

“Effective Prayer: According To God’s Will, In Jesus’ Name”

1 John 3:21-22

NOTES

Scripture Refs

Deut. 6:4–7; Ps. 66:18; 139:23–24; Matt. 7:7; Mark 11:24; Luke 18:1–8
John 3:3; 14:13; 15:16; 16:23–24; Acts 2:37–38; 4:29–31; Rom. 5:12
1 Cor. 2:14–15; Eph. 6:4; Phil. 4:6–7; 1 Thess. 5:17; Titus 3:5; Heb. 4:16
James 1:5; 4:2–3; 5:16; 1 Pet. 2:5; 3:7; 1 John 1:9; 2:1; 5:14

Reflection & Discussion

1. In verses 21 and 22 John connects effective prayer to having a clear conscience before God:
 - a. How do we maintain a ‘clear conscience’ before Him?
 - b. If a you want to go to God in prayer but realize *my conscience isn’t clear right now*, how should you respond?

2. Consider John’s call to pray *according to God’s will* (1 John 5:14)
 - a. Explain what he means by that.
 - b. When you pray *in the will of God*, what does that imply/mean? (HINT: *you feel confident that the Bible is your guide.*)
 - c. Open discussion: consider the fact that many Christians pray *outside* of God’s will. Why? How do you correct them?

3. Why is “asking in Jesus’ Name” not a *formula*, but actually a sign that you are *abiding* in Him?
 - a. Why do you think some believers think that ending their prayers “in Jesus’ name” is like hitting the ‘send’ button for an email/text?
 - b. How might you describe the significance of His *name* to a new believer?

4. Consider and have an open discussion about:
 - a. Why believers don’t have a passion for praying to God. How would you counsel a Christian who’s in that place?
 - b. Contrast that with: *what motivates believers to ‘never cease’* in their prayer lives?
 - c. What steps do you/can you take in order to maintain a zealous prayer life?