

I. Review

1. Lesson 1 -Why are most people's prayers not answered the way they expect?
  - i. They don't pray very much.
  - ii. They pray asking for selfish things.
2. Lesson 2 – How do we pray?
  - i. The Lord's Prayer- Key principles to guide our prayers... that life is about God and it is His kingdom that should be the focus of our prayers...even our daily needs.

II. Introduction

1. Story about Bob's check
2. Bill Gates blank check
3. Jesus' blank check

III. Body:

1. Jesus' blank check: John 14.13 "And I will do whatever you ask in my name.
2. John 16.23 "Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you. Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive" ... Ask the Father for anything!
3. Both passages said, "Ask for anything in MY Name!
4. Praying "in the name of Jesus is not a formula for success or a magical set of words that is going to force God to answer our prayers.
5. In the New Testament there are no prayers that end in "In Jesus name. Amen." It is what those words stand for that is the key.
6. A person's name represented something about their character, their personality, their origin, sometimes even their destiny.
7. When you pray in Jesus name , you are saying:
  - i. 'Lord, what I'm asking for is consistent with Your character, with Your personality, with Your purpose, plan and destiny for creation.
  - ii. Before you pray, you should be thinking, "Lord, what do you want to do in this situation? How would you be praying here? I want to pray what you want, not what I want.
8. A person's name represents his reputation. You should pray that Jesus' name be exalted or lifted up.
  - i. By praying in Jesus' name, we are acknowledging to God and to ourselves that we are only allowed to pray based Jesus' perfect life and undeserved death here on earth.
  - ii. Again we must check our motivation for why we pray.
9. Joshua's example of prayer (Josh. 7.2-9): Concerning a battle, Joshua prayed for victory for the sake of God's kingdom. There is no problem in praying about our needs, but we need to pray about them in context of God's kingdom.
10. Daniel's prayer ( Daniel 9.15-18): He prays for the restoration of God's people back to their homeland for the sake of God's reputation. Daniel was concerned about God and God's name.

IV. Conclusion:

1. Pray for others with God's reputation in mind.
2. We've each been given a blank check by God: How will you fill it in?