

John 14:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

Analysis

Jesus promises 'whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do' (kai ho ti an aitesete en to onomati mou touto poieso). The comprehensive 'whatsoever' (ho ti an) might suggest blank-check prayer, but the qualifier 'in my name' (en to onomati mou) provides crucial limitation. Asking 'in Jesus' name' means praying according to His character, authority, and will - not merely attaching His name to selfish requests. Jesus' purpose in answering prayer follows: 'that the Father may be glorified in the Son' (hina doxasthe ho pater en to hyio). Prayer's ultimate aim is the Father's glory manifested through the Son's mediation. This verse establishes Jesus' role as mediator - prayers offered in His name receive divine response. The promise assumes prayers aligned with God's redemptive purposes. Jesus' confident 'I will do it' (touto poieso) asserts His divine authority to act.

Historical Context

In Jewish practice, invoking a name meant appealing to that person's authority and character. Kings' decrees were issued 'in the king's name.' Jesus authorizes believers to pray in His name - an astounding grant of access to divine authority. Early Christians prayed 'through Jesus Christ our Lord,' a formula still used in liturgy. The promise addressed disciples' impending loss of Jesus' physical presence - though absent, He remains accessible through prayer. Church history shows debate about prayer's mechanics - how does Christ's mediation work? Reformers emphasized Christ's priestly intercession (Hebrews 7:25). Catholic tradition added Mary and saints as additional mediators, which Reformation

rejected. The promise requires wisdom - it's not manipulation but submission, not claiming but asking, not demanding but trusting.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to ask 'in Jesus' name' - is it merely a formula or does it require alignment with His character and will?
2. How does the purpose clause 'that the Father may be glorified' qualify the 'whatsoever' of this promise?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ὅ	τι	ἄν	αἰτήσητε	ἐν	τῷ	ὄνόματί	μου	τοῦτο
And	G3739	G5100	G302	ye shall ask	in	G3588	name	my	that
G2532				G154		G1722	G3686	G3450	G5124
ποιήσω	ἴνα	δοξασθῇ	ό	πατὴρ	ἐν	τῷ	υἱῷ.		
will I do	that	may be glorified	G3588	the Father	in	G3588	the Son		
G4160	G2443	G1392		G3962		G1722		G5207	

Additional Cross-References

John 15:7 (Parallel theme): If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Mark 11:24 (Parallel theme): Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Matthew 21:22 (Parallel theme): And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Matthew 7:7 (Parallel theme): Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

1 John 5:14 (Parallel theme): And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

John 16:23 (Parallel theme): And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

1 John 3:22 (Parallel theme): And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

John 15:16 (Parallel theme): Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

John 14:14 (Parallel theme): If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

James 5:16 (Parallel theme): Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.