

# Jesus Teaches About Praying in His Name



## John 16:16–33 — Jesus Teaches About Praying in His Name



### Overview

- Setting: Final hours before the cross (Upper Room → on the way).
- Big arc: Sorrow → Joy → Access → Peace.
- Centerpiece: “Whatever you ask the Father **in my name** He will give you... ask and you will receive, that your **joy may be full**” (16:23–24).
- Thesis line: “In the world you will have tribulation, but take heart; **I have overcome** the world.” (16:33)



### Structure

1. 16:16–22 — Little while: grief like labor pains → joy of new birth
2. 16:23–24 — New-covenant access: ask the **Father** in Jesus’ name
3. 16:25–28 — From figures to plain speech; Jesus’ mission in one line: “I came from the Father... and I am going to the Father.”
4. 16:29–32 — Disciples’ “now we get it”... yet they’ll scatter.
5. 16:33 — Peace in Jesus, pressure in the world, courage from His victory.



### Key Greek & Word-Study

- “Ask” verbs:
  - ἐρωτάω = to ask a **question/inquire** (v.23a “you will ask me nothing”).
  - αἰτέω = to **request** from a superior (v.23b, 24 “ask the Father”).
- “In my name” = ἐν τῷ ὀνόματί μου: not a tagline, but **in union with** Jesus’ person, authority, and mission.
- “Take heart” = θαρσεῖτε (imperative): be courageous.
- “I have overcome” = νενίκηκα (perfect): **victory accomplished**, ongoing effect.



### Jewish & Biblical Background

- “Name” (Heb. **שם** / **shem**) = character, reputation, presence (Ex 33–34; Ps 20:7).
- Agency idea (Heb. *shaliach*): the **sent one** acts with the sender’s authority.
- Temple theme: God places His **Name** where He dwells (Deut 12). Now, by the Spirit, believers are God’s dwelling; access is personal, not place-bound.
- Birth-pang image: sorrow/“θλίψις” turns to joy—resurrection transforms grief into gladness (cf. Isa 26:17–19).



### What “In My Name” Does (and Doesn’t) Mean

#### Does mean:

1. Alignment with Jesus’ **character**.
2. Accord with His **mission**.
3. Reliance on His **authority** and **mediatorship**.
4. **Abiding** relationship.
5. Resulting in **joy** and **Father’s glory**.

#### Doesn’t mean:

- A magic formula to rubber-stamp our wishes.
- Bypassing obedience or wisdom.
- Asking contrary to His teaching or character.

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## The Prayer Upgrade Jesus Promises

Feature	Old Expectation	New-Covenant Reality in Jn 16
Address	Often mediated via priest/Temple	Directly to the <b>Father</b>
Basis	Covenant signs, sacrifices	Jesus' <b>finished work</b> and Name
Mode	Place-centered	<b>Person-centered</b> (in Christ)
Power	Shadows	<b>Spirit-empowered</b> clarity
Outcome	Petition heard	<b>Joy made full</b> + fruit for mission

## Cross-Links in John

- Jn 14:13–14 — Ask in **my name** for the Father's glory.
- Jn 15:7,16 — Abide/Word → ask → fruit that remains.
- Jn 16:23–26 — Ask the **Father** in Jesus' name; "the Father Himself loves you."

## Theology in 6 Lines (Memorable)

1. **Access:** Father welcomes you (16:23,26–27).
2. **Agent:** You pray as Christ's representative.
3. **Alignment:** Requests shaped by His words and ways.
4. **Aim:** Father's glory, Kingdom advance.
5. **Assurance:** Promises that fuel boldness.
6. **All-Weather Peace:** Tribulation doesn't cancel victory (16:33).

## Mini-Exposition Highlights

- 16:23–24 — "In that day" = post-resurrection era (esp. after Pentecost): Spirit-given clarity; no more confused **questions** (ἑρωτάω), but confident **requests** (αἰτέω) to the Father in His Name.
- 16:25–28 — From metaphor to plain speech: the cross + resurrection decode Jesus' mission.
- 16:26–27 — "The **Father Himself loves you.**" Not less mediation, but enjoyment of the Father's love secured by the Son.
- 16:33 — Pressure is normal; **peace** is available; courage rests on **His finished victory**.

## The "N.A.M.E.S." Filter for Prayer

- N — **Nature:** Does this fit Jesus' character?  
A — **Agenda:** Does it serve His mission?  
M — **Motive:** Is the Father's glory my aim?  
E — **Energy:** Am I asking while abiding and yielded to the Spirit?  
S — **Status:** Am I approaching as a beloved child in the Son?

## Practicals: How to Pray This Way Today

- Start with **adoration** of the Father revealed in Jesus.
- **Align** with Scripture.
- **Ask boldly**, but aim for His glory.
- **Act** accordingly.
- Expect **joy** and **peace**, even while waiting.