

## John 17:1-26 **Priestly Prayer of Jesus**

### Glory – Authority – Eternal Life

<sup>1</sup> Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, <sup>2</sup> as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.

<sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. <sup>4</sup> I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

### Disciples Received Word of God and Believed

<sup>6</sup> "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. <sup>8</sup> For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

### Prayer for Disciples – Jesus glorified in Disciples – Unity of Disciples and the Godhead

<sup>9</sup> I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. <sup>10</sup> And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.

<sup>11</sup> Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.

### Lost only the son of Perdition – That Scriptures might be fulfilled

<sup>12</sup> While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

### Keep them from the Evil One

<sup>13</sup> But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. <sup>14</sup> I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>15</sup> I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

### Sanctify them by Your Truth – Your Word is Truth

<sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

### Prayer for those who believe the testimony of the Disciples – Unity of Believers

<sup>20</sup> "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; <sup>21</sup> that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. <sup>22</sup> And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: <sup>23</sup> I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

### That they may behold My Glory – That God's love may be in them

24 Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.  
25 O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. 26 And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them." NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✠ The prayer of Jesus follows the pattern Jesus gave in the model prayer. [Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4]

### Glory – Authority – Eternal Life

Jesus knows Who it is to Whom He is speaking and His relationship with God:

- ✠ Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. [John 17:1-2]
  - ✧ Jesus prayed looking toward Heaven.
  - ✧ The hour for Jesus to be glorified has arrived in which the Father will be glorified in the Son. This is accomplished by the death and resurrection of Jesus.
  - ✧ Jesus asked the Father to glorify Him, so the Son can glorify the Father.
  - ✧ Jesus acknowledged that it was God the Father Who had given Him authority to give Eternal Life to those the Father has given Him.
- ✠ And **this is eternal life**, that they may **know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent**. I have **glorified You** on the earth. I have **finished the work** which You have given Me to do. And **now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was**. [John 17:3-5]
  - ✧ Eternal Life is found in the knowledge of the God of Creation and Jesus the Messiah (Christ) as revealed through the ministry of Jesus.
  - ✧ Jesus has finished the work on earth that God the Father sent Him to accomplish.
  - ✧ Now that His assigned work is done, Jesus desires to return to the glory He had with the Father before the world was created. [John 1:1-3]

### Disciples Received Word of God and Believed

Jesus is confident that He has done His appointed task faithfully:

- ✠ "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. [John 17:6-8]
  - ✧ Jesus has made known the Name of God the Father to the men God gave to Him.
  - ✧ The Disciples have kept the Word of God given to them by Jesus.
  - ✧ They have come to realize that all that Jesus had was given to Him by God the Father.
  - ✧ Jesus has been faithful in His stewardship to give the Disciples all the Words God has sent Him to deliver.
  - ✧ The Disciples have received the Words of God and have come to know with certainty that Jesus was sent by God Himself.

### Prayer for Disciples – Jesus glorified in Disciples – Unity of Disciples and the Godhead

Jesus identifies the subject of His focus and prays the Will of God in relation to it:

- ✠ I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep

through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. [John 17:9-11]

- ✧ Jesus is praying only for the believers whom God has given Him, not for the unbelievers.
- ✧ Jesus speaks of the possessive unity of God the Father and Himself.
- ✧ Jesus is glorified in those who are His Disciples. This is the same glory and Joy Paul spoke of in regard to those he had led to Jesus Christ. [1 Thessalonians 2:19-20]
- ✧ As the time approaches for Jesus to leave this world and return to His position in Heaven beside God the Father, Jesus prays for His Disciples who will be left behind.
- ✧ Jesus desires the Disciples to be in the same form of unity, as that which abides between Jesus and the Father.
- ✧ That unity is sustained only in the Name of the Holy Father in Heaven and on His reputation.

