

g is Concerns
Christ His Prayers
Prayer

Title: The Lord's Prayer (I)

Text: John 17:1-26

As Moses stood before the burning bush, he realized that he was in the presence of God. And God told him to take off his shoes because the place where he was standing was Holy ground. ^{sandals} I don't believe there is a chapter in all the Bible that is Holier than John chapter 17. That the place where we are standing is Holy Ground. And I almost feel as a teacher of the Word of God, that I would be faithful just to read what is said, rather than trying to give an interpretation. ^{my dear friend} ^(3B) Because this is the SON OF GOD praying to the FATHER the most amazing revelation that is found in the Bible.

In contrast to what some say, I do not believe that Jesus prayed this prayer in the garden of Gethsema. If you will notice chapter 18 verse 1, where it says, "When Jesus had spoken these words, He went forth with His disciples over the ravine of the kidron, where there was a garden into which He himself entered, and His disciples.

So, the expereince in the Garden of Gethsemena was not the same as this prayer in John 17. The question is: WHERE IS JESUS WHEN HE OFFERED THIS PRAYER? Well, from John chapter 14:31 we know that ^{Jesus and} the disciples had left the upper room. ^{then gave} illustration of the vine and the branches in John 15. As you leave the upper room to go to the south side of the Jersuelam wall....you pass many vinyards. So, I believe that Jesus gave this illustration of the vine and the branches as he passed by those vinyards. And as you round the corner which is known as the PINNACLE OF THE TEMPLE, THE place where Satan tempted Christ, as you round the cornor of that Temple on the East side as you leave Jersualam, you cross the little Kidrn book. Then you continue on up the slops to the Garden of Gethsema.

So, perhaps Jesus was somewhere along that rout. Maybe he was standing before the Eastern gate, the gate that prophecy said the Messiah would come through. And as He stood before that gate with Herod's majestic Temple behind him, He lefted up his eyes to heaven and prayed, "FATHER, THE HOUR HAS COME: GLORIFY THY SON, THAT THE SON MAY GLORIFY THEE."

I think it would be tremendous for all of us as a group to take a trip to the Holy Land. Just to stand before that Eastern gate and try and capture somewhat of the scene as ^(8B) Christ prayed this High Priestly prayer.

Now, let's read this wonderful chapter.....(Read John 17:1-26)

(Prayer)

This prayer can be divided into three sections. It is a very simple outline. In verses 1 thru 5, Jesus prays for himself. Then, in verses 6-19, He prays for his own disciples. And then in Vs 20, ²⁰ Jesus prays for future believers...With this outline in mind, let's look at this prayer.

(1C) In the first five verses Jesus prays for himself. Notice three things about this prayer.

(1D) First of all, the motive. The motive is stated in Vs 1. "GLORIFY THY SON, THAT THE SON MAY GLORIFY THEE." According to Vs 5, Jesus is referring to His previous glory. He said, "AND NOW, GLORIFY THOU ME TOGETHER WITH THYSELF, FATHER, WITH THE GLORY WHICH I HAD WITH THEE BEFORE THE WORDD WAS."

Now, to glorify the son in order that the Father would be glorified by the son through that glory, involved the issue of His dying on the cross and being resurrected. Thus being all that He claimed to be. You see, everything that Jesus claimed to be would be of no value without ^{His death and} ~~the~~ resurrection; and the fact that the Father glorified the Son in that event.

Now, the Bible teaches that the way the Father is bringing glory to himself is by having a great huge family. The family of God. God wants a family. And the way he obtained this family is through His Son, Jesus Christ. When we are born of the Spirit of God, we become married to Christ and thus we become part of the family of God. And we will glorify Him because of this position. You see, in the Father's plan, the Son had to die. And Jesus prays that the Father glory Him with the same glory that He had before the world was created..

now

All that ~~He~~ was with all His divine attributes. ^{Jesus} Christ had all the attributes of God because He was God, ^{As The Gospel of John has demonstrated so often -} ~~Jesus was everything that God is.~~ And all of that glory he laid aside when He became a man. ~~He had it at his side.~~ And He used it often to demonstrate who He was. But He willingly, according to Philipppians 2, emptied Himself, and made himself of no reputation taking the form of a bond-servant, and being ~~made~~ made in the likeness of man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross."

Now, ^{Jesus} is praying that the Father restore all of that glory to Him by resurrecting Him from the dead. "Glorify Thy Son, that the Son may glorify Thee." PRAISE GOD!

(2D) Secondly, I would like you to notice the ministry by which He would be glorified. And I would like to share three things about this ministry.

