

## Small Group Bible Study Questions

- A) I was sitting at Jiffy Lube last week, getting the oil changed in our mini-van and reading a book in the waiting area. Noticing that my book had something to do with God, the person next to me asked me about a tele-evangelist he had seen recently and what I thought about his ministry. How do you respond to questions like this one when you are asked by friends or family?
- B) Jesus Christ connected three things together in His teaching to His disciples about prayer. The first was that He and God the Father were one in complete unity and purpose. The second was that you had to believe (faith in action) in Jesus to have a relationship which glorified God. Finally, that those things which glorify God, the things which are consistent with the person and name of Jesus Christ, those are the things Jesus will accomplish through His followers through prayer, because He has gone to the Father. When you pray, are these the types of issues you keep in mind? What do you keep in mind when you pray?
- C) Certainly, God wants people to be saved, right? And God doesn't want people to suffer, right? God cares about people and their suffering, even more than I do, right? But when I pray about these things, why doesn't God answer my prayers? Hint: Read and discuss Matthew 6:5-15...
- D) What are some of the prayers your group has been praying for and about, that could be refined and clarified by God's Word in John 14:7-14? Take some time to pray with one another, asking God to glorify Himself through your prayers, to change who you are and those around you. Pray in the character of Christ's name, purposes and works!

# Name It And Claim It

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**IF YOU ASK ME ANYTHING IN MY  
NAME, I WILL DO IT.**

**~JOHN 14:14 (NASB)**

### **1) Knowing Jesus Is Seeing God**

- A) Jesus knows His disciples are confused about His relationship to God the Father. Jesus knows they do not understand that the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6) is not a "roadway" toward God -- it is an actual personal relationship with God.
- B) Jesus clarifies the importance of His relationship with His Father by simply stating that to know Jesus is to know God the Father, the two are in unity (14:7).
- C) As if this is not enough, Jesus adds that to know Him is to "see" God! This was in dramatic contrast to the OT (Exodus 33:20). Because of this, Philip questions Jesus, confused at the idea of 'already seeing' God the Father (John 14:8).
- D) Jesus, with increasing clarity, explains to Philip (and us) that He and the Father are one. Jesus' existence is given life by the Father, right down to the words Christ speaks (14:9-10).

## 2) To Believe In Christ Is To Believe In God

- A) Jesus Christ shifts from explaining His "oneness" with God the Father, to the necessity for a personal life of faith ("believe in Me"). Belief in Jesus is not mere "knowing," but a transformed existence because from believing (14:10-11).
  
- B) Jesus connects our belief in who He was (one with God) and what He did (works of God) with being able to accomplish the works of God ourselves! Jesus is shifting the awesome opportunity for ministry to His followers (14:12).
  
- C) The works of God which we will accomplish will be even "greater" than those of Jesus Christ (14:12)!
  
- D) Jesus explains that our opportunity, even our ability, to do the works of God are based on Christ going to the Father, an allusion to His upcoming teaching about the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, the very power and presence of God, in our lives (14:12, 16ff).

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\* How could the disciples (or anyone) perform "greater works" than Jesus Christ? Raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11) and the many healings (e.g. John 5, 9) are just a few of the stunning signs which Christ performed which might be equaled, but not necessarily surpassed in their greatness. What then is meant by "greater works?" J.C. Ryle notes that this must refer to the greatest miracle of conversion which happens in the life of the sinner. D.A. Carson notes that the key is that Jesus must return to the Father (14:12) for this reality to occur, indicating that it is Jesus' glorification which ushers in a new eschatological age where all of his signs and works actually accomplish their true end. Clearly, placed within its context in John 14, the impending arrival of the Holy Spirit, less than two months from when Jesus delivers these words to His disciples, would usher in a time which was far "greater" because of the constant presence of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers, instead of just the life of Jesus Christ. The key to "greater works" is not the number of miracles or amazement, but the mushrooming impact of the church as a new day dawns with the arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost! (Various sources)

## 3) Prayer Is The First Of The "Greater Works"

- A) With the power of being with the Father (unencumbered by His limiting humanity), Jesus Christ is now able to answer the prayers of His people -- so that God will continue to be glorified in the Son (John 14:13).
  
- B) Jesus Christ notes that prayers should be offered "in His name." This phrase should not be reduced to "in the name of Jesus, amen..." but does mean that prayer should be in unity with the character of Christ and God the Father (14:13).
  
- C) In other words, the greater works which will be accomplished, the works of God in the world, will occur as the disciples pray for God to be glorified in the world in line with the character and name of Jesus Christ (14:13-14).
  
- D) Just to be clear, Jesus reiterates that if the disciples will merely ask "in My name," Jesus will provide (14:14).
  
- E) This verse has led many to pray for every selfish desire and whole ministries and TV "evangelists" have used this verse as a springboard for "name it and claim it" (health & wealth) theology. This is a horrid abuse of God's Word and of common sense (cf. Matthew 19:23; Mark 10:25; Luke 1:53; James 1:11; Revelation 3:17-18).