

14 January 1993, Thursday Evening Brazil

Whom Should You Ask?

If you wanted to know how to pray, what would you do? Where would you look? Who gave us instruction? We have the Holy Spirit and the Word. If we didn't have the word, the Holy spirit might have to speak to us personally about it, but our Master taught us specifically about this in John 16, where He told us *how* to pray — who to make our requests to. How else would you know how to address your Father in heaven, but that the word gives us specific instruction in how to pray and who to pray to. Verse 13 — "When the Holy Spirit comes, He will not speak of His own, He will speak only what He hears and He will tell you what is *yet* to come."

Our Master did not tell them everything that was going to come. He told them about the kingdom coming, but not *when* it was coming. So the Holy Spirit is the anointing — the anointing of the Holy Spirit — and He speaks and gives us prophecy and tells us what we can expect in the future. It is all written in the Old and New Testament, but He brings it together, letting us know specifically what is ahead of us — to the very end.

Verses 14,15, then verse 17 says He is going to return to the Father; then (verses 22-23) "after I go to the Father, you will no longer ask *Me* anything." They should no longer make *requests* to YAHSHUA. Our Master came to reconcile us back to the *Father*, so we can go to the *Father* with our requests, but only if we go through YAHSHUA's name, since no one can so to the Father unless they go to Him in YAHSHUA's name. We go to the Father, but we glorify YAHSHUA's name — we glorify the Son, the Spirit glorifies the Son and the Son glorifies the Father. Headship works this way — everything is for the glorification of the head through the proper order. Messiah glorifies the Father, man glorifies Messiah, woman glorifies man.

"In that day (verse 23), My Father will give you everything you ask of Him in My name." Verse 24 is in context with verse 23. So whom should you ask? You should go to the Father — He is the source. But you have to go through the Son to reach the Father.

We are *in* the Son; He does not recognize us apart from being in the Son. And so when we have requests or praise and thanksgiving, we have to go *through* the Son to reach the Father. We glorify the Son. He is our Savior. His job was to reconcile us back to the Father. In baptism we were reconciled back to the Father through the work of Yahshua the Messiah (verses 24-26). We do not ask YAHSHUA to ask the Father (nor do we ask Mary to ask for things, like the Catholics do) Our Master said to go to the Father in His name; don't ask *Him*; go to the *Father* (verse 27) — and know that the Father loves you because you have loved Me and believed that I came from Him (verse 28). He gave us specific direction; it cannot be more plain (if it is translated right). We are to pray to our Father and use our Master YAHSHUA's name, giving Him honor and glory.

"I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me..." (John 14:6,7,10,13). The Father is a spirit. YAHSHUA is in human form ever since he became a human being when He came to earth as a baby, yet He will always, also, be God. He is a divine Spirit dwelling in a human body (we will be like Him). Verse 13 — "Ask in My name so the Son may bring glory to the Father." In the Greek it does *not* say "Me" in verse 14. (Verses 15,16) If we love Him we will obey what He commands and HE will send His Spirit to be with us forever and ever, never leaving or forsaking us — the Spirit of truth. We have the Spirit of truth. It is for this reason that our Father can *lead us into* all truth. We must walk in the spirit (verse 17).

In order to praise the Father, even though we are in YAHSHUA, we still want to use YAHSHUA's name — glorify His name by using it when we praise the Father. Look at 1 Jn 3:21-22. "Dear Ohevi," (Dear friends, ones who love me), "if our hearts do not condemn us we have confidence before God and whatever we ask, we receive from Him," Should we end it there? NO, because it goes on to say *why* He will give us what we ask. Why will He? Because we are doing what He commands. If we are not (verse 23) trusting in the name of YAHSHUA and loving as He commanded us, we must confess that as sin. If we expect to be heard

by our Father in heaven, we must obey His commands and do what is pleasing to Him. Even though we *do* use YAHSHUA's name, our Father will not hear us if we do not love as He commands us to love. And, where does it tell us how to love? John 13:34. We are to love according to His commandment, as He commanded. This is serious (verse 33). In order for our prayers to be heard, we have to love as He commanded us and do what is pleasing in His sight (and ask in YAHSHUA's name). (Christians do not love as He commanded, do you think God hears their prayers?)

The context for 1 Jn 3:23 is verse 16 (verse 14) and Jn 13:34. How did He command us to love (verse 23)? As He loved us (verse 16). How did he (verse 16) love us? By laying down His life for us (Jn 13:34). It fits together like a puzzle; it fits perfectly. Do you think you could ever love your brothers and sisters like our Master loved you? If you are loving as He loved, you have a good conscience and so you can pray and ask anything of the Father in His name and He will give it to you.

Those who obey His commandments *live* in Him and He in them. Do you live in Him? and He in you? How do you know that? This is how we know it? 1 Jn 3:24 — by the Spirit who has been given to us. And 1 Jn 5:1. Who is born of the Father? You, me, YAHSHUA. How do we know we are children of God? verse 2 — This is how we know: we love God and keep His Commandments. This is how we know! We do not know unless we are doing this — the same principle as 1 Jn 3:14. And 1 Jn 5:3 — This is love for God — that we keep His commandments..." His commands are burdensome for people who are not born of God, who have not received the Holy Spirit; for someone who does not have YAHSHUA living in them, trying to keep His commands all day long is surely burdensome he will be like a slave and not a son. But (verse 11), this is the testimony God has given us — eternal life.

What is life? Life is the opposite of death. Before we met YAHSHUA we were dead. We were dead because we were separated from the Father. What do you do with dead people? Bury them. Eph 2:1 says we were dead because we were listening to Satan, so we were dead in our trespasses and sins, but now we have been made alive to God. When we are baptized we have a *funeral*. We all go down to the water and celebrate our funeral and we bury the dead man so the new man may come in. John says he writes these things so we may know if we have eternal life (1 Jn 5:13). Read 1 John sometime and see. If Christians read it, they would be condemned, and so might many of us be condemned if we are not obeying His words, because the whole letter is about obeying His commands.

What is the confidence we have in approaching God? The confidence (verse 14) is that if we ask according to His will and we know He hears us, He will give us what we ask for. Individually, sometimes we have confidence and sometimes we don't. Sometimes we do not ask according to His will but instead ask for things just for ourselves or for our own glory. But only if we ask according to His will, doing what pleases Him and obeying His commandments and (verse 15) if we *know* He hears us (and we ask in YAHSHUA's name). If you don't know that He hears you, either you are not asking according to His will, or you are not keeping His commandments — so you don't *know* if He hears you. Sometimes we don't know — we don't think He hears us. So we have to go back and review our life and see where we are not pleasing Him. And *then* we can go to Him with confidence, *knowing* He hears us. "This is the confidence (verse 14)."

If you are doing something that you know is not pleasing in His sight, then Heb 4:16 is especially designed for you.