(1E) Number one, this ^{ministry} is based upon His death. In Vs 1 Jesus said: "Father, the hour has come." That is referring to the hour of His ~~death~~ ^{death}.

So, that ministry by which He would be glorified, first of all, is based upon his death. Without the death of Jesus Christ there is no glory.

(2E) Number two, ^{This ministry} is based upon his desire to give eternal life. In Vs 2-3 Jesus says: "even as Thou gavest Him authority over all mankind, that to all whom Thou has given Him, He may give eternal life. And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent."

The ministry by which Christ is glorified is clearly indicated by His desire to give us eternal life. ~~The Father had to glorify the son.~~

(3E) Third, ^{this ministry} is based upon His determination to do God's will and work,...

What a testimony Christ's life is to us based upon His determination to do God's will and work. Vs 4 says "I glorified Thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which Thou hast given me to do."

I hope that all believers when they read that would pray: "Lord, help me to do the same." "Lord, in my life I would accomplish the work that you gave me to do."What a tremendous statement by Christ.

And isn't it thrilling to read the Testmony of Paul in 2 Timothy chapter 4, when he also said: "I have finished my course, the time of my departure is at hand." *I have Fought The Good Fight - I have Kept The Faith*

What a testimony to know that you have done what God wanted you to do. Can you say that this morrowing?....

The one desire that ^{Jesus} Christ had, according to the book of Hebrews, was to do the will of the Father. And he was able to say at that moment of His greatest crises, "I have acomplished the work which Thou hast given me to do."

And then in Chapter 19 we find the words of Jesus from the cross: "IT IS FINISHED." He came to do the will of the Father. And thus the son was glorifying the Father. And in turn was receiving glory for himself.

And so, also, we in that strange sense. In that sense which is so hard to understand, humanely speaking, we are receiving glory, the glory of God, and glorifing Him in retsurn, by determination in doing His will and accomplishing the work He has given us to do.

And our prayer, as a believer, ought to be: "Father God, I want you to be glorified in my life...In all that I do, may you receive the glory...."

(30) Now, third, concerning this prayer of Jesus for himself, I would like you to notice the means by which this eternal life is received. *The means*

Through the death of Christ, God, the Father, received glory in receiving a family unto himself. All those who would believe are placed into God's family. *With*, what was the means by which this was received and thus brings glory to the Father? *what was the means*

The answer is found in Vs 3: "By knowing the true God."

Vs 3 reads: "And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent."

Some believe that this verse indicates that Christ is not the true God. That the true God would refer to the Father. And Jesus Christ would not be that God.

However, these words have a familiar ring to them. I would like you to turn to I John chapter 5. I John chapter 5 and verse 20

The same man who wrote this 4th Gospel also wrote I John. I John chapter 5 verse 20 says : "And we know that the Son of God has come, and Has given us understanding, in order that we might know Him...who is true., and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life."

Now, the little word "this"....is a demonstrative pronoun. Pronouns in Greek have to agree in gender and number with the thing it modifies.

~~The pronoun "this" has to agree with the thing it modifies?~~
~~And notice, it is very clear in the text. The pronoun "this" is modifying the noun "Christ." The verse is calling Christ the true God.~~

You say, I know that. Why are you pointing that out?. Because many people claim that no where in the Bible does ~~Jesus~~ ^{Jesus} claim to be God. And friends, that is not true. There are many. And this is one of the best examples.

This is the true God....WHO?....Jesus Christ is the true God.... And even in this High Priestly prayer of John 17 we see how marilvouse is that teaching. ~~Christ~~ ^{Jesus} saying that the Father is in Him and He in the Father. God is one.

Now, come back to John 17. To really have eternal life is to know the true God. And ~~to know that~~ ^{to know that} Jesus Christ ~~is God~~ ^{is God} manifested in the flesh. As a matter of fact, if you don't believe ~~that~~ ^{that}, the Bible says you are not saved. ... ~~That's right!~~ ^{Period} It is very clear. In fact it is the one great test throughout scripture. HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT SOMEONE IS REALLY BORN OF GOD? Only the one who confesses that ~~Jesus~~ ^{Jesus} has come in the flesh. ~~manifested in the flesh.~~ Paul calls it in I Timothy 3 :16 "Great is the mystery of Godliness." God manifested in the flesh.

And John tells us that if anyone transgresses in this matter he does not have Christ. He ~~does not have God.~~ He is not saved. He is not ~~a believer.~~ ^{a Christian}

This is very important. And Jesus when he prays, "this is life eternal, To know the true God." That is life eternal.... ^{To know that Jesus is God}

Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page:
Gloria...
plea...
Jesus...
XXXXX
... (P...)

