



## Gospel Community Notes & Questions

**Title:** Presence, Power, and Prayer

**Text:** John 14:7-14

**Theme:** Because of the unity of the Trinity, the work of Jesus continues through the Church today.

**Teaching Notes:** On the eve of his death, Jesus reassures his disciples that they already know the Father because they know him – and he claims ontological unity and equality with the Father (and the Spirit) as part of the Trinity. Because he's going away, and will send the Spirit, the Church can continue to live and pray with power. The Gospel of the Kingdom will expand, not shrink. And prayers that align with his purposes in the world will be gladly answered.

**Outline:**

### 1. The basis of the Church's power. (vv. 7-11)

- How can Jesus' followers continue to experience power in his absence? Because of the unity of the Trinity.
- To see Jesus is to see God. To hear Jesus is to hear God. To believe in Jesus is to believe in God.

### 2. The source of the Church's power. (v. 12b)

- Because when Jesus went back to the Father, he sent the Holy Spirit to literally live in us, to empower us.

### 3. The illustration of the Church's power. (vv. 12-14)

a. The ability to participate in God's redemptive work.

- Think of how the Gospel has spread since Jesus returned to the Father: numerically, geographically, ethnically, generationally.

b. The ability to bring God's purposes to fulfillment through prayer.

- Praying "in Jesus' name" means prayers that are consistent with his character, his purposes in our world, his values, his priorities, his concerns.



**Questions to explore individually and with your group:**

1. Prior to this message, what did you think of Jesus' promise that whoever believed in him would do greater works than he did?
2. Prior to this message, what did you think of Jesus' promise that he would do for his followers whatever they asked in his name?
3. How has your thinking changed on #1 and #2?
4. Put yourself in the disciples' shoes. What would you fear most about Jesus going away to the Father? How does Jesus anticipate and relieve those fears?
5. What are some dangers of using simple analogies (like water, like the sun, like a three-leaf clover, etc.) to describe the Trinity?
6. What are some of the "greater works" you can do today because Jesus went back to the Father? What would you like to see God do through you this week, month, year, etc.?
7. What do you tend to look to for power, control, influence, success? How does this influence the way you pray (or don't pray)?
8. In your own words, what does it mean to pray "in Jesus' name"? How do you know it's not simply a good luck charm that obligates God to answer your prayers? (And what would they turn prayer into?)
9. What are some specific things you want to pray (or pray for) in light of this call to pray "in Jesus' name"?
10. What one actionable thing will you do this week in response to this Scripture?

**Prayer Prompts:**

1. Praise Jesus for showing us the Father in the unique way that only another member of the Trinity could reveal him.
2. Confess where you've walked either in weakness or in idolatrous sources of power that substitute themselves for the power of God at work in you.
3. Ask God to fill you with his presence and power as you surrender to purposes especially in how you pray and work for his glory.