

John 17:1-10: When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, & said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³& this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, & Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵& now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. ⁶I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, & you gave them to me, & they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸For I have given them the words that you gave me, & they have received them & have come to know in truth that I came from you; & they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, & yours are mine, & I am glorified in them."

Intro: Burk Parsons: Perhaps more than anything else, John Knox is known for his prayer "Give me Scotland, or I die." Knox's prayer was not an arrogant demand, but the passionate plea of a man willing to die for the sake of the pure preaching of the gospel & the salvation of his countrymen . . . During the time of the sixteenth-century Scottish Reformation, Knox's ministry of preaching & prayer were so well known that the Roman Catholic Mary, Queen of Scots, is reputed to have said, "I fear the prayers of John Knox more than all the assembled armies of Europe." [John Knox was a Scottish minister, Reformed theologian, and writer who was a leader of the country's Reformation. He was the founder of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland.]

Sherman Isbell: As a young man, his anchor of faith was first cast on John 17, where he saw "that the counsel of God is stable and His love immutable towards His elect, received by Him in protection and safeguard." Reflecting on Christ's words, "thou hast loved them as thou hast loved me," Knox later wrote:

O that our hearts could without contradiction embrace these words, for then with humility should we prostrate ourselves before our God, and with unfeigned [genuine/sincere] tears give thanks for his mercy!
So straight and near is the conjunction and union between Christ Jesus and His members, that they must be one, and never can be separated.

Stephen Nichols: Back in August of 1572, John Knox had just returned to his beloved Edinburgh, but that fall he became ill. He was struck with pneumonia, and he was bedridden. As the weeks of November passed, his condition worsened. On November 24, 1572, he was surrounded by his wife, Margaret, and by Richard Bannatyne, his longtime friend. They were reading Scripture to Knox, and at one point he looked at Margaret and said, "Go. Go where I cast my first anchor." She immediately knew what he was talking about, and she turned in her Bible to John 17. She began reading from that text: "When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent'" (John 17:1-3). As Margaret continued to read that chapter and she finished, John Knox turned to her and said, "What a comfort that chapter is." Well, that first anchor served John Knox in life and in death.

We're focusing on prayer today to encourage you to pursue God in prayer in 2024 like you never have before. To do so, we're going to begin studying the LORD's high priestly prayer to His Father in John 17.
(Prayer; Unity; Missions)

Jesus deeply loves His own glory; He deeply loves His Father's glory, & He deeply loves those whom the Father has given Him – His elect, so He prays. He prays this prayer right before He's arrested & finally crucified.

John 15:9-13: As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments & abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, & that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends.

Since Jesus loves you so much & prays for you, you should want to be like Jesus & deeply love His glory, deeply love the Father's glory, & deeply love God's elect, so pray.

1. Jesus Prays

John 17:1: When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, & said

a. Jesus had spoken these words: John 16:25-33: "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. ²⁶ In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; ²⁷ for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. ²⁸ I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father." ²⁹ His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! ³⁰ Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God." ³¹ Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? ³² Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. ³³ I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

b. Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven: There are different postures of prayer, & that's OK! Looking up to heaven; kneeling; eyes open; eyes closed; hands lifted up; sitting down; driving in your car; walking; doing the dishes, etc.

c. He said, "Father": Jesus prays! It's always good to pray!

1) Jesus prays to His Father: Just like Jesus taught us to pray in the disciple's prayer – "Our Father, Who art in heaven" – so He prays to His Father. This is the Biblical, normal way to pray: To the Father, through the Son, by the Spirit. Yes, you can pray to Jesus! Yes, you can pray to the Holy Spirit! But the Biblical norm is to the Father.

2) Jesus has deep communion with His Father in prayer: Jesus loved spending time with His Father in prayer. Jesus' intimacy with His Father points to the fact that Jesus is God: **John 5:18:** This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

John MacArthur: This chapter has been called the Holy of Holies of Scripture. It is the most elevated, the most glory-filled chapter in the Bible. It is, of course, the prayer above all prayers. But it is also the chapter above all chapters, because it alone is where we see the communion between the Son of God and the Father.

