

UNITED IN GLORY (Jesus' prayer in John 17)

Throughout the Gospels we can see glimpses about Jesus' prayer life, Mk.1:35, Mt.14:23, Lk.5:16.

Christ had a life filled with prayer, but *what* did He pray? Most of the prayers of Christ recorded in the Gospels are very short. Christ taught a somewhat longer prayer, the Lord's Prayer in Mt.6:9-13, but this was to teach His disciples how to pray, it does not show us how Christ personally prayed. There is only one long prayer of Christ recorded in the Bible- 26 verses long! – John chapter 17.

Jesus prayed this prayer just after the Last Supper, Jn.14:31 (John 13-14). Jesus & the disciples were walking to the Garden of Gethsemane, when Jesus prayed this prayer just before they arrived at the Garden of Gethsemane, Jn.18:1.

Near the end of His earthly life, when Christ was looking forward to returning to heaven, Jesus prayed for the future of all His disciples. That same heart of intercession continues to pray for us, as Christ is now our great High Priest in heaven, Heb.7:24-25.

In Jesus' prayer of John 17 we can see the intimate unity that Christ has with the Father and that Christ desires for all His followers. As we see that glorious relationship, we can embrace it and begin to build that same intimacy in our own life and ministry!

THE PURPOSE: CHRIST'S PRAYER FOR HIMSELF AND EVERY CHRISTIAN:
GLORIOUS UNITY WITH GOD AND WITH EACH OTHER, Jn.17:21-22.

THE PLAN: 1) Jesus would enter back into His full glory & intimacy with the Father (vs.1 & 5)
2) Then Christ gives His glory to us, to unite us with God & each other (vs.22 & 24)
3) "That the world may believe that You have sent Me" (verses 21 & 23)

THE PRAYER: SECTION 1 – **PRAYER FOR HIMSELF, vs.1-5**
SECTION 2 – **PRAYER FOR HIS DISCIPLES, vs.6-19**
SECTION 3 – **PRAYER FOR ALL FUTURE BELIEVERS, vs.20-26**

Section One, verses 1-5: CHRIST'S PRAYER FOR HIMSELF

When Jesus was praying in John 17, He knew His earthly ministry was ending and He would soon return to the Father. His vision was focused on the glory of God, which was spoken about in 4 of these 5 verses.

Christ's earthly life revealed the glory of God, from the beginning to the end, Jn.17:4. God's glory (His honor, His splendor) can be revealed in many ways:

- 1) by the incarnate Word of God, Jn.1:14
- 2) by miracles, Jn.2:11
- 3) by the heavy weight of God's presence (Hebrew "Kabod" means glory or weight), Jn.18:6,
2 Chron.7:2, 2 Cor.4:17
- 4) By the Shekinah (bright light), Lk.2:9, Mt.17:2, Ex.19:16 (lightning), Ezek.1:28 (rainbow).

As Christ continued to accomplish His works, the glory of God was revealed more and more, Jn.17:4. As we accomplish God's plan for our life, the glory of God will also be revealed in greater & greater ways!

THE TIME HAD COME: Christ's death on the cross would glorify the Father & the Son, Jn.17:1, 12:27-28
- Christ was going to return back into the eternal glory that He had shared with the Father, Jn.17:5.

- Knowing this brought Christ great joy and helped give Him strength to overcome the cross, Heb.12:2
- The Apostle Paul had learned this same secret, Rom.8:18.
- Rom.3:23 All have sinned & fallen short of the glory of God- but as we overcome sin and accomplish God's will, we will enter more and more into the glory of God, Col.1:27, 2 Cor.4:18, Mt.13:43.

-In this 1st part of His prayer, we see the intimate relationship of the Father & Son- united in glory!

Section Two, verses 6-19: CHRIST'S PRAYER FOR HIS DISCIPLES

-Jesus said they had kept His word (v.6), received Christ's words (v.8), and believed (v.8).
This group of men still had many areas of weakness & failure- but the foundation had been laid, the Word of God was abiding in them-they would end up overcoming!

-Sometimes God's evaluation of our life is more generous than our own!

OT: Moses: the Old Testament said he left Egypt by fear, Ex.2:14-15. The NT said by faith, Heb.11:27.
Gideon was hiding when the angel said "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!" –Jud.6:12.
SAUL the PERSECUTER/ PAUL the APOSTLE! - JACOB the DECEIVER/ ISRAEL the PRINCE OF GOD!

In Jn.17:10 Jesus said, "I am glorified in them" – In a real although limited way, Christ's disciples had already been changed to be like Jesus, 2 Cor.3:18, Acts 4:13.

God wants us to prepare for more and more of God's glory to be revealed, Is.40:3-5, 2 Chron.5:13-14, Acts 2:1-4, Ps.102:16, Is.4:4-5.

Section Three, verses 20-26 CHRIST'S PRAYER FOR ALL FUTURE BELIEVERS

Christ has given us His glory, to unite us- then we will be able to accomplish our mission, as Christ accomplished His! "That the world may believe that You sent Me." We are now the Light of the World!
The glory of God is to be revealed through our lives- our works- and even through our deaths.

In verse 24, Christ prayed we would all see the eternal glory of Christ, in heaven. We can all be seated with Christ in heavenly places (Eph.2:6), and in prayer or worship, see more and more of Christ's glory.

When Christ died, rose again, and went back to heaven, heaven's gates were opened for Him- and for us! Christ stepped into the glory- so that now we can also step into the glory!

When a godly Christian dies, the glory of God is also released- so we need to die daily, Lk.9:23, Gal.2:20.

- Jesus prayed and gave to us that same glory that united God the Father and Son, Jn.17:22. Christ's glory is to unite us to God- and to unite us with each other- and then to send us out as the light of the world to a dark and lost world!

John 17:18- Jesus said to the Father, "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world."

LET US SEEK TO BECOME UNITED WITH GOD AND WITH EACH OTHER- UNITED BY THE GLORY OF GOD!

LET US PREPARE OUR LIVES AND CHURCHES THAT REVIVAL & GLORY MAY BE FULLY REVEALED, IS.40:3-5.