

GREG'S NOTES

A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES

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JESUS' PRAYER FOR YOU

John 17

Let's say prayer was like a root canal and every time you prayed you felt that pain. We would still pray, because we need to pray! But here's the thing: prayer isn't like a root canal. Prayer isn't painful. Prayer is just calling out to the Lord. And we don't pray as much as we ought to. If there is a sin that's prevalent in the church today, it would certainly be prayerlessness.

Jesus taught us to pray by His example. And I have really good news for you: Jesus Christ is in Heaven interceding for you even now. What does Jesus pray when He intercedes for us?

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. **Jesus prays for our preservation.** Can we fall away from the Lord? Will we fall away? It's entirely up to us. There's God's part, and there's our part. The moment we fail to move forward spiritually is the moment we effectively begin to go backwards spiritually.
2. **Jesus prays for our consecration.** That's a word that speaks of the process of seeking to become a more godly man or woman. Our objective is not complete separation from all nonbelievers, to infiltrate and influence them.
3. **Jesus prays for us to be unified.** Why is unity important? Because it's a powerful witness to nonbelievers. What a statement it is to a lost world when Christians are unified—when they're loving one another.

RELEVANT REMINDERS

- Jesus also prayed for Himself, so don't feel it's self-indulgent to pray for yourself. You should absolutely bring your needs before the Lord.
- If you want to be in the shade of God, you need to remain close to Him.
- Your salvation is paid for. You don't have to make payments on it. It's been purchased for you. It's given to you as a gift from God, so live in it; enjoy it!

APPLICABLE ACTIONS

Jesus prays for our preservation, our consecration, and that we would be unified, loving one another. Knowing that God prays for us should change our perspective and motivate us to act. Are you living the Christian life you should be living—secure in Christ, set apart for His service, and working together with other believers for His glory?