

Who Do We Address in Prayer?

- From the time of Adam's son, Seth, men have been calling on the name of the Lord.
- *And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth ... 26 Then men began to call on the name of the LORD. Gen. 4:25*
- There is great significance to the term LORD.
- When Moses asked about His name, God told him it was YHWH (LORD –NKJV; Jehovah - ASV). Every recorded prayer in the OT was addressed to Him as LORD (YHWH – JEHOVAH)

While Here on Earth Prayed to God

- All His prayers on earth were addressed to God.
- His commands were to pray to God our Father.
- *In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Matt 6:9*
- *Lord, teach us to pray, When you pray say:*
- *Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Lk 11:1-2*

A Clear Distinction of Roles

- *bless and give thanks to “the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Rom. 15:3; 2Cor. 1:3; Eph. 1:3; Col. 1:3).*
- *There is ...one Spirit, ...one Lord, ... one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. Eph. 4:4*
- They share the same attributes but have different roles
- God the Father is above all. He is also the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- God is reigning and Jesus is sitting at His right hand on David’s throne.

The Roles of Jesus and God

- *For us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live. 1Cor. 8:6*
- *For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus 1Tim. 2:5*
- *But when He says “all things are put under Him,” it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. 28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all. 1Cor. 15:27-28*
- They share the same attributes but not authority.

The Lord (God) to my Lord (Jesus)

- *The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." ... 4 The Lord has sworn And will not relent, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek." Ps. 110:1-4*
- Jesus is on the throne of David His Father
- He is at God's right hand ... Hence, God reigns supreme.
- His role (Melchizedek) is priest and king on throne.
- Jesus is our High Priest ... our King, our Savior, our Brother, our Mediator, our Intercessor, our Advocate
- All of these require He is Between us and God.

Paul's Examples and Commands

- *I thank my God through Jesus Christ Rom 1:8*
- *Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!
Rom 7:25*
- *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer
and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests
be made known to God. Phil 4:6*
- *giving thanks always for all things to God the
Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ Eph.
5:20*
- *And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the
name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the
Father through Him. Col 3:17*
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High Priest is Between God and Man

- If that role is the same, we must always go through Jesus to God and never directly to Jesus.
- If that role changed, there must be Scripture, but Scripture confirms the role is the same.
- *“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, ... 5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, ... (1Tim. 2:1-5)*
- When we pray to one God, through Jesus is the one Mediator who is between God and man.
- This one mediator is *“the Man Jesus Christ.”*
- Why did the Holy Spirit call Him *“the Man Christ Jesus?”* That only confirms that His role is mediatory.

The Apostles Prayed to Jesus?

- Those who advocate prayer to Jesus have their own set of passages, but after looking at all of them each has some degree of doubt.
- *And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen Acts 1:24-25*
- Doubts:
- These were still Jews under the Law of Moses.
- It is highly doubtful that these “unlearned and ignorant fishermen” who did not yet have the Holy Spirit would make such a monumental change without any authority.

“Lord” is used of God”

“I foresaw **the Lord** always before my face, You will not leave my soul in Hades, and “**The Lord** said to my Lord,” (Acts 2:25-27, 34).

“times of refreshing may come from the **presence of the Lord**,” sounds like Jesus, it can’t be! Because this Lord will “He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,” (Acts 3:19-20).

“they raised their voice **to God** with one accord and said: “**Lord, You are God**, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, ... **Against the Lord and against His Christ.**’ ... 27 “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, .. 29 **Now, Lord**, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, ... 30 through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.” (Acts 4:24-30). Why does the first prayer have to be Jesus?

Paul and Ananias speak to Jesus

- This was clearly a vision and a conversation, it was not a prayer... Paul was still a Jew and not yet a Christian.
- *Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" 5 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." 6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do? Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." Acts 9:4-6*

Paul and Ananias speak to Jesus

the **Lord said in a vision, "Ananias.** " And he said, "Here I am, Lord." 11 So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. 12 And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight." 13 Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. 14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name." 15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake." Acts 9:10-16

A conversation ... but not a prayer

A vision and conversation . . .

- *"Now it happened, when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, **that I was in a trance** 18 and saw Him saying to me, 'Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, for they will not receive your testimony concerning Me.' 19 So I said, 'Lord, they know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believe on You. 20 And when the blood of Your martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by consenting to his death, and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.' 21 Then He said to me, 'Depart, for I will send you far from here to the Gentiles.'" Acts 22:17-21*

Peter's vision was not a Prayer

- *"I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, an object descending like a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came to me. 6 When I observed it intently and considered, I saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. 7 And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' 8 But I said, 'Not so, Lord! For nothing common or unclean has at any time entered my mouth.' 9 But the voice answered me again from heaven, 'What God has cleansed you must not call common.'* Acts 11:5-10

Vision ... Conversation ... Prayer?

- *I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: ... 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."* 2Cor. 12:1-9

Vision ... Conversation ... Prayer?

- *But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, 56 and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" 57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; 58 and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling out and saying, "**Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.**" 60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep. Acts 7:55-60*

Doubts?

- Was this a prayer or a vision?
- Was His statement to Jesus a prayer or a conversation?
- Was the “Lord” in the second statement Jesus or God?
- Although we might lean in one direction or another, there is no way to prove beyond doubt that this is a prayer to Jesus.

One Translation ... Doubt

- *“And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 “If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. Jn 14:13”*
- *“And whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14”If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do {it.} (NAS)*
- In Nestle Aland, all the variants in the ancient manuscripts are compared and given a letter. “A” signifies virtually certain, “B” some degree of doubt, “C” considerable degree of doubt, and “D” a very high degree of doubt.” They gave the NASB translation a “B” revealing there is some degree of doubt. Should we change an established practice on a passage with “some degree of doubt?”

What Jesus Said

- *“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that **whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.** Jn. 15:16*
- *And in that **day you will ask Me nothing.** Most assuredly, I say to you, **whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.** 24 “Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. 25 “These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. 26 “In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; 27 “for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God. John 16:23-27*

These are the Proofs

- 1. Stephen prayed to Jesus
- 2. Paul prayed to Jesus
- 3. The apostles prayed to Jesus.
- 4. Jesus told us to pray to Him.
- Yet everyone of these proofs has doubt.
- There is no passage that proves beyond dispute and with no doubt.
- With all the clear commands, it is not safe to pray to Jesus and leave out the Father.