

This wonderful promise, **truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, He will give it to you.** This should be a source of such great comfort; but how often you trust what you see and your own understanding; rather than what He promises. Our Lord prepared the disciples and you for all that will come with the consequences of His death and resurrection in your life. **Truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, He will give it to you.** But then too this is so often mistaught, misunderstood. Does it mean I can ask for anything I want, as long as I pray sincerely, with the tag "in Jesus' name," and God will grant it? And if I don't receive it, is it because I didn't pray hard enough or have strong enough faith? No. To pray "in Jesus name" is certainly not a blank check to fulfill all your worldly dreams and passions nor a magical formula.

In Jesus' name, prayer shaped by God's Word. What child's will should not also be the will of his parent. For the Lord speaking teaches us how to speak, to pray. Jesus alone our only mediator between God and man, not a saint or Mary. Jesus name literally means "God saves" thus we're asking the Father for all the saving gifts that have been put into that name, a name given to you in baptism

Do well to pray as Jesus taught you: The **Our Father. Thy Will be done.** And mean it! To trust, all your hopes and self and loved ones, **Thy will be done.** And it is for you. In ways you can't begin to count. He gives you even far beyond what you ask. And your loved ones you pray for, don't stop and commend them to the Lord, realize He loves them even more than you do.

And when you're tempted to think that your prayer won't do any good, be reminded of Jesus' promise. **Ask, you will receive, that your joy may be full.**

Like Solomon. How did he pray? The Lord told him, ask for whatever he wanted. Solomon didn't pray for riches or health, long life or even his enemies conquered. Instead, Solomon prayed for a wise, understanding heart, that he might rule well. Prayer not focused on self but what would be faithful to God and love toward others. What a lesson for you.

Jesus says unequivocally, **whatever, yes. Whatever you ask in My Name, He will give it to you, Ask and you will receive, that your joy may be full.** We ask, it seems we don't received. Our joy isn't full. Loved ones still rebel; friends betray us. Families divided. Our loved ones still get sick and die. Our bodies fail. We have joy in Christ, but also uncertainty, sadness, amid a lot of life's messes. How often we wonder if my prayer matters? If the Lord really has our cause, care enough to act? How easy to be frustrated with God as He doesn't seem to be doing what we think He should be doing. Repent.

We're called to live by faith; to wait upon the Lord. In prayer, like no other place, we come up hard, hard against the hidden will of God. We know what He has done, what He says, what He gives, how hard we don't see His perfect will.

Pray with boldness, confidence -not that we see or understand or get all we want- but joy in what He promises. He holds my lot. He works all things, even my

failure, for my good. That your **joy may be full** in what He brings. Forgiveness, daily care, eternal life, whatever. **Ask and you will receive.** If not now, then you will have it one day for all eternity in the world to come.

He knows what is best. We focus our attention not on His hidden will and speculate, but on what He has promised, on who He is. We cannot know His hidden will, so we exercise the freedom He has given us. We choose things in His creation before us, to use in God pleasing ways, what we can afford, what seems best to us in this circumstance, whether it is best for our health or just best for our taste buds for the moment. For we trust that He will bless our activity. We hang our hats there, on the promise the Father who's given us His only Son will also give us all things, that all things work together for good for those who love Him.

That your joy may be full. As hard for Israel to see how God was blessing them, working for their good when they're defeated, dragged off to Babilon; so many other examples of Scripture, like in Numbers, people sinful, dying from snakebites, look to the one cursed upon a hellish tree that you would live. It's so hard to see how God is working, keeping His promises for you. Especially as we see ourselves, loved ones, struggling hurting, broken, dying.

I love going to cemeteries, so many untold stories, but they're known to the Lord, all their stories, every time they scraped their knee, he counted all their laughs, every tears, even as He counted the hairs on their head; He found them all fascinating. His work, innumerable ways in their untold stories for He is always compassionate to His children. I don't find many of you that interesting, but the Lord finds all His children fascinating, loves the sound of your voice, even more than when your parent endeared your 1st words. Your voice holds the attention of the Creator of universe.

Martin Luther's famous last words, wir sind alles bettler, we are all beggars. How true. This is the foundation of prayer. Also the essence of faith. We are beggars to whom God bestows riches for Christ's sake. We have nothing to give, to offer God while we need God to give us all things that matter for our good.

We pray, we ask for everything because nothing properly belongs to us and we're not worthy to ask for anything, we are beggars, yet we are God's beggars, declared righteous, pleasing to Him. He doesn't turn away your prayer. He's not holding out on you, although you may sinfully think it. He's constantly acting for you beyond comprehension, answering even prayers you fail to pray. Even today, in answers to your greatness need and prayer, unites Himself to you from the Altar.

I said these things to you, that in Me (that sacramental, speak the night He brings His Supper), **that in Me, you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, you will have tribulation.** Some of you know it very well. Your anguish will not even survive to be a memory. Cemeteries are just temporary. All of you just need to stop. Stop! Realize the joy, the peace, the life you have, not of this world, that's yours in your risen savior. **I have overcome the world.** Lift up your head. Rejoice, sing, cry out dear beggar. **Ask, you will receive, that your joy may be full. Take heart I have overcome the world.** That is yours. That is now. That is forever.