

GOSPEL PEARLS

God is not Amazon

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Jesus said to his disciples: "Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. "I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. On that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the

world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.” (John 16: 23b-28)

The path of deepening one's understanding of God's Will, which is never ending in this earthly life, is the very essence of conversion. While on this path, by Jesus' own assurance, whatever we ask of the Father in His Name will be given to us. Let this greatly comfort us, yet bearing in mind that God is not Amazon, that is, ready to grant our each and every wish. Rather, He is a good Father who helps us along our path of conversion by allowing even some privation or punishment to strengthen us in spirit.