

Dear Gina,

Thank you for writing us at Christian questions Radio. You asked us several questions. You wanted to know what it meant to pray in Jesus' name and why it was important to do so. You also wondered if we were directed to do so in scripture.

There are several scriptures (John 14:13-14; 15:16; 16:23-24; 16:26) where Jesus directly tells his disciples to pray to the Father in his name. "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do that the Father may be glorified in the Son." (John 14:13) What does it mean to pray in Jesus' name and why is it so important? Not only does praying in Jesus' name recognize his authority as the Son of God, but it also means that the petitioner must realize his own actual unworthiness to approach the Father and, therefore, present himself in the name and merit of Jesus, his Redeemer.

In your next set of questions you asked if praying in Jesus' name meant that we believe in Jesus or, if the act itself made us Christian. You also wanted to know if, when we pray in Jesus' name, we were praying to Jesus or through Jesus, or both? And, when we pray through His name, are we also praying to God?

When we pray in Jesus' name it is because we definitely believe in Jesus as our Redeemer and in his incredible sacrifice for us. Does the act of praying in his name automatically make us Christians? No, we must live a life of righteousness and sacrifice of our wills, just as Jesus, our example and role model, did when he walked the earth.

Are we praying to Jesus or through Jesus, or both? When we pray in Jesus' name, are we also praying to God? There is no access to God for the Christian except through Jesus. "No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) Because sin has separated us from God, we need Jesus, our advocate (someone who speaks on our behalf), so that our requests can be made known to God. As is noted in 1 John 2:1, "If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." Only He is capable of making our prayers acceptable to God. Therefore, we definitely pray to God through Jesus. Can we also pray to Jesus alone? Yes, we can pray to Him because we know that since his resurrection he is now Divine, sitting at the right hand of God. "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2) "Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11) Divinity, or immortality, was the gift God gave Jesus for his incredible sacrifice of death on the cross. In summary, as Christians, we can only pray to God through the merit of his son Jesus, but since his return to God in heaven, we can also pray directly to Jesus, our advocate, because he now is divine like God.

You wanted to know if there was any biblical evidence that Christians are half Jewish because Jesus was a Jew. There is no biblical evidence that Christians are half Jewish. However, the Apostle Paul talks about Gentiles being “in-grafted branches” of the olive tree (Israel). (See Romans 11:11-24.) “Some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root.” (Romans 11:17) Prior to Jesus’ first advent, the Jewish nation had sole access to God through prayer when they followed the Law of Moses and worshipped God and God only. They were his chosen people from whom God’s Son, Jesus, the Messiah, would come. The Jews lost that favor when they, as a nation, rejected their Messiah. Therefore, during the Gospel age, all believers, Jew and Gentile alike, who have come into a heart relationship with our Savior are Christians and can have access to God’s heavenly throne through prayer. “There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” (Galatians 5:28-29)

We hope we have answered all the above inquiries to your satisfaction. Your last question will be answered in a separate letter. Be sure to sign up for CQ Rewind at [www.christianquestions.net](http://www.christianquestions.net). The service is free without obligation and will provide you with scriptural perspective on many questions and topics.

Sincerely,

**Christian Questions Radio**