



Speaker: Matt Magee

Series: Abide: Cultivating Intimacy with Christ

Sermon Title: The Joy of Asking Whatever You Wish in Jesus' Name

Scripture: [John 15:7-11, 16](#); [Psalm 86](#)

(Pro Tip: click on the passages linked above to be taken to a page with all the passages in one location.)

Main Idea: As you abide in Christ through His Word, take great joy in asking whatever you wish in Jesus' name so that you may be faithful and fruitful.

OUTLINE

1. Christians enjoy spiritual growth by spending time with Jesus in His Word so that we can know God and his will for us and the world (John 15:7a, 9-11).
 1. To ask in Jesus' name means to ask on the basis of who He is and what He has done for us on the cross. It assumes that we're:
 1. seeking to do His will, and
 2. to promote His kingdom purposes.
 2. Jesus purpose is that we may be filled with His joy (11).
2. Take GREAT JOY in asking God for everything that will help you bear lasting fruit (John 15:7b, 14:13-14; 15:16).
 1. Jesus is giving a promise that is conditioned on our faith-filled obedience (notice the "if" at the beginning of 7 and the implied "[then]" before the word "ask").
 2. Jesus gave a similar promise in John 14:13-14.
 3. Example from 1 Peter 3:7
 4. Believers are chosen and appointed to go and bear lasting fruit so that God may give us whatever we ask in Jesus' name (John 15:16).

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. What did Pastor Matt say about the relationship between various spiritual disciplines (or means of grace)? Are they separate and distinct or to be layered (interconnected)?
2. Of the spiritual disciplines Pastor Matt mentioned (Bible intake, prayer, fasting, worship, rest, fellowship, serving, hospitality, giving, evangelism), which are you most interested in learning more about? Which do you feel stronger in? Weaker?
3. How is Bible intake (abiding in God's Word) and crucial to an effective life of prayer?
4. Why is Psalm 86 referred to as 'the pillow of divine sovereignty'? (Parents, how can you reword this to help your children learn to rest in God's goodness and control.)
5. What role does the Holy Spirit play in helping believers live obediently to God's commands according to the sermon?
6. Discuss the conditional nature of John 15:7; John 14:13-15; John 15:10. What is your initial response to conditional promises from God?
7. What will you begin asking the Lord for?
8. Read John 15:11 and discuss Jesus' desire for His joy to be in Christians, that our joy may be full.
9. How do faith, abiding in Christ, obedience, prayer and joy complement one another?
10. Pastor Matt gave a strong, almost shocking, example of the relationship between obedience and prayer in 1 Peter 3:7. Review this passage and discuss this relationship between honoring wives and prayer.
11. What metaphor did Pastor Matt use to describe the concept of prayer in the conclusion of the message? How does it help you envision a praying life?
12. In what ways are you challenged by this message? Encouraged?