3) What do we learn about God the Father & God the Son in this prayer:

Andreas Kostenberger: a. The Father gave the Son: authority to give eternal life; a people out of this world; work to accomplish; words; his name; glory

b. The Son gives believers: eternal life; the Father's word; manifestation of the Father's name; the gift of reflecting God's glory – we glorify God with our lives, words, feelings, & actions!

4) What do we learn about Jesus' followers in this prayer: **they are sent into the world to make disciples**; they are in the world; they are not of the world; the world has hated them; **their unity** with each other and union with God will **cause the world to believe the Father sent the Son**

5) What does Jesus ask for in this prayer: glorify the Son; glorify the Father; keep believers in the Father's name; keep believers from the evil one; sanctify believers in the truth; **make believers one**

Since Jesus prays, we ought to pray. May God work in us so that we more & more, like Jesus, delight to pray!

Since Jesus loves you so much & prays for you, you should want to be like Jesus & deeply love His glory, deeply love the Father's glory, & deeply love God's elect, so pray.

2. Jesus Prays For Glory

a. What does it mean to be glorified? What is “glory”?: John Piper: The glory of God is the infinite beauty and greatness of God’s many perfections. It’s His infinite beauty, greatness, value, and worth!

When you glorify something, you demonstrate or show how beautiful, great, valuable, & worthy it is. You glorify what you love & what has value to you. God’s glory & the glory of His Son, Jesus, is what God values most!

b. Jesus prays for His Father to glorify Him: Verses 1, 5: Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son . . . ⁵& now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

Jesus prays for Himself! It’s not bad to pray for yourself! Jesus is praying that His Father would demonstrate/show His infinite beauty & greatness and infinite value & worth! How? In two connected ways:

1) Jesus was glorified at the cross: This is where justice & mercy kiss! This is the climax of the demonstration of the love of God! **John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:10**

D. A. Carson: The very event by which the Son was being "lifted up" in horrible ignominy [public shame/disgrace] and shame was that for which he would be praised around the world by men and women whose sins he had borne . . . The hideous profanity of Golgotha means nothing less than the Son's glorification.

2) Jesus was glorified when He rose from the dead & ascended to sit at the Father’s right hand with all power & authority: **Verse 5:** glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

D. A. Carson: In this context the primary meaning of “to glorify” is “to clothe in splendor” . . . The petition asks the Father to reverse the self-emptying entailed in his incarnation to restore him to the splendor that he shared with the Father before the world began. The cross & Jesus’ ascension/exaltation are thus inseparable.

c. God the Son has always existed: Verse 5: glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. (Modalists deny the pre-existence of the Son of God; Jesus is praying to His Father!)

d. God doesn’t share His glory with anyone: But Jesus is glorified & honored along with the Father! Jesus is God! **John 5:22-23:** The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

e. Jesus prays that His Father would be glorified: Verses 1, 4-5: When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, & said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son **that the Son may glorify you** . . .

The cross & Jesus’ resurrection & ascension glorifies the Father! His justice! His love! His power! His wisdom!

f. Jesus glorified His Father: V. 4: I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do

May we more & more, like Jesus, pray for the Father & Son to be glorified, & may we glorify God in our lives!

Since Jesus loves you so much & prays for you, you should want to be like Jesus & deeply love His glory, deeply love the Father’s glory, & deeply love God’s elect, so pray.

3. Jesus Prays For His Own

a. Jesus has been given authority: Verses 1-2: Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all flesh . . .

God predestined His Son to come & die & rise again & then on the basis of His finished work, He would give the Son all authority in heaven & on earth! And Jesus has all of this authority to save all the Father has given Him!

b. Jesus has been given authority to give eternal life to all whom the Father has given Him: Verse 2: since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. **(The Elect)**

- **John 6:37:** All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.
- **John 10:27-29:** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.
- **John 17:6:** I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world.
- **John 17:9:** I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me
- **John 17:24:** Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am

- **Jesus: Matthew 24:24, 31:** For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even **the elect** . . . ³¹ And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather **his elect** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.
- **Paul: Romans 8:33:** Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

c. Eternal life is knowing God & knowing Jesus Christ: Verse 3: And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, & Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

This is not just knowing facts or information about God. This is knowing Him in the sense of trusting Him, having a personal relationship with Him, loving Him, delighting in Him, being born again. (You know Michael Jackson?)

