to certain segments of what is being said. You have probably heard portions of these verses, and have possibly even used them as an encouragement in your own approach to God in prayer. What they are saying, and advocating, is even more powerful when you see them in the original context.

**All seven of these statements by Jesus were part of one conversation.** They were all spoken on the evening before His crucifixion. Starting from the upper room, where they had the Passover meal, and along the way as they walked from the city to the Garden of Gethsemane, these were important thoughts that Jesus shared with His disciples. This might seem a bit strange to us, but it was a common thing in those days for a rabbi to teach his followers as they walked along. Chapters 13-16 are a record of some of the important things that Jesus spoke of on that last evening together before His arrest. It is important to see the introduction of chapter 13. Jesus knew exactly what was about to take place. He knew it was time for Him to depart and leave this world, ...and that meant that He would also be leaving these men whom He had come to value and love. He knew that this evening was the time to share any important last words to direct their thinking and to give them encouragement and focus in preparation for His departure.

**He talked about key themes:** servant leadership; loving one another as a primary mark of being a disciple. He spoke about the coming of the Holy Spirit, and how He would teach them and guide them in understanding more about who Jesus is for them. He talked about the importance of abiding in Him as their Source; He was the Vine and they were like branches. They need the life that comes from Him in order to fulfill God's purpose for their lives: to bear lasting fruit that is a result of His life in them. **And then, sprinkled throughout this teaching are these seven declarations about prayer.**

**A key concept in this list is the idea of asking *in Jesus' name*.** This phrase actually appears in six of the seven declarations. The one instance where it does *not* appear, Jesus speaks of "abiding" in Him, and His words "abiding" in them. This is not accidental, or just some random difference. *This is the definition of what it meant to come "in Jesus' name". To come in Jesus' name means to come in place of Him, ...in agreement with His heart and purpose, ...with the permission and authority of Jesus Himself.* What would be a more perfect description of how to be in agreement with Jesus than to be "abiding in Him and His words abiding in you"? Being centered in the living Christ, consistent with His *recorded words* in the scriptures (and His *personal spoken words* through the Holy Spirit), provide important parameters to understand what it means to come "in His name."

Whatever you ask...  
If you ask...  
Ask whatever you wish...  
Whatever you ask...  
If you shall ask for anything...  
Ask and you shall receive...  
In that day you *will* ask...

**Do you see a common theme here?**  
**Jesus expects and encourages us to ASK.**

What happens *if we don't ask?*  
**We won't get answers to requests we *never* make.**

**Seven times** in that last teaching occasion that Jesus had with His disciples before His death, ...**He had to direct them to ASK God for things!** Not just *any* things, ...the things that come out of hearts that are abiding in Him, ...the things that are *in agreement* with Him, His heart, His values, His interests, His will and purpose. **Ask in His Name...**

**Then, notice the sixth declaration about prayer:** This was a *new thing!* They had never done this before! Jesus said that they had never gone to God in prayer in His name before. *That is a radical thought!* On the night that Jesus was betrayed and arrested, *this* was the *first time* that Jesus told them to go to the Father *in Jesus' name!*

They were all good Jewish boys. They had grown up praying to “the Blessed One” or “the Lord”, ...maybe even thinking of Him as the “Father and Creator” (Deut. 32:6; Psa. 89:26; 103:13; Isa. 63:16; 64:8; Jer. 3:4,19 – Addressing God as “Father” was pretty rare in the OT. Jesus’ practice of referring to God as Father so often, and of calling Him, ‘Abba’ [Daddy] was seen as “too familiar” to the Jewish religious leaders of Jesus’ day). Jesus’ own example was to come to God as Father.

**But now Jesus is saying that they could even ask HIM, ...JESUS...,** for anything in *His* name, **and He will do it.** Jesus is telling them that **they could pray to HIM!** (What does *that* say about who He is?)

And then, He emphasizes asking the Father in Jesus’ name, ...something that they had never done before. Can you imagine what this would have sounded like to them, ...how radical this was?

This was *new teaching!* Something that Jesus had not taught them to do before, but now He is *emphasizing it.*

Then, lest we misunderstand the purpose for all this, Jesus clarifies that when we ask in His name, it does not mean that He has to ask the Father on our behalf. It is not like that. The passion and petitions of our hearts are to come *out from* our intimacy and abiding in Jesus, but the Father loves *us* because *we love Jesus*, and we recognize that God had sent Him.

So, the take-away for today:

**Ask,** ...God wants us to be asking.

**Abide.** Effectual prayer comes from centering yourself in Jesus, hearing His heart and getting yourself in line with His will and His words. Then, you can confidently come in His name. In effect, you are coming to the Father in the place of Jesus.

**Jesus has opened the way for you to come, and He wants you to come.** God wants to know your heart, your concerns, your thoughts, ...but the promise of effectual prayer comes when *your* thoughts grow out of *His* thoughts, ...when *your* concerns are about *His* concerns, ...and *your* heart grows out of *His* heart *in you.*

He *wants* you to come, ...even if your heart and desires are imperfect. Ask Him to work in you His heart, His desires. **The Spirit is here to help you in your weakness,** ...He can take the kernel of your imperfect perspective and present it in a way that is in accordance with the will of God (Romans 8:26).

**Jesus invites you to pray!**