



John Chapter 17 – A Prayer of Jesus

This is an portion of a study I did on “The Lord’s Prayer” captured in John chapter 17. This is truly a High Priestly Prayer to the Father on behalf of the Church, His Bride that He Himself is building. Let us enter into agreement with Jesus for what He prayed and how He prayed just before He died on the cross. In this study I used the New American Standard Bible version. Pastor John Wilson

For so long I have focused upon the prayer of Jesus in John 17 for believers to come into unity. Yet the requests of Jesus in the John 17 prayer to His Father are for much more than unity. I believe that this chapter offers us a glimpse of the Church which Jesus is building, for it is He that will build it. Not only the picture, but also the building materials are revealed in this heartfelt prayer of Jesus. Jesus interceded for His own making at least seven specific requests of His Father. He prayed:

1. **keep them in your name (11)**
2. **keep them from the evil one. (15)**
3. **sanctify them in the truth;(17)**
4. **that they may all be one (21)**
5. **that they also may be in us (21)**
6. **I in them and You in Me that they may be perfected in unity (23)**
7. **(they will) be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory (24)**

As we envision the church that Jesus is building, surely she will have ingrained within her these 7 things for which He prayed on our behalf. Imagine the regional church which is :

A church that abides in the Father’s name

A church that is kept from the influence of the evil one.

A church that is sanctified in the truth.

A church that is one, undivided and unified.

A church that is dwelling deeply in the Lord.

A church that experiences the indwelling presence of Christ yielding perfected unity.

A church that has a living anticipation of seeing the glorified Lord in His Kingdom

In verses 1-5 the focus is primarily upon Himself and the Father. The rest of the chapter, Jesus intercedes for His disciples and then all believers. The major theme of John 17 is not unity but glory. The only request that Jesus had of the Father on His own behalf was centered upon glory. Jesus had glorified the Father on earth and now He desired to be

glorified with the Father in heaven that He may continue to glorify Him there. You could say that Jesus summarized the success of His life in verse 4 when He declared that He had glorified His Father on earth by accomplishing or finishing the work or assignment that God had for Him to do.

In the rest of the chapter, He reveals that He was glorified in His followers and that the very glory that the Father had deposited into Him was now deposited into the disciples as seen in verse 22. The very next verse Jesus becomes more specific and identifies this glory as “I in them and Thou in Me”. The indwelling presence is the glory which He gives and with His glorious presence comes many other things identified in this chapter.

Jesus is the means by which the Father releases or deposits that which is of and from Him into our lives. As the mediator and intercessor between the Father and His people, Jesus is the channel of all blessings from God. Therefore Jesus was imparting to His followers that which was given to Him from the Father by the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit. I like the term “life flow” which speaks of this divine flow of life and blessing. This flow does not stop with us but we are to pass on the fruit or overflow to others around us.

Jesus identifies blessings that are contained in this “life flow” that begins in God the Father. Jesus came to impart the very life of God in and to us. As Christ imparts what He was given by the Father, we are made into the image of the firstborn Son Jesus (Rom.8:29). This is our highest purpose in life and our greatest destiny, to be like Him.

JESUS BETOWS UPON HIS FOLLOWERS:

He manifested His Father’s **Name** to His followers. (6)

The **Words** that His Father gave Him, He gave to His disciples (8)

His **truth** is given to us through the words He has spoken (17)

His words are the source of His **joy** that is to be ours in full (13)

The **glory** that the Father gave to Jesus has been given to us. (22)

The **love** of the Father toward the Son being deposited in us (26)

His very **presence** in us in the same way that Christ and the Father abide. (23)

Our lives **intertwined into the union** of the Father and the Son (21)

Jesus sanctified Himself so that we could be **sanctified** with truth (19)

As Jesus was **sent** (commissioned), He has sent His followers into the world. (18)

Jesus promised ongoing **revelation** by making known the name of the Father. (26)

In earlier chapters in John 14 and 16, Jesus identified the role of the Holy Spirit in accomplishing this work of downloading the blessings of the Father and is an unidentified yet very important part of the transformation process revealed in the John 17 prayer.