

ASKING IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

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IN John 16:23-27, we find the following memorable utterances: "And in that day ye shall ask Me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it you. Hitherto ye have asked nothing in My name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." " At that day ye shall ask in My name: and I say not unto you that I will pray the Father for you: for the Father Himself loveth you, because ye have loved Me, and have believed that I came out from God."

We have, within a few months past, put this question to quite a number of intelligent believers, several ministers being amongst the number: " What do you understand the requirement to ask in the name of Christ to mean?" and we have yet to meet the first individual who was prepared to give a definite answer to the inquiry. What, then, is the real Scriptural meaning of this requirement?

A single fact of actual occurrence will enable us to throw very clear light upon this momentous question. Many years since a merchant, in the city of New York, U. S., failed to a very large amount. After surrendering all his goods and possessions to his creditors he found himself hopelessly bankrupt. No one would give him credit to the amount of a single dollar. He had a brother in the city of Boston, who was everywhere known to be worth millions of dollars. This brother sent on to our bankrupt friend a power of attorney, no limits being designated, to

transact business in his, the wealthy brother's, name. The poor bankrupt immediately hired a building right in the business center of the city, filled it with goods, and commenced operations as one of the most prosperous merchants in the great city of New York.

In speaking to a friend of ours upon the subject, he said, "I will tell you how much I am, in reality, worth in this city. I am practically just as rich as my brother is. I can purchase anything, and live as well as he can. Yet if I should presume to ask anything in my own name, no one would credit me to the amount of a single dollar. I, once in a while for my own amusement, thus illustrate my position. I enter the store of an importer, and having selected a quantity of goods, request him to send them to my store. 'But to whom shall I charge them?' he replies. 'To myself, of course,' I respond. 'I cannot do that,' is his prompt rejoinder. 'If your creditors should become aware that I have goods in that state in your store they would seize them at once, and I should lose them forever.' I show him my power of attorney, and remark that I will purchase the goods in my brother's name. 'Take what you please,' is the prompt reply.

In that dear name I could purchase anything and everything the man had." So, when and where Christ expressly and specifically authorizes us to "ask in His name" He "puts us in full" possession (we may be pardoned the boldness of the

expression), He puts us in full possession of a Power of Attorney by which we may obtain at the Throne of Grace all that He could, were He in our condition, and should He, in His own name and behalf, ask for the same identical blessings, "God cannot deny Himself." Nor can He deny the Son "any good thing" which He shall ask in His own name and behalf. Equally impossible is it for the Eternal Father to withhold "any good thing" of which the Son has said, Ask in My name of the Father that specific blessing. The Father can no more dishonor the name of Christ when and where He has expressly authorized the use of His name, than He could cast dishonor upon Christ Himself were He personally asking for the same blessings.

We must ever bear in mind, however, the express conditions on which Christ has authorized believers to use His name, namely, that we are living in Him and He in us, that our wills are fully identified with His, and that we have perfect faith in the efficacy of the use of His name to insure to us "the good things " for which He has authorized us to ask; " If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering." "Let not that man" (the man who wavereth, or whose faith fails,) "expect to receive anything of the Lord."

It is only when we are "strong in faith, giving glory to God," that we do or can "ask in the name of Christ," and "receive whatsoever we ask." But when our abiding is fixed and enduring, and our faith fails not, but waxeth stronger and stronger, then

the storehouse of heaven is opened to us, and we can ask and receive until our joy is full. No "good thing" – nothing, which will be best for us, here or hereafter, will be withheld from us.

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