



## **[John 16:23-24](#)**

(23) "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. (24) Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

## **[Matthew 7:6-8](#)**

(6) "Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces. (7) "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. (8) For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

## **[Matthew 18:19](#)**

(19) "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.

## **[Matthew 21:22](#)**

(22) And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

## **[Luke 11:9-10](#)**

(9) "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. (10) For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

## **[John 14:13-14](#)**

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(13) And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (14) If you ask anything in My name, I will do *it*.

## [John 15:7](#)

(7) If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

## [John 15:16](#)

(16) You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

## [1 John 3:22](#)

(22) And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

## [1 John 5:14](#)

(14) Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

*New King James Version*

Is it true that [God](#) has given us a blank check to ask anything of Him just as one might ask a genie in a fairy tale? Some may misunderstand this to be the case, but [1 John 5:14](#) qualifies what He will grant: "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything **according to His will**, He hears us." Real [prayer](#) is communion with God, and what is necessary for communion are common thoughts between His mind and ours.

What we need is for Him to fill our minds and hearts with His thoughts. Then His desires will become our desires flowing back to Him in the form of prayer. [James 4:3](#) confirms this: "You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures." If we ask amiss, we are certainly not asking according to His will, and we will not receive.

But does not Jesus say in [John 16:23](#), "[W]hatever you ask the Father in My name He

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will give you"? He most assuredly does, but we still do not have a carte blanche. To ask God for anything in the name of [Jesus Christ](#), it must be in keeping with what He is. To ask in Christ's name is to ask as though Christ Himself were asking. Therefore, we can only ask for what Christ Himself would ask. It is therefore necessary to set aside our own will and accept God's. Jesus says in [John 8:29](#): "And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him." If we do as Jesus did, we are sure to receive answers as He did. He adds in [John 11:41-42](#): "Father, I thank you that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me."

We must come away with the realization that prayer is not dictating to God, but a humble and heartfelt expression of our attitude of dependency and need. Because of this, the one who truly prays is submissive to [God's will](#), content with Him supplying his need according to the dictates of His sovereign pleasure. The result of this, combined with the infusion of God's attitudes and thoughts as we draw near to Him, will work to create us in His image.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

**To learn more, see:**

[The Sovereignty of God: Part Nine](#)

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