Phil. 3:8: Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ **GOSPEL!**

d. Jesus manifested His Father's name to those whom the Father has given Him: Verse 6: I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, & you gave them to me

- **Ex. 3:13-15:** Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel & say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." & he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, & the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, & thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations."
- **John 8:58:** Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."
- **Isaiah 52:6:** Therefore my people shall know my name.
- **John 14:9:** Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.

e. In His prayer, Jesus tells us some of the characteristics of those who belong to Him:

1) They keep God the Father's Word: Verse 6: & they have kept your word.

2) They know what Jesus teaches is from God the Father & that Jesus came from the Father & was sent by the Father: Verses 7-8: Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸For I have given them the words that you gave me, & they have received them & have come to know in truth that I came from you; & they have believed that you sent me.

f. Jesus prays for those who belong to Him, not for the world: Verses 9-10: I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for **they are yours.** ¹⁰**All mine are yours, & yours are mine,** & I am glorified in them.

In the context of John 17:1-10, Jesus is praying for His disciples with Him there on earth at the time, but we know from later on in the prayer, He is praying for us too! This is amazing! Jesus was thinking about you before He died!

John 17:20-21: I do not ask for these only, but also for **those who will believe** in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

Beloved, you belong to the Father! He loves you & owns you & has adopted you into His everlasting family! And you belong to the Son! He loves you, & shed His blood & died & rose to redeem you & purchase you! You are precious in God's sight: **Zeph. 3:17:** The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

And Jesus is still praying for you! **Romans 8:34:** Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died- more than that, who was raised- who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

- **Hebrews 7:25:** Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

- **David Chapman:** Since the ever-living Christ intercedes for believers, they can have great confidence that they will never perish. In fact, they can know that "all things" in their lives "work together for good", for God the Father will answer the prayers of His Son.

- **Louis Berkhoff:** It is a consoling thought that Christ is praying for us, even when we are negligent in our prayer life; that He is presenting to the Father those spiritual needs which were not present to our minds and which we often neglect to include in our prayers; and that He prays for our protection against the dangers of which we are not even conscious, and against the enemies which threaten us, though we do not notice it. He is praying that our faith may not cease, and that we may come out victoriously in the end.

- **Erik Raymond:** How can these blessed realities but drive us close to the Savior, even to his chest like the Apostle John? He is more committed to his sheep than his sheep are to him. We lag & linger but he is praying while we slumber. The truth of Jesus' ceaseless, fervent, impassioned, hearty, & successful intercession on my behalf calibrates my wayward heart afresh to the glories of Christ & drops fresh dew from heaven on my earth scorched lips.

- **Robert Murray M'Cheyne:** If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies. Yet distance makes no difference. He is praying for me.

Since Jesus so loves you, His own, oh how much ought we to love His own! Oh how we ought to love each other in the church! & that deep love for one another will move us to pray for one another! (**Prayer directory**)

Since Jesus loves you so much & prays for you, you should want to be like Jesus & deeply love His glory, deeply love the Father's glory, & deeply love God's elect, so pray.

David Chapman: for God the Father will answer the prayers of His Son.

There was a time when God the Father did not answer every part of a prayer Jesus prayed.

Matthew 26:39: going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

Jesus died and rose again to glorify His Father!

Jesus died and rose again to be glorified!

Jesus died and rose again because He loves you and chose to save you!

And Jesus died and rose again so that you might have access to God in prayer and enjoy Him and delight in Him and be satisfied in Him and commune with Him in prayer! And He's still praying for you now!

Christ Jesus Is The Son To Be Glorified
The Hour Has Come, Christ's Crucified
Glorifying His Father's Love Magnified
In Love He Prays For His Own God's Supplied
By The Father To Him His Very Own Bride
These Are Those Given For Whom He Has Died
Then Rose From The Dead Now Death's Dead Defied
To Know Him And His Father Is Life You Can't Hide
Life Everlasting In Him To Abide
Keeping His Word For The Spirit's Inside
Their Hearts That Do Yearn To Obey He'll Provide
They Know Jesus Came, Sent From The Father's Side
And In Their Pure Lives The Triune God's Glorified
For Christ Is Their All, Their Joy, And Their Pride!

Since Jesus loves you so much & prays for you, you should want to be like Jesus & deeply love His glory, deeply love the Father's glory, & deeply love God's elect, so pray.