

5 truths that you can know FOR SURE if you are a Christian

Truth #2 - The Assurance of Answered Prayer

We are on our 2nd week of the assurance studies. Take a few moments and quote our memory verse from last time - 1 John 5:11-12.

Here is the key passage:

John 16:24 (NIV84) Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

Opening questions: What is prayer? Why do we pray?

Let's answer questions about the parts of this verse to help us understand it better:

"Until now you have not asked for anything in my name"

- **Who is the one speaking in this verse?** (Look at John 16)
- You will often hear Christians say "in Jesus name" or "in Your name" at the end of our prayers. We do that as a response to this verse. **What does it mean to ask for something in Jesus' name?**
 - (Answer) Praying in Jesus' name is less about the actual words "in Jesus' name" and more about the attitude and purpose of our prayers. Praying in Jesus' name means praying according to Jesus' will. It means praying about something that we believe Jesus would desire and bless.
- **What are examples of things we could ask for in Jesus' name?**
- **What are examples of things we would not ask for in Jesus' name?**
- **In John 14:6, what does Jesus tell us about how a person comes into the presence of the Father?**
- **Why is it necessary to come to the Father through Jesus?**

"...Ask and you will receive,"

- **Does this mean that Jesus will give us whatever we ask for?**
- **What does 1 John 5:14-15 tell us about why God says "yes" to some of our prayer requests?**
- **According to Matthew 7:9-11 what kind of gifts does God give to His children? And according to these verses, why can we trust that God is answering our prayers in the right way?**

... and your joy will be complete.

- **Why would having your prayer answered by God give you abundant joy?**
 - (Possible Answers) Because you know God hears your prayers. It affirms the truth that you are God's child. It is encouraging to know that you are praying for things that are in line with God's will. It reminds us that God cares for us and likes to give us (His children) good gifts.

ACTUP Prayer - A Helpful Method for Praying. When we pray we ACTUP toward God!

- Adore God – Open up your prayer by acknowledging the greatness of God. - *Matthew 6:9*
- Confess Sin – Ask God to reveal your sin, agree with God that you have sinned against Him and accept God’s cleansing and forgiveness by faith. - *1 John 1:9*
- Thank God – Tell God about the many things that you are thankful for. - *1 Thessalonians 5:18*
- Uplift others – Bring the needs of others to God in prayer. - *1 Timothy 2:1*
- Personal requests – Pray to God for your personal needs. – *Philippians 4:6*

Write down a specific thing that we can pray about today in each of these areas:

- Adore God _____
- Confess Sin _____
- Thank God _____
- Uplift others _____
- Personal requests _____

At the bottom of the page are two memory verse cards. Pick the translation that is easiest for you to understand. Cut out one of these cards and carry it around in your pocket or Bible to help you memorize it. You will receive 3 more cards in the coming weeks.

Assurance of Answered Prayer:

John 16:24 (NLT) — You haven’t done this before. Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy.

Assurance of Answered Prayer:

John 16:24 (NIV84) — Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.