

DISPENSATIONALISM (43)

(Passage #3) - John 15:16

What is added here about prayer is that the basis for being able to pray is that one is one of the elect or chosen. Those who deny election are shortchanging their own prayer lives and power. Furthermore, as the elect pray in Jesus' name, a key reason is to "bear fruit." So we would conclude when the elect pray in Jesus' name about bearing fruit, God the Father will answer the prayer.

(Passage #4) - John 16:23-24

This is a very eye-opening text because it shows that clearly a new element of prayer is introduced which to this point had not been introduced. This is of course what dispensationalism is.

The new time point introduced is seen in **verse 24**, "until now you have asked for nothing in My name." The other teachings on prayer, such as what is called "the Lord's prayer" did not contain this.

Obviously a new time is being implemented by God in which the basis for prayer must come through the name of Jesus Christ. Now what is also clear is that God the Father is the One who is to be addressed and the address must be made through the name of Jesus Christ.

What is also stated here is that the potential in prayer is that you may ask God the Father "for anything." Jesus is teaching that this new time is one in which one may ask God anything and talk to Him about everything through His name.

Now of course we learn from other passages that in order to expect a positive answer to our requests, other prerequisites must be met:

- 1) One must be willing to obey Scripture. 15:7
- 2) One must be willing to examine motives. James 4:3
- 3) One must be willing to forgive. Mark 11:25-26; Matt. 6:14-15
- 4) One must be willing to face our own sin. Ps. 66:18; Is. 59:1-2; I John 1:6, 9
- 5) One must be willing to judge Phariseeism. Matt. 6:5-8; K. 18:9-14
- 6) One must be willing to examine our marriage. I Pet. 3:1-7
- 7) One must be willing to examine our own faith. James 1:5-7; Mark 11:20-24

Those meeting those prerequisites have every right to pray to God the Father in Jesus' name and actually expect God to answer.

(Passage #5) - John 16:26

This point of prayer is that it will happen in a future time. Clearly dispensationalism in grace brings a new dimension to prayer.