

Effective Prayer:
According To God's Will, In Jesus' Name

1 John 3:21-22

Characteristics of Impersonal Love

- Impossible without abiding
- Unconditional
- Not dependent on relationship
- It is a key 'proof' of *spiritual maturity*
- It is the basis for creating, maintaining, fixing, and advancing in relationships
- Driven by the character of the subject, not the merit of the object

Characteristics of Personal Love

- Demonstrated as 'phileo': brotherly love
- Based upon familial relationship through faith in Christ
- An ongoing pursuit where we're to outcompete one-another!
- Seeking *further personal* relationship
- (Often) compelled by emotional connection, resulting in compassionate/thoughtful behavior
- We get to expect a 'return'

1 John 5:14 → *abiding in Him*

“And this is the confidence we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us.”

- “toward”: *pros* = *toward; near; in*
- John’s use of “in Him” = “abiding in Him”

“And this is the confidence that we *who are abiding in Him have*, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears it.”

Asking God according to “His will”

- It is NOT to deter us from asking God *boldly/confidently*
- It is the product of abiding in God (v. 21)
- Specifically refers to God’s *revealed* will: based upon the Bible
- Distinct from God’s *sovereign* will: based upon God’s perfect knowledge, and His ability/desire to work all things together for good

whatever you “ask”

- Present tense, Active voice, Subjunctive mood
- Conditional: based upon *abiding*. If not, don't ask.
- Should compel us to *desire* it, so as to allow conviction

Asking in Jesus' Name

- Nearly synonymous with asking “according to the will of the Father”.
- It is the product of abiding in Him
- My prayer will align with His *revealed* will: based (primarily) upon His life, ministry, death, and resurrection
- I can expect my prayer to be answered, yet His *sovereign will* is still supreme; we trust Him with the outcome

“By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us,
and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.”

1 John 3:16 (ESV)

1 JOHN 3:21-22

EFFECTIVE PRAYER: ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL, IN JESUS' NAME

“The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. (15)The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one.”

1st Corinthians 2:14-15 (ESV)

“He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration...”

Titus 3:5 (ESV)

1 JOHN 3:21-22

EFFECTIVE PRAYER: ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL, IN JESUS' NAME

“Jesus answered him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.’”

John 3:3 (ESV)

1 JOHN 3:21-22

EFFECTIVE PRAYER: ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL, IN JESUS' NAME

“And this is the confidence that we have toward Him,
that if we ask anything according to His will He hears
us.”

/

1 John 5:14 (ESV)

“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace,
that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in
time of need.”

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)

Your servants to continue to speak Your Word with all boldness, (30)while You stretch out Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.' (31)And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the Word of God

Acts 4:29–31 (ESV)
with boldness."
1 JOHN 3:21-22

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened."

Psalm 66:18 (ESV)

1 JOHN 3:21-22

EFFECTIVE PRAYER: ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL, IN JESUS' NAME

“Whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

John 14:13 (ESV)

1 JOHN 3:21-22

EFFECTIVE PRAYER: ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL, IN JESUS' NAME

“Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart,
and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brothers,
what shall we do?’”

Acts 2:37 (ESV)

“And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”

Acts 2:38 (ESV)

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, he may give it to you.”

John 15:16 (ESV)

“...Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He will give it to you. (24)Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”

John 16:23–24 (ESV)

“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

Mark 11:24 (ESV)

“Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.”

1 Peter 3:7 (ESV)

“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Hebrews 4:16 (ESV)

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

James 5:16 (NIV)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (7) And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)