^{Now} (2C) ~~Now~~, ^{Jesus} beginning with Vs 6 ~~Christ~~ prays for His disciples. And certainly we all can be identified here. Although, in a real sense, He is concerned about His disciples of that day. We don't really come into the picture until Vs 20. And I believe it is important to remember that. Because the prayer that He now gives is uniquely for those disciples. Although there is much in the way of application for all of us. ^{Now, There are a couple of things that I want you to know.}

(1D) First of all, notice in Vs 6-10, His relationship to his disciples. I want to share three things about ~~his~~ ^{His} relationship to those disciples.

(1E) Number one, His possession of them. This is a very beautiful principle. When Jesus refers to His disciples He calls them "MINE." ^{mine} ~~on~~, I like that.. He said, "WHAT IS THINE IS MINE." What belongs to the Father belongs to me. ^{what} Isn't ~~that~~ a wonderful message of assurance?

The song writer says, "NOW I BELONG TO JESUS, JESUS BELONGS TO ME, NOT FOR THE YEARS OF ^{Time} ~~TIME~~ ALONE, BUT FOR ETERNITY."

What tremendous encouragement for men who were facing that terrible night of arrest, trial, and death of Jesus. What a blessing to hear Jesus say, "They are mine. And not one of them is lost except the son of perdition." Meaning..Judas. And of course that was a fulfillment of prophecy. "They are MINE.... ^{I belong to Jesus - You belong to Jesus}

(2E) Number two, notice His prayer for them in Vs 9 .."I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of ^{The} ~~the~~ world, but on those whom thou hast given me."

^{Dear Friend} Stop for a moment and reflect upon that fact. He says, "I pray for them."

Isn't it great to know that Jesus ^{is} ~~is~~ praying for you? Listen, Paul writes in Hebrews 7:25 that "He always lives to make intercession for us."

In Romans 8:34 it says that Jesus is at the right hand of God making intercession for us. Not only Jesus, but the Holy Spirit inside of us is making intercession for us. He translated our thoughts and lifts our prayers to God. And He does this even when we don't know what to pray for.

And Jesus is at the right hand of God, constantly, praying for his own. And that brings assurance to my heart. That ought to put a new left in your step tomorrow....What a tremendous promise.

concerning his relationship with those disciples

(3E) And third, notice, his purpose

His purpose..Vs 10 says.."and all things that are mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I have been glorified in them." Imagine that? The son of God with all the glory that He has, is glorified in His disciples. What a purpose?

Paul wrote in I Cor. 10:31, "whether, then, we eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

QUESTION: Do you want Jesus to be glorified in your life? Listen, He wants it. He wants it more than anything. He wants your life to glorify Him. That is His purpose. When you go through a trial..or an illness..or you are physically suffering..and you praise His name...YOU ARE GIVING GLORY TO HIM.

So, that is His relationship with his disciples.

(2D) Now, secondly, in this prayer for his disciples, notice what he prays for.

There are three major ^{prayer} request. The first request is in Vs 11. The second request is in Vs 15. And the third request is in Vs 17.

(1E) The first ^{prayer} request, Vs 11, deals with their endurance in a hostile world.

What a wonderful prayer request. Jesus is praying that they might have endurance in a hostile world.

Now, think about that. He has already told them so much about the conflict they are going to have in the world. The suffering and the testing and the fact that the world would not respond to them. The world would hate them and persecute them. They would have physical illness and they would not be healed. But, they were to be faithful. They were to endure.

So, here Jesus prays to the Father that he would persevere them in this hostile world. What a precious principle to apply to your life.

Look at Vs 11: "Holy Father, keep them in thy name."

Vs 12.."While I was with them, I was keeping them in thy name."

Vs 14.."I have given them thy word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world."

It is great to know that Jesus prays for us

~~He prayed for their endurance in this world.~~ Now, let me share two things here, about this endurance.

(1F) One..the motive. The motive that Jesus indicates in His prayer as to why He wants the Father to keep them in the midst of a hostile world is found in vs 11. And it says.. "THAT THEY MAYBE ONE."

The Holy Father is keeping us in a hostile world so that we will be one, even as the Father and the Son are one.

And I believe, dear friends, the point is very clear. The unity of the believer in a hostile world is God's way of ^{cause endurance in us} ~~perserving~~ us. What a tremendous thing. The bond and the ties that believers have by the very presence of God in our lives is the very thing that is keeping us and watching over us and guarding us in this hostile world. What an awful thing as a Christian to be isolated and left alone. But, ^{you} God did not leave us alone. He prays that we maybe one.

