

John 14:12-31

12 "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

13 Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

12-14 It is truly amazing what has happened via Christian believers. Medical care has become available around the planet through missionaries. The Jesus film has been presented to 1.5 billion people. Thousands of men and women have given their lives for people they did not know. The Bible has been translated into almost every language. The church has done amazing things, even more so than witnessed in the Jesus' earthly life. That is because of His abiding Spirit. He went to the Father to send the Spirit to us. See 7:39

To ask in the name of Jesus is to ask with His authority. If you are certain of His authority when you ask, then you can be sure that it will be done.

In the preceding verses, Jesus had just told the disciples that He was in the Father and the Father in Him. The words that He spoke were not His but the Father's. If we take these verses out of context, it sounds like Jesus is our magic genie. That is not what He is saying.

If you have faith in Jesus, that is to believe and receive Him, or to have the relationship He has with the Father, you will do what He has been doing. The miracles and words of Jesus came from His relationship with the Father. If you have the kind of relationship with Jesus that He lived out on this earth with Father, then your life will look like His. The New Testament writers understood this clearly. Jesus' goal is to conform us to His perfect example. That is the expression of the fruits of the Spirit.

If we have that oneness with Jesus that He exemplified with the Father, then you can "ask in His name". That means you can request with the authority of an official representative of Jesus. It does not mean to add the magic phrase "in Jesus' name". The request will be the will of Jesus just as Jesus' requests were always the will of the Father.

This promise carries no limits, but it is not without the previously implied conditions. If those conditions did not exist, every immature Christian would have won the local lottery and be a super-star to their spiritual detriment. That has the opposite effect of bringing you to God's goal, Christ's likeness. But if that oneness with Jesus does exist, consider your potential to touch the world around you with the very words and miracles of Jesus!

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

15 The reason Jesus gives us a command is because of His love for us. If we love Him, we will obey the command. Disobedience causes Him grief because of the pain we put ourselves through. In the next chapter He tells us the command is to love each other (15:10-14). If you love Him, you will love others in obedience to His command. In a military sense, the best commanders in history have been those who earned the love of their troops. They obeyed out of love and respect for their commander. Should we do any less? 21:15-17; 2Corinthians 5:15; 1John 5:2-3

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. 18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

16-18 Is obedience connected with sending of the Holy Spirit? If you love me... obey and I will... If we are not walking in obedience, the Holy Spirit would be an unwelcome "gate-crasher". The greater the obedience, the more at home the Spirit will be in your life. Only those born of the Spirit can discern His work and leading 1 Corinthians 2:14. This 17th verse is an explanation of the difference of the Holy Spirit before and after Pentecost. Up until the day Jesus sent the Counselor, He was with men. From that day forward He would work in men. 1 John 4:12-13. He promised He would not leave us like grieving children who had lost their parents, and said, "I will come to you." (also see 23) He is one with the Spirit. He calls this One who comes to us the parakletos. The Greeks used the word as a person who testifies on another's behalf, or a defense attorney or someone who helps you through the court procedures. In other words, you are in for a tough time, but I will help you through it. NKJV uses 'Helper' and NIV 'Counselor'.

19 Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

19-21 (from September 20th evening devotional) Jesus is no longer physically manifest in the form of the incarnation. The world no longer sees Him. But do you see Him? He promised His disciples that they would, and I don't believe that He meant the short time between His resurrection and ascension. He goes on to say that they will realize He is in them. That happened after the ascension. How did the disciples see Christ after the ascension?

They saw Him as the body of Christ functioned throughout the book of Acts and onward through time. You see Him every time you see the church minister in all its varied forms of service. When Ananias touched Saul of Tarsus, Jesus touched him. When Peter and John laid hands on the Samaritans, Jesus touched them. When the transformed Paul spoke the words of life, his hearers heard Jesus. And when your church acts in the Spirit, Jesus is acting in your world and seen by those who love Him.

Not only that, but you also see Him at work in the details of your life. If you are one that loves Him and obeys His command to love, then He promised to show Himself to you. When the world says "coincidence", you see the hand of God. When a verse of Scripture is spoken on the radio, and then comes up in your devotional time speaking to your current situation, you hear the voice of Jesus. As you observe the beauty of nature, you see lessons from Jesus to give you insight as to how He is working in your life. The world doesn't see it and might think you are one card short of a full deck, but you know

He has shown Himself to you. It is then that you realize that you are in Jesus, and He is in you.

22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

22-23 Jesus reiterates what He said in 15 and 16. If you love Him, you obey Him, and He sends the Holy Spirit to help guide you. But this time instead of using the term parakletos, He says that He and the Father will make their home in us. There we have the three in one: Father, Son and Spirit. I wonder if Judas understood the answer?

24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

24 The contrast is not loving Him – the truth, and not obeying our Creator's instructions. Again, Jesus tells us that this is not His idea, but God's divine instruction. 5:19; 12:50

25 "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

25-26 The authority of Jesus in His victory over sin will send the Holy Spirit. He will be our Teacher. He will show us when we think in a worldly way. He will remind us of Jesus' words. If we will hear Him, He will be our Teacher and Guide. What are the conditions for receiving the Holy Spirit? Believing obedience and asking. Luke 11:13

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

27 Jeremiah 31:33, The peace of the world is totally conditional upon favorable circumstances. The peace of Jesus goes beyond circumstances to the depths of your very being. The Hebrew word Shalom is not just the absence of turmoil, but the presence of everything that makes for our highest good. He said it was His very own peace. He has peace because He is peace. His omnipotence and omnipresence assures that nothing will escape Him. Realize that He sees it all right now and that nothing escapes Him. His guiding presence with us provides a peace that goes beyond circumstance. Psalm 27:1

28 You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. 29 And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.

28-29 Jesus was very careful to be sure His disciples understood what was about to happen. Even then they were completely forlorn. He explained that if they loved Him, they would be glad He was going to the Father. It is the same with the death of a fellow believer. If we love them, we will miss them, but we should be glad they are in the

unhindered presence of God. It is one thing for us to have His presence in these bodies, but it will be altogether different when we see Him face to face. 1John 3:2

³⁰ I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, ³¹ but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.

30-31 Satan is referred to as the Prince of this World. He has no hold or rights over Jesus because Jesus was free from sin. 12:31; 16:11; 1John 5:19 Jesus' love for the Father meant He obeyed completely. That is what He was trying to tell them in this chapter. Jesus' love for the Father resulted in a sinless life, and that means Satan has no power over Him. Why must we learn that? 10:18 It is essential that we see His obedience to God out of God's love for man.

Questions:

- 1.How are verses 12 and 13 possible?
2. What does it mean to “ask in Jesus’ name”?
- 3.Why would we want to obey Jesus?
- 4.Go over the descriptions of the One Jesus’ sends to us.
- 5.How does the Counselor interact with you?
- 6.Why can’t the world receive the Spirit?
- 7.What is the difference in man’s relationship with the Spirit after Pentecost?
8. Why is verse 19b true?
- 9.discuss the implications of verse 20.
- 10.How is the Trinity expressed in this passage?
- 11.What is the “home” in this passage?
- 12.What kind of peace does Jesus give?
- 13.How can the Father be greater than Jesus?
- 14.What kind of holds can the prince of this world have on us?
- 15.Why must the world learn that Jesus obeys the Father?