

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

On July 28, 2013, we received the following comment and inquiry:

“When you pray is it to our older brother Jesus or the Father? I understand that the Son can and does send the helper and that worship goes only to the Father. I have read each of the articles but still I still find myself praying to Jehovah almost entirely?”

To the author, thank you for your email. We know that others are likewise confused about this subject matter. The problem is that many do not understand Deity, or more specifically, the unity of Deity. It is our intention to write an article on that subject this year which we believe will provide a great deal of clarity. However, whether one understands Deity or not, the answer is ultimately the same: We can pray directly to Jesus, or to the Father ‘in the name of Jesus.’ The important thing is that we recognize the authority of Christ Jesus when we pray. Jesus said:

“Also, whatever it is that you ask **in my name**, I will do this, in order that the Father may be glorified in connection with the Son. If you ask anything **in my name**, I will do it.” – *John 14:13-14*

Of course, ‘the name of Jesus’ is not a talisman that we can recite by rote as if it has some magical power. It is the person who carries the name that has the power. Jesus’ authority is real and deserving of **conscious** respect and honor.

“And, look! they were bringing him a paralyzed man lying on a bed. On seeing their faith Jesus said to the paralytic: ‘Take courage, child; your sins are forgiven.’ And, look! certain of the scribes said to themselves: ‘This fellow is blaspheming.’ And Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said: ‘Why are you thinking wicked things in your hearts? For instance, which is easier, to say, Your sins are forgiven, or to say, Get up and walk? However, **in order for you to know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins**—’ then he said to the paralytic: ‘Get up, pick up your bed, and go to your home.’ And he got up and went off to his home.” – *Matthew 9:2-7*

“For this very reason also **God exalted him** to a superior position and kindly gave him the name that is above every [other] name, so that **in the name of Jesus every knee should bend** of those in heaven and those on earth and those under the ground, and every tongue should openly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord **to the glory of God the Father.**” – *Philippians 2:9-11*

When we pray to Jesus, it is the Father who is glorified. There is no rivalry between the two. Jesus and the Father are one – wholly united in purpose. Jesus said: “The Father and I are one.” (*John 10:30*) So we can in confidence leave our prayers at Jesus’ feet and know that they will be heard.

“I make request, not concerning these only, but also concerning those putting faith in me through their word; **in order that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in union with me** and I am in union with you, that they also may be in union with us, in order that the world may believe that you sent me forth.” – **John 17:20-21**

This is the Father’s will:

“While he was yet speaking, look! a bright cloud overshadowed them, and, look! a voice out of the cloud, saying: **“This is my Son, the beloved, whom I have approved; listen to him.”** – **Matthew 17:5**

We can also look to this scripture for some direction:

“In like manner the spirit also joins in with help for our weakness; for the [problem of] what we should pray for as we need to we do not know, but **the spirit itself pleads for us with groanings unuttered.** Yet he who searches the hearts knows what the meaning of the spirit is, because it is pleading in accord with God for holy ones.” – **Romans 8:26-27**

Here, we learn that sometimes we may pray without using words at all, yet our prayers will reach their proper destination. Consider this:

The Father is a God of order. (**1 Corinthians 14:33**) So there is a certain methodology to His ways. There is so much about heavenly operations that is unrevealed. But we are certain that once they are revealed, many of those ideas will be logical and reasonable to the human mind. So let us speculate for a moment. We know there are radio and broadcast circuits through which we communicate with one another. We believe there are likewise spirit circuits through which divine communications travel and by which we are drawn to the Father. (**John 6:44**) We believe our prayers ‘made in accord with God’ travel such a circuit and reach their ultimate and appropriate destination. They are not lost in the ethers.

And finally, the Father remembers we are dust (**Psalms 103:14**) and He will not punish us for not fully understanding his ways. (**1 Corinthians 2:16**) Thus, there is no reason for alarm or great concern. The key is to pray with a whole soul and a pure heart (**Matthew 22:37**) and if you are confused, let the spirit plead on your behalf. If you approach your prayers with these thoughts in mind, you will always gain the right listening ear.

“Elaia Luchnia”
