

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 149. Authority in Jesus' Name



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S):** Matthew 18:18-20

'Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.'

**LOOKING FURTHER:** Mark 9:33-35; Matthew 28:16-20

### What does this Bible passage tell us?

Jesus spoke these words in the final weeks of His life on earth. He was teaching His disciples to prepare them for life after He had returned to heaven.

Children love stories about fairy godmothers and genies who give them three wishes; a chance to ask for and receive anything they want. In the passage above, Jesus is showing His followers the exciting power of prayer; but it is important to understand that He does not give this to us to use for our own selfish ends. It is not like having three wishes!

In verse 18, Jesus explains to His disciples that they will have authority in spiritual battles. Their prayers will be heard in heaven. He goes on to encourage them that when two or more of them pray together in His Name, God will respond.

This is exciting news! But, we have to understand how we should use this authority that Jesus gives us when we pray. It is not for our own importance. In Mark 9:33-35, Jesus tells His followers that whoever wants to be a leader must first serve others. It is not our authority but His. In Matthew 28:16-20, Jesus says that all authority on heaven and earth has been given to Him.

The key phrase here is, 'in my name.' When we pray in Jesus' Name, heaven hears. But, we must first ask ourselves, 'Is this something I can pray in Jesus' Name?' Is my prayer in line with His will?

I recently attended a service of welcome for a new vicar. The bishop gave her the challenge to 'go to ordinary people and show them they are extraordinarily loved.' Jesus gives us power and authority to show His love to others.

### Reflections:

- Jesus talks about the authority when two or more people pray together in His Name. Who might you meet with to pray regularly?
- It is easy to be disappointed when our prayers do not seem to be answered. But, it does not mean God has not heard. Ask the Holy Spirit to encourage you to continue to pray when things seem hard.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



## IN JESUS' NAME

Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