(2F) Secondly, concerning this endurance in a hostile world, notice the manifestation of joy in Vs 13. "That they may have my joy made full in them."

Jesus said in Vvs 24 of chapter 16.. "that your joy maybe full. In Vs 11 of chapter 15 Jesus said.. "that my joy ^{maybe} ~~mebe~~ in you, and your joy maybe made full

He wants us to have joy in our lives in the midst of a hostile world.

(2E) The second ^{prayer} request that Jesus makes is found in Vs 15. "I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one."

Now, what does that mean? Well, in the context, this is protection against Satan Himself. Keep them from the evil one. ^{He prays for protect}

You see, when trials and sufferings and temptations, and illness comes ⁱⁿ ~~out~~ way, God often doesn't remove them or take them away. You know that as well as I do. So, isn't it great to know that Jesus is praying that we will be kept from the evil one. That is that the evil one will not be able to use these things to tempt us..or, confuse us..or..discourage us.

If it does, then we know our problem. We are not claiming victory through the prayer of our Lord, himself, For he prays that we will have protection and victory over the evil one. That in no way can Satan cause discouragement in our lives. Unless we permit him to do so,

(3E) This brings us to the third ^{prayer} request, Vs 17-19. This third ^{prayer} request involves their purpose in the world.

and You know, it is interesting to me that in this section we can receive a view of what Jesus is praying for. What He really wants to see in your life and in my life. And he prays in Vs 19, "And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they themselves also maybe sancitized in truth."

and So, often when people read the phrase "sanctified in truth" they have the idea that what Jesus is praying is that we be cleansed through the Word. Now, that is not what is being said at all. Because, and please notice, in Vs 19 Jesus prays, "I sanctify myself." And in no way does He need to be cleansed. RIGHT?...RIGHT! ...

Next - set apart Dear friends, there is a great ^{principle} ~~truth~~ here. And I hope you will catch it. The word "sanctified" means "to set apart." Jesus is setting himself apart for the mission which brought Him into the world.

Look at Vs 18.."As thou didst send me into the world, I also have sent them into the world."

So, for the sake of the disciples, ^{you} He has separated himself unto that task. He voluntarily said to the Father, "I will separate myself -- going into the world just like ^{you} planned. I will die on the cross that people might be saved. I am separating myself ^{into that task}

The Bible teaches that the son of God came to seek and to save that which was lost. So, Jesus is saying, "for the benefit of those disciples whom He also wanted to be sanctified, that is "set apart" for sending them into the world with the gosple. For their sake I am being sanctified. ^{I am being set apart}

That is the nature of the context. So, when ^{Jesus} Christ prayed. He is praying "set them apart through thy truth." Thy word is truth. You see, the Word of God equips us for service. And Christ sends us into the world. And we are set apart by means of the truth of scripture. And that is a wonderful principle to get awloled of. Do you realize that Jesus, right now, is praying for you? He is praying that you would be set apart for service. He is praying that we would go into the world just like He went into the world to seek and to save that which was lost....LET ME ASK YOU: ARE YOU FILFILLING THE REASON FOR YOUR SALVATION? ARE YOU ^{witnessing} MINISTERING IN YOUR WORLD?

(3C) Then Finally, let's look at Christ's prayer for future believers.V.20-26

^{Jesus says,} Vs 20 says: "I DO NOT ASK IN BEHALF OF THOSE ALONE, BUT FOR THOSE ALSO WHO BELIEVE IN ME THROUGH THEIR WORD." ^{So, He is praying for us}

Now, maybe, you are here today and you are not sure of your relationship to Jesus. I mean, you don't really know. You don't have that confidence that you are related to Jesus through faith in Him.

Now, if that is true, this ought to be encourageing to you to know that Jeus is praying for those who are going to belive in him. PRAISE GOB!!! Jesus is praying for all of those who are going to believe in Him. He is praying for you that you would believe.

O.K. building on that fact, ^{then} in Vs 21-26, we find three major things that Jesus, in His pray, wants to see happen amongst believers.

ONE: UNITY...TWO: FELLOWSHIP.....THREE: LOVE. Three things that Jesus wants to see in the ^{Lives of} future believers. Three things that He wants to see happen in our church. He wants to see UNITY....He wants to see fellowship....And he wants to see love among the ~~future~~ ^{brothers and sisters} believers.

(1D) Now, let's look at ^{The Purpose} this matter of unity. (Read Vs 21-23)

Dear friends, these verses are not talking about external unity. As a matter of fact, the fact that all of you have gathered in the building together does not make any unity ether...No way.....

