

John 16:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:

Analysis

At that day ye shall ask in my name (ἐν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ ἐκείνῃ ἐν τῷ ὀνόματί μου αἰτήσετε)—Jesus points forward to Pentecost and the new covenant era when believers would pray directly to the Father through Christ's mediatorial work. The phrase en tō onomati mou (in my name) means far more than invoking a formula; it means praying on the basis of Christ's person, work, and authority, as those united to Him.

I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you—This doesn't mean Christ ceases interceding (He remains our advocate, 1 John 2:1; Hebrews 7:25), but that His finished work opens direct access to the Father. Believers need not approach God through earthly mediators; Christ's once-for-all sacrifice grants boldness to enter the holiest (Hebrews 10:19-22). The Father's love for believers, rooted in His love for the Son, makes their prayers welcome.

Historical Context

This occurs in the Upper Room Discourse (John 13-17), hours before Jesus's arrest. The disciples were accustomed to Jewish prayer patterns—synagogue prayers, Temple rituals, and scribal mediation. Jesus announces a radical shift: post-resurrection prayer would be characterized by direct access to the Father through the Son's name. The phrase "at that day" refers to the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2), when the church age would begin and believers would experience unprecedented intimacy with God.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to pray "in Jesus's name"—is it merely a closing formula, or does it involve praying according to His character, will, and authority?
2. How does Christ's finished work change our confidence in approaching God compared to Old Testament believers?
3. In what ways does this verse balance Christ's ongoing intercession with our direct access to the Father?

Interlinear Text

ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ ἐν τῷ ὀνόματί μου αἰτήσεσθε
At that G3588 day At G3588 name my ye shall ask
G1722 G1565 G2250 G1722 G3686 G3450 G154

καὶ οὐ λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι ἔγὼ ἐρωτήσω τὸν πατέρα
and not I say unto you that I will pray G3588 the Father
G2532 G3756 G3004 G5213 G3754 G1473 G2065 G3962

περὶ ὑμῶν.
for you
G4012 G5216

Additional Cross-References

Romans 8:34 (Parallel theme): Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

