

## In Jesus' Name

A captain in the king's army approaches a cottage and calls for all the sons of the family who are old enough to fight in battle. The parents release their sons and the sons go willingly – The captain has come *in the name of the king!*

They understood and we understand that the word of the captain was not his own, but rather the word of the king. It was the will of the king and on his authority that the captain spoke. The family did not see the king's face nor hear his voice, but they recognized his word and responded accordingly.

We have been given an amazing gift, the right to approach God and make requests in the name of Jesus. When we say the words, "in Jesus' name," we are not casting a spell or a charm. There is no magic that compels God as if we have power over him by speaking the right words in the right order. Instead:

"In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will request the Father on your behalf; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from the Father." (John 16:26-27)

In this statement Jesus assured his disciples that in his absence they themselves would have the right to speak to God. "In Jesus' name" was not a new rule for ending prayers, but the way in which the disciples of Jesus would identify themselves when approaching God in prayer.

God does not respond to *your* words or *my* words when we speak on our own, as if we ourselves could dare to speak with God face-to-face. He does not recognize *you* or *me* if we speak on our own, *in our own name*. After all, we are ones who have rebelled against

him in sin. We have broken the original relationship the Creator had with his created. We are mortal, profane (common or unholy) beings. But he does recognize Jesus. So, when we approach God, speaking in the name of Jesus . . . God springs forward to listen, to give gifts, to protect, to assist, to forgive. He responds to those he loves, and he loves those who love his son Jesus.

Do not take lightly the words that you speak in prayer to God. The words "in Jesus' name" are not added to a prayer as a command; they are not magic as if to control or manipulate Deity; they must not become a trite ending to our prayers similar to an "excuse me" after a sneeze.

We have been given the right to speak to God in the name of Jesus. So then, our words must reflect the will of our Savior. It is only then that we can stand before God with the assurance that Jesus spoke of, and it is only then that God will listen and respond to those who come to him with a heart of love . . .

***In Jesus' name.***