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August, 2014

Dear Friend,

Prayer has been on my heart for a long time so I made a practice of marking the Scriptures that deal with people praying, their prayers, and also the prayer promises. I would like to share some of the information I gathered.

First, a wonderful prayer promise from the gospel of John is John 14:12-14. "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in Me will do the same works I have done and even greater works because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask for anything in My name, and I will do it, so the Son can bring glory to the Father. Yes, ask Me for anything in My name, and I will do it." Does this mean if I tack on "in Jesus' Name", at the end of my prayer I can have anything I want? No. We need to take a closer look at this verse.

What does it mean to "pray in Jesus' name"? The word for name in the Hebrew is Ha-Shem. God's name is associated with His glory, power, holiness, protection, trust and love. To call upon His name is to call on His presence. To act in His name is to act with His authority. To fight in His name is to fight with His power. To pray to His name is to pray to Him. Though God's name is holy and powerful, it cannot invoked as a magic formula. "When we pray in Jesus' name our prayers must be consistent with the nature and character of Jesus. Then we have the assurance that that prayer will be answered." Taken from The Names of God Bible. The ESV Study Bible says, "Praying in Jesus' name means praying in a way consistent with His character and His will."

James 4:2, 3 says, "You don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. And when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong. You want only what will give you pleasure." That is called selfish praying. When I pray I must not ask God the Father to do something that would not be consistent with His character.

Second, Jesus said the answer to our prayers can bring glory to the Father. When teaching the disciples how to pray, Jesus said in Matthew 6:9, "After this manner therefore pray ye. Our Father which art in heaven hallowed be Thy name." He is saying, "May Your name be kept holy." So a question to ask ourselves is, "Will God the Father be glorified if He answers my prayer?"

When my prayers are based on Scripture and I ask God to do what He said He would do, then I have absolute assurance that my prayer will be answered. I have two verses I know God will answer when I pray them back to Him. One I pray for myself, the other I pray for my family.

A prayer for myself:

Ps. 86:11,12 "Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name. I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify Your name forever."

A prayer for my family, including children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren:

Isaiah 44:3 "I will pour water on a thirsty land and streams on the dry ground. I will pour My spirit upon your offspring and my blessing on your descendants."

PRAISE

How can we ever thank our prayer and share partners for making our ministry possible? In reading the importance that Jesus put on children and prisoners, my associate, Paul Jordan, is ministering twice a week in a correctional facility. The response of the prisoners is tremendous. In addition, he spends time every summer training teens how to share the gospel with children in summer backyard clubs. Jesus encourages us to make disciples. Both Paul and I have mentoring ministries with other men. In Mark 13:10 Jesus said, "and this Gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations". Through media we are doing just that. Out materials are being viewed online in over 200 countries, many of which are closed to missionaries. Over a million people have accessed our website. Thank you for making this possible. God bless you.

PRAYER

For those who are accessing our website that they would come to Christ and see the importance of prayer.

Pray for me (now 82) that God would give strength to walk through all the open doors He is giving us such as counseling missionaries in foreign countries via skype. Pray for my wife of 61 years. She is now in a care center. Marguerite is the most consistent prayer warrior I have ever met. When she was in the ICU and in critical condition, our family gathered around her. One granddaughter, who is now in ministry with her husband and home schooling their 4 children, thanked us for praying for her every day. When I told her that my real time of praying was Saturday, she turned to Marguerite and said, "Grandma, don't die; Saturday prayers are not enough." Her grandma prays every day for all of the family and friends.

May the Lord richly bless you and your children. May you be blessed by the Lord who made heaven and earth. Ps. 115:14,15

Sincerely in Christ, Jum & marquente

Jim and Marguerite Logan