

Signing Off

In the New Testament John reports that Jesus says

John 14:13–14 (NASB95)

13 “Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 “If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do *it*.”

As a result of these quotations we find people signing their payer with the words

“in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

How is this different from saying abracadabra or any other incantation?

The word abracadabra is thought to derive from the Aramaic language and means “I have created by my speech”. Clearly this is a reference to the creation by God as told in Genesis Chapter 1; indeed it is a slur on that message by the suggestion that magicians are just as capable of creation as God is.

Surely **any** incantation or spell is witchcraft. Why then are Christians using this incantation? Have they not considered what they are saying? Surely Matthew 6:7 says to avoid meaningless repetition.

In any case, is that prayer formula what these verses in John are saying we should do? No, it isn’t. What then are these verses saying?

Then how can we find what these verses are really saying? Perhaps we can find a practical example to guide us? Is there a clue for us in:

Acts 3:6

6 But Peter said, “I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: **In the name of Jesus Christ** the Nazarene—walk!”