

John 14 – Very great and precious promises. (5) Ask anything in my name. (refs for Bible study 1/11/18).

*And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son; if you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*  
v13-14

Do you ever have problems in prayer? It's probably because we do that God has given us so many promises about prayer. v13-14 is a remarkable promise. It's a single sentence, carefully structured. v14 restates the promise of the first half of v13 but with subtle variations. In between is a central, pivotal statement.

**Wonderful invitation:** *'And whatever you ask... If you ask anything'* Jesus expects us to ask! There is more than one word 'to ask'. The word here is used by an inferior to a superior Ac.12v20, a beggar to a donor Ac.3v2, a child to a parent Mt.7v9. It is used of our asking God, but Jesus never it in his own prayers. He used a different word (eg v16 'pray' / 'ask') which is where the two people are on the same level. But in contrast we need to ask! That's why he wants us to ask. We may pray to the Father, Mt.6v9, or to Jesus, Ac.7v59. The healthy Christian will do both.

**Wide promise:** *'that I will do....I will do it.'* He promises (twice) 'You ask, I will do!' The promise of v13/14 is linked very closely with v12 (v13 begins with *'And...'*). Those *'greater works'* that we considered last time – conversions, new life, spread of the gospel, etc. There is a typical parallelism of Jewish thought between v12 & v13/14: *'he will do'* (x2), *'I will do'* (x2). Jesus says *'anything'* – that's very wide! It includes, for example, *'Hallowed be your name...'*, *'Your will be done...'*, *'Give us today...'*, *'forgive us...'*, *'lead us not...'*, etc. Anything!

**Vital link:** observe carefully the link between 'you ask' and 'I will do': *'in my name... in my name...'*. This important qualifier teaches us that it's not just any old prayer. By all means add 'in Jesus' name' to your prayers, but not as some kind of magic formula! 'Name' sums a person and their character up. Think: 'Lord' = master, sovereign, all-powerful, 'Jesus' = Saviour, 'Christ' = anointed prophet, priest & king. 'In his name' means to draw on his resources, to appeal to his word, to put your trust in him. We can do this because we are united to Christ – a legal union, a life union, a love union. Since it is a love union he will grant only what is consistent with your eternal welfare.

**Central goal:** *'that the Father may be glorified in the Son'* The central, pivotal statement. The glory of God is at the heart. All Creation exists to display his glory. The glory of the Father and of the Son are one, see v10-11. The prayer that Jesus answers with 'yes' is the prayer that brings glory to God. It's according to his will, 1Jn.5v14-15. Not selfish, Jas.4v3. Too often we put our joy & pleasure ahead of God's. God was glorified in Paul's weakness not his strength. What is that limits us? Is it lack of faith, Jas.1v6? Is it lack of desire, Ps.81v10? How wide will you open your mouth?