

Prayer: Purpose so that God may answer?

There are many types of prayers. What was Jesus speaking of during His Last Supper? Did you ever notice the subtle difference when praying in Jesus' name while Jesus was on earth and after He ascended? What do you observe about who answers prayers?

10) Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own, but the Father, as He remains in Me, does His works. 11) Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. 12) Truly, truly I say to you, the one who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I am going to the Father. 13) And **whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.** 14) **If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.** (John 14:10-14, NASB)

23) And on that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly I say to you, **if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you.** 24) Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full. 25) These things I have spoken to you in figures of speech; an hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech, but will tell you plainly about the Father. 26) On that day you will ask in My name, and I am not saying to you that I will request of the Father on your behalf; 27) for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father. 28) I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and going to the Father." (John 16:23-28, NASB)

1. Complete this chart to organize your observations of John 14:10-14; 16:23-28 to understand Jesus' relationship with His Father. Write the verse that you observe that answers the question.

Who did Jesus come forth from to enter our world?	
Whose words does Jesus speak?	
Who does the work that Jesus does?	
Who does Jesus return to when He ascends to heaven?	

2. The idea of work figures prominently in John 14:10-14. When Jesus says, "whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son; if you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it," it is in the context of work:

The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own, but the Father, as He remains in Me, does **His works**. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the **works** themselves. Truly, truly I say to you, the one who believes in Me, the **works that I do**, he will do also; and greater **works** than these he will do; because I am going to the Father. (John 14:10-12, NASB)

What is the work of God? Carefully observe John 6:27-29.

Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that lasts for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal." Therefore they said to Him, "What are we to do, so that we may accomplish the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent." (John 6:27-29, NASB)

3. When you understand all of the above, how do you understand these two verses?

And whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. (John 14:13-14, NASB)

Truly, truly I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you. (John 16:23, NASB)

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Teacher Notes

There are many types of prayers. What was Jesus speaking of during His Last Supper? Did you ever notice the subtle difference when praying in Jesus' name while Jesus was on earth and after He ascended? What do you observe about who answers prayers?

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Help the student recognize the importance of carefully observing the text.

John 14 is about Jesus on earth. Before ascending and returning to His Father, Jesus is the One who answers your prayers (whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it); however, it is important to note that it is God working through Jesus (as He remains in Me, does His works) "so that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

John 16 is about Jesus after His resurrection. After Jesus ascends and returns to His Father, God is the One who answers your prayers (if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you).

1. Complete this chart to organize your observations of John 14:10-14; 16:23-28 to understand Jesus' relationship with His Father. Write the verse that you observe that answers the question.

Who did Jesus come forth from to enter our world?	God: "I came forth from the Father and have come into the world" (John 16:28)
Whose words does Jesus speak?	God: "The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own, but the Father" (John 14:10)
Who does the work that Jesus does?	God: "as He remains in Me, does His works" (John 14:10)
Who does Jesus return to when He ascends to heaven?	God: "I am leaving the world and going to the Father" (John 16:28)

2. The idea of work figures prominently in John 14:10-14. When Jesus says, “whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son; if you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it,” it is in the context of work:

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What is the work of God? Carefully observe John 6:27-29.

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Ask the student: what is the work of God – “that you believe in Him whom He has sent?” Who is this directed towards – you or others? Allow some time for discussion.

Doing the work of God starts with you – that **you, the disciple, grow in faith** in Jesus Christ.

The work of God is about evangelism and salvation. The quality of your faith determines the effectiveness in sharing the Good News – faith in Jesus Christ brings forgiveness for one’s sins. You evangelize from your personal experience.

The work of God is also about God’s New Covenant – because the nation of Israel misrepresented God to the world by their unfaithful behavior, God restored His holy name (Ezek 36:22-23). That restoration came in the form of Jesus Christ “so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

Ask the student: what is Jesus talking about, “Truly, truly I say to you, the one who believes in Me, the **works that I do**, he will do also; and greater **works** than these he will do; because I am going to the Father?” Consider what Christianity was like while Jesus was on this earthy compared to after Jesus’ death, resurrection, and ascension.

3. When you understand all of the above, how do you understand these two verses?

And whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. (John 14:13-14, NASB)

Truly, truly I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you. (John 16:23, NASB)

Ask the student: what does the name Jesus mean in Hebrew? What does it mean to pray “in His name?”

The proper name “Jesus,” translated from the Greek name “Iēsous,” originated from the Old Testament Hebrew name of “Yēšua’.” The ancient form of Yēšua’ was Y^ehōšūa’, and it means “Yahweh is help” or “Yahweh is salvation.”

To pray in the name of Jesus is praying in “God is salvation.”

Ask the student: during the Last Supper, what is Jesus saying of the kind of prayer request that His Father will answer?

Prayer requests that do the work of God – “whatever” and “any” request that help you grow in faith thereby making you more effective in causing others to have faith in Jesus Christ “so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”