

# Ask the Father – John 14:13-17

## Read John 14:13-17

The Bible makes it clear God created us to know Him forever – eternally delighting in Him.

The Holy Spirit begins a work in us from the moment we receive faith, to ever increasingly move in the direction of enjoying and glorifying God more in our lives. There will come a day when we will perfectly enjoy and glorify Him, free from all that would compete for our affection – an eternal state of unrivalled heavenly bliss. The Spirit's work has begun, as we are prepared for our eternal state, making our lives today incredibly meaningful, knowing that in 200 years from now, none of today's burdens will be troubling us.

**Q. How often do you take time to think about eternity? What stops you/others from thinking about life beyond this present world?**

This passage is full of promises as Jesus comforted his disciples, preparing them for the horrors they were about to witness. 4 promises to be fulfilled, firstly by Jesus (Vs 13-14 and 16): the disciples (Vs 15), and The Father– these are promises are true for you and I today, these words are alive for us today

### Promise 1. If You Ask Anything in My Name, I Will Do It (VS 13-14)

Do you believe this is true? Do you believe, as a disciple of Jesus, that anything you ask for in his name, he will do? ***It is impossible for God to lie*** (Heb 6:18) We have all known times when we have prayed in His name and been left bitterly disappointed, when God didn't do the thing we asked. But, these verses are not a formula to guarantee we get whatever we want/whenever we want. So what does it mean to ask 'in my name'? Is it: because I have prayed in his name I have assumed His authority over my prayer request therefore it must happen?! No, you are bringing before the Father your request and submitting it under the authority of His Son, the appeal is to His authority, His blessing – it is to Jesus to 'authorise' the request. But then on what basis does the request get 'approved', is it a question of how earnestly we pray or how worthy the cause? Again, we know that can't be true from personal experience. The big clue is found in **verse 13 (Read)**. It isn't simply that 'justice may be done' or that 'suffering may go away' or 'life might get better' but that 'the father may be glorified' – Jesus is guaranteeing His disciples that when they ask, he will do – that the Father may be glorified.

**Q. How satisfactory do you find this reality, that it is God's glory that matters to Him most?**

**Q. Do you recognise a tension in your spirit, knowing that God will always work for His glory even if that means not doing the particular 'thing' you have requested? Why do you think that tension exists?**

Let's be honest, wouldn't prayer seem even more wonderful if you knew that every time you prayed God responded in precisely the way you requested? Wouldn't that be amazing, if ultimately it was my will done on earth!

**Q. Do you recognise in yourself a desire to 'be God' at times?**

Don't forget the context – Jesus is hours from the cross, remember his prayer in the garden '***if possible take this cup from me but not my will but yours be done***'. Even Jesus understands the experience of not receiving the answer he wanted from God, for there was no other way but for The Son to suffer in our place.

**Q. Do you believe that God always gives us what we need even if he doesn't always give us what we want? In what ways have you come to acknowledge this in your life?**

### Promise 2. – If you love me you will keep my commandments (Verse 15)

The word for 'keep' can also mean 'obey' or 'treasure', love for Jesus is made evident by how we respond to his teaching. Those who don't love him, simply won't care about his words, but those who do, what we read in the Scripture matters massively! Look up John 13:34-35

**Q. Why do you think Jesus was so concerned by the love His disciples had for one another? How do we show our love for one another today?**

Our own self-centredness is overpowered by a greater affection, a more powerful love for Christ – such that his words/his instruction/his teaching are not only kept, but obeyed and not simply obeyed but treasured – the Word of God becomes our delight – we delight to do his will. Knowing this will affect how we pray.

### Promise 3. I will Ask The Father (Verse 16)

Look up Romans 8:34 – Jesus is constantly interceding for us! Pursuing our best before the Father for His glory.

**Q. Do you ever think about the truth of Romans 8:34? How does knowing Jesus is praying for you make you feel about life?**

### Promise 4. He will give you another Helper (Verse 17)

Another helper – Jesus is our helper too, but the HS comes to fill our hearts to dwell within us. He comes to burn onto our hearts the Word of God (**Jeremiah 31:33**). How do you pray like Jesus in the Garden? It's impossible without the Helper! Holy Spirit helps us to see that the Will of God is better than our own and leads to joy. He helps us to pray like Jesus 'not my will be done by yours', and with this comes the assurance that '**whatever you ask in my name this I will do that the Father might be glorified through the Son**'. We need to receive The Helper as we seek to enjoy God and glorify Him in all things.

**Q. Jesus calls the Holy Spirit by two names, 'The Helper' and 'The Spirit of truth' what do these names communicate to you?**