



Christ Prays for Himself

17 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,² as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.⁴ I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.⁵ And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Christ Prays for His Disciples

⁶ “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.⁷ Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You.⁸ 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.

⁹ “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.¹⁰ And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.¹¹ 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*.¹² 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.¹³ But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.¹⁴ 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.¹⁵ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.¹⁷ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

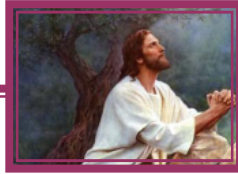
Christ Prays for Those Who Will Believe

²⁰ “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;²¹ 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.²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as *We are one*:²³ 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.

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.”

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For **we do not know what we should pray for** as we ought, but **the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.** ²⁷ Now **He who searches the hearts** knows what the mind of the Spirit *is*, because **He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.**

~Romans 8:26-27



Jesus Prayed for Himself

Jesus prayed that He would glorify the Father. (v 1)

Listen to God's Spirit as you pray. As the Holy Spirit searches your heart what does He say? What change in your life can you pray for that would bring honor and glory to Christ and to the Father?

Jesus Prayed for the Church

Jesus prayed that He might be glorified in us. (v 10)

What other things did Jesus pray for?

What do you want God to do for His church?

How can you help be an answer to your prayer?

Jesus Prayed for Those Who Will Believe

Jesus prayed that the unity of believers would reveal to the world how much He loved us. (v 23)

Read verses 21-23. How does God's speak to you through those verses?

Whose names are on your heart?

JOHN 17—LEADERSHIP GUIDE

- Hand out John 17 Materials

- Comment on Romans 8:26-27: →

(Maybe ask ... what those verses say to those attending.)

- “We do not know what we should pray for.”
- But God promises that His Spirit will guide us in our prayers.
- The Holy Spirit will help us to pray the heart of God.

- NOTE: John 17 is Jesus’ last prayer before being arrested.

ASK: Jesus knew He was going to be arrested and was about to die.
If you knew you were about to die WHAT would you pray...
HOW would you pray... ?

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~Romans 8:26-27

- Play the dramatized audio cd of John 17 or Read John 17 aloud. (Assign verses to different people to read.)

...Ask everyone to follow along with the handout as they listen to Jesus’ prayer.

- Lead them into prayer for each of Jesus’ prayer points.

- Jesus Prayed for Himself
(Jesus prayed that He would glorify the Father)

- Jesus Prayed for the Church

“I pray for them” (v 9)
“They are Yours” (v 9)
“All I have is Yours (v 10)
“All You have is mine (v 10)
“Protect them by the power of Your name (v 11)
“They may be one as We are one (v 11)
“Protect them from the evil one (15)
“Sanctify them by the truth. (v 17)
“Your word is truth (v 17)

- Jesus Prayed for Those Who Will Believe

²¹ 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.
²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:
²³ 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.

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Whose names are on your heart?

- Close—Let God’s Spirit lead you as you close.
(Ask people to share one or two word thoughts..., Sing a song of praise... Prayer...)