The unity here is in essences, substance, quality, and being. It is one as the Father and Jesus are one. HOW ARE THEY ONE? They are both God. They have the same quality. They have the ^{same} ~~same~~ essences. They have the ^{same} ~~same~~ attributes. They are one in nature.

Now, all of us are not one in likes and dislikes. Because we are all different. ..(which is a good thing, if you stop and think about it). We are very much different,

one
So, how are we all one? We are only one in the sense that the Father and son are one. Which means in essential nature. And the only way that you and I can be one in nature is because the presence of God is in us. The H.S. of God. The thing that makes us one is the life of God in us. That means I must have fellowship with you whether I like it or not. Once you get saved you are in this unity, friends. You are already in it. And the thing that we share in common is "GOD'S LIFE IN US."

That is a wonderful thing. The eternal life of God is in every single believer.

on
Now, a couple things that I want you to see about this unity.

(1E) First, the pattern of this unity I have just mentioned. That pattern is like the Father and the son are one. That is what the unity is all about.

(2F) And number two, ^{OK} what is the purpose of this unity? Vs 21 says "that the world may believe that Thou didst send me."

Vs 23 "that the world may know that Thou didst send me."

Do you understand
Listen, the purpose of unity is witness to the world...The reason why God binds our hearts together into a body called the church is so the world will come to believe.

and
~~John said the same things in John 13:34 and 35 "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."~~

The foundation for good effective witnessing is the unity of the believers in the body of Christ.....~~How about that?....~~That is the foundation of good effective ministry. And as believers, if we ~~are not ministering one to another~~ ^{lack unity with the body} ~~are not ministering one to another~~, at that point our witness is weak.....

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When there is brother against brother and sister against sister and we are desiring our own way and fighting amongst ourselves, our witness to the world will be weak. But when we are in unity remembering that all of us have the life of God in us, then the world will be attracted to God's love. That is the purpose of our unity. To be a witness to the world.

(2D) Now, secondly, Christ prays for fellowship. Jesus is praying to the Father, and he says --Vs 24-- "I want all those future believers to be with me." What a tremendous thought.

When we read in I Thessalonians about the second coming of Christ, it says "So shall we ever be with the Lord." *What a wonderful thought*

In 2 Corinthians chapter 5, it says, "Absent from the body and present with the Lord." *What a wonderful thought*

I just want to ask you a simple little question in application. ARE YOU REALLY FELLOWSHIP WITH THE LORD? Are you?

You see, by means of salvation we are already with Him. But, is that what He is praying? Is Jesus simply praying that once you get saved you are automatic with Him, so that He can then say to the Father, "THANK YOU, THEY ARE NOW WITH ME."

No, I don't think so. I think there is something deeper than that. Jesus wants our fellowship. And specifically that we may behold, not the Father's glory, but as He says..."MY GLORY."

Dear friends, are you beholding the glory of Jesus Christ? Can you really say that you are growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ? Do ~~we~~ ^{you} really want to be with Him in order to behold His glory? Do you feel like David who said: "I am in a dry and barren land where no water is. And I desire to see thy glory in my life?" Is that our attitude?

You know, to learn more about Jesus is the basic principle of spiritual growth. ~~Some~~ John wrote: "Because you have known Jesus Christ, you are mature when you are continually experiencing ~~Jesus Christ~~ ^{Him}."

Paul writes in Philippians 3:10, "that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection."

Let me ask you...HAVE YOU LEARNED MORE ABOUT JESUS TODAY? Do you know more about Jesus today than you did yesterday?...OR... ARE THERE SOME OTHER THINGS THAT ARE MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU? If there is, then that is your problem. We need to come to the point of desiring to know more about Jesus

The song writer ..writes.....

More about Jesus would I know, More of His grace to others show;
More of His saving fulness see, More of His love who died for me.
More, More about Jesus, More, More about Jesus;
More of his saving fulness see, More of His love who died for me.

Oh, my friends, I hope that is your desire. Just to get to know more about Jesus.

(3D) And number three is love...Love..Vs 25 and 26 is a summary of all that we have said.....(READ Vs 25-26)

You know, we begin to experience that love the moment we come to Christ. And as we grow in the Lord, we get more understanding of His love. And: the thing that I love, here, is that the Lord Jesus is praying that the love that the Father has for the son would be in our lives.

I think it is just wonderful? And it is so precious. And I am so thankful for it...And I trust you are, also.

LET'S CLOSE IN PRAYER