### Lost only the son of Perdition – That Scriptures might be fulfilled

Jesus has done His part to assure the fulfillment of appropriate Scripture:

- ✧ While I was with them in the world, **I kept them in Your name**. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. [John 17:12]
- ✧ Jesus successfully kept those the Father had given Him in the Name of the Father by revealing the Father and the will of the Father to them.
- ✧ The only one lost was the betrayer who had been called for the purpose of fulfilling Scripture pertaining to the betrayal of the Messiah. [John 6:64, 13:11, 18]
- ✧ Jesus again focuses on the importance of fulfilling all Scriptures pertaining to the Messiah. [Matthew 26:54, 56, Mark 14:49, Luke 18:31, 24:25-27, 44]

### Keep them from the Evil One

Jesus prays the greatest need for His Disciples:

- ✧ But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. [John 17:13-15]
- ✧ Jesus prayed this prayer in the presence of the Disciples, so they may know His heart for their welfare as He is departing from them, thus they will have His joy fulfilled in their heart, knowing they have not been abandoned and left on their own, but that God the Father cares for them through all that may befall them in this world. [John 17:13, 1 Peter 4:12-14]
- ✧ The Disciples know in advance that the world hates them because the Word of God dwelling in them has separated them from the world and they are no longer running with the worldly sinners, just as Jesus was separated in purity from sin. [John 17:14, 1 Peter 4:3-4]
- ✧ It is not the intention of God that the Saints should be taken out of the world so they might be untouched by sinful men around them, but that they may be an influence to call sinners to Salvation through repentance they are left in the world, but Jesus requests that they be kept from the evil one (Satan). [John 17:15, 1 Corinthians 5:10]

### Sanctify them by Your Truth – Your Word is Truth

Jesus prays for the Sanctification of the Disciples:

- ✧ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. [John 17:16-19]
- ✧ Sanctify means: To separate from the profane and dedicate to God, to purify and make holy, to consecrate to God.

- ✧ The Disciple is to be separated from the ways of the world, as Jesus was so separated.
- ✧ Sanctification of a Disciple is accomplished by the truth of the Word of God.
- ✧ The Disciples are sent into the world by Jesus, just as Jesus was sent into the world by God the Father.
- ✧ Sanctification is an act of the will of the individual, so as Jesus chose to set Himself apart from the worldly ways, and He prays that the Disciples will follow His example and be sanctified, standing on the truth of the Word of God.
- ✧ The choice to be sanctified is made possible by God the Father, as He sends the Holy Spirit into the heart of the Disciple, to enable him to keep his commitment to follow Jesus.

### Prayer for those who believe the testimony of the Disciples – Unity of Believers

The will of God is not generational, but for all generations to come:

- ✧ "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. [\[John 17:20-23\]](#)
- ✧ This prayer of Jesus is not only for the twelve Apostles who were with Him at the time, but it is extended to all believers of all time who will come to belief through the testimony of the Apostles and ministry of the Church based on their word. [\[John 17:20\]](#)
- ✧ This is in reference to the "Other Sheep" Jesus had spoken of earlier. [\[John 10:16\]](#)
- ✧ Again the prayer is for the unity of heart, faith, and doctrine for all Christians.
- ✧ The example of unity is found in the unity between Jesus and the Father.
- ✧ The unity of believers is found only as we are united in the godhead.
- ✧ The purpose for the desired unity is for effectiveness in reaching the world with one message of Salvation, that the world may believe that Jesus truly was sent from God.
- ✧ There is a glory in true unity, that demonstrates the glory the Father gave to Jesus and Jesus has passed on to the believers.
- ✧ The goal of the unity is that the believers may be made perfect in one, that the world may know that the Father God has sent Jesus into the world and has loved the believers just as He has loved Jesus.

### That they may behold My Glory – That God's love may be in them

The end result desired by Jesus, is the end desired by the will of the Father and revealed in this prayer:

- ✧ Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them." [\[John 17:24-26\]](#)
- ✧ That desire is that the believers may be with Jesus in glory and behold His glory.
- ✧ The glory that originated in the Father and was given to Jesus the Word before the foundation of the world in creation.
- ✧ It reflects the love the Father has for Jesus the Word before creation was begun.
- ✧ The world has not known the Father God, but Jesus has known Him before the beginning of creation.
- ✧ The Disciples have come to know that God the Father has sent Jesus.
- ✧ Jesus has made God known to mankind through His revelations. [\[John 1:18, 17:25-26\]](#)

- ✧ Jesus has declared the Father to the Disciples for the purpose that the Disciples may have the Love of the Father for Jesus dwelling in them, and Jesus will be in them. [[John 17:26, 14:17, 20, 15:4, 7, 11](#)]
- ✧ Our relationship with the Father and with Jesus, is from within us by knowledge and believing faith, making us complete in Him.