

In the last meditation that I posted I talked about praying in Jesus' name. We are to ask in His name and we will receive. I said that this means when we pray we are to pray prayers consistent with Jesus' character – i.e. pray for things of which Jesus would approve. While that means we shouldn't pray selfish, foolish prayers, there are a ton of things we can pray for that are consistent with what God wants for us. Therefore this really is a great prayer promise.

There is one additional point I would like to make about praying in Jesus' name. It is this: We pray in Jesus' name because none of us has a right to come before the Lord God of all creation on our own merits or by virtue of our own worth. There is a barrier that blocks our entrance into the presence of God. That barrier is our sin.

If we are to approach our Creator, we need someone who will bridge that gap and open that door into the heavenly Father's presence. Fortunately for us, there is Someone. 1 Timothy 2:5 in the New Testament says this: "For there is one God and one mediator between God and humankind, the man Christ Jesus."

Jesus is a Mediator between God and us. A mediator is "a person who attempts to make people involved in a conflict come to an agreement; a go-between." Often a mediator works with two equal parties or groups. In the case of our relationship (or broken relationship) with God, we are not two equal parties! God is a bit more powerful and knowing than we are, wouldn't you say! Besides, God is not the offending party here – we are the ones who have distanced ourselves from God.

OK. So this is not exactly uplifting news here. (You may be thinking, "I don't need one more person connected with the church to tell me how bad I am!").

So here's the good news. God's door is always unlocked for us. He welcomes us, no matter how bad or how good we are. He invites us to pray. In fact, He loves it when we seek Him. And it's His Son Jesus who makes this possible! Through His death on the cross for our sins and His resurrection from the dead He is now the "go-between" between God and us.

I have heard some Protestants say of their Roman Catholic friends, "Well, they think they have to go to a priest to get to God, but we can go directly to God." Actually, that's not true. We can only go to God through Jesus.

That's why, when we finish a prayer by saying something like, "We pray this in Jesus' name," we are reminding ourselves of that awesome truth that we *can* approach God and have a warm, close, loving relationship with Him because we have a Mediator whose name is Jesus!