

“Gospel of John: The Lord’s Prayer – Part 1”

Dr. Geoffrey Plummer
Calvary Baptist Church

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Scripture

John 17:1-12

“Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life.”

"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ”

"I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”

"I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.”

"Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.”

"I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours; and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them.”

"I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are. While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.”

Last Week

Jesus completes His private education of the disciples before the real Lord’s Prayer

He discusses what their relationship will be like with the Father

Then He speaks about their coming tribulation

This Week

The Lord prays for His disciples and their future ministry

Sometimes prayer is focused on those hearing the prayer -> Does Jesus need to pray aloud?

What does He want to remind them of in His prayer to the Father?

What is most important for them to hear Him communicate?

Setting the context for the Twelve, but also for us in our ministry to others

How would the Lord pray for us?

We'll find out over the next two weeks

There are Six focus areas in the Lord's prayer

Of 1st importance is the focus on the Father

The Father Focus

John 17:1-2

"Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, **that the Son may glorify You**, even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life."

"lifting up His eyes to heaven" -> when we pray, **do we lift up our eyes to Heaven?**

Often, we bow our heads in Western churches -> Biblical examples show upward eyes

"the hour has come" -> Jesus knows that the cross is next for Him

"glorify Your Son" -> **what does it mean "to glorify" someone?**

Fanny Crosby wrote these words:

To God be the glory
Great things He has done
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin
And opened the life-gate that all may go in
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord

To glorify means "to render someone more valuable" or "to esteem them as higher" than you

So, when we offer praise to the Father, we glorify Him

Jesus's example prayer from **Matthew 6:9**, He says, "Our Father who is in heaven, **Hallowed be Your name.**"

Jesus asks for the Father to glorify Him, especially in these last moments of His earthly life

"**that the Son may glorify You**" -> He wants to, in turn, glorify the Father

What is the Father to be glorified for?

"You gave Him authority over all flesh" -> The Father's plan was for Jesus to have authority over all flesh

"that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life" -> His plan of redemption for the chosen

That He would save those who were gifted to Him by the Father

What should the disciples understand from this?

- 1) God has a pre-determined plan -> They are part of the chosen gift to launch into ministry after the Son leaves

Next, is the focus on the Truth:

The Truth Focus

John 17:3

“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

In **John 8:32** -> Jesus said, “You will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free”

In **John 14:6** -> Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life”

Jesus was then and is still now, the Truth and The Father is “the only true God”

Here Jesus says that Eternal Life comes from knowing the Father and the Son, sent by the Father

What should the disciples understand from this?

- 2) Eternal Life equates to knowing the Truth: intimate knowledge of the Father and the Son

Then, Jesus focused on Himself and His work:

The Son Focus

John 17:4-5

“I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. **Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.**”

Jesus then focuses on His work on earth -> He finished the task the Father gave Him to complete

The work was finished at the cross but Jesus speaks of it as past tense: “having accomplished the work”

Jesus represented the Father -> He explained the Father -> **John 1:18** -> He followed the Father’s plan

Hebrews 1:3

“**He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature** and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

“the glory which I had with You before the world was” -> **Jesus was with the Father before the world was!**

Jesus perfectly lived on the earth being exactly like the Father -> sinless, blameless, radiant, glorious

Jesus told Nicodemus, “No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man”

Jesus told the Jews, “You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world.”

What should the disciples understand from this?

3) The Son’s accomplished work will be the content of the message to the world

Next, Jesus focused on the chosen disciples:

The Chosen Focus

John 17:6

“I have manifested Your name to the men **whom You gave Me out of the world**; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and **they have kept Your word.**”

The Son received a gift of the chosen from the Father

“they were Yours and You gave them to Me” -> a blessed gift to the Son of those who would love Him

Jesus had talked the Father’s gift and His choice of them at great length

John 6:37-40

“**All that the Father gives Me will come to Me**, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of Him who sent Me, that **of all that He has given Me I lose nothing but raise it up on the last day**. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

He reminded them when He just had them alone:

John 15:16

“**You did not choose Me but I chose you**, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain.”

We could go on referencing what the Apostle Paul said in many places, “He chose US!” in **Ephesians 1**

How important is it to know that you have been chosen to complete a task?

If it was all up to them, they might doubt their choice and say, “perhaps I’m not cut out for this...”

If I go to a ministry leader and say, “You’re the person for this job; I have faith in you!”

It is about His choice of them -> God’s choice of Gideon in **Judges 6**, “The LORD is with you, O valiant warrior!”

“**they have kept Your word**” -> the chosen keep the Father’s word -> They respect it, love to hear about it

It is important they realize that what they will do is not about them, but about God

What should the disciples understand from this?

- 4) There is no place for spiritual pride -> you didn’t earn salvation, everything you have is given to you
- 5) Understand that this ministry is a calling, not a voluntary job application

Next, Jesus wants them to understand where the message is found:

The Bible Focus

John 17:7-8

“Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.”

Jesus reassures them of His faith in them

They have come to believe! -> They have learned about the Father from Jesus

Jesus loved to teach by saying, “The Kingdom of Heaven is like...”

Jesus’s words are what they should teach the world

Jesus’s words are the message about how they should live

Jesus gave them this commission after His resurrection:

Matthew 28:19-20

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all that I commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

What a comfort for them to know that Jesus would be with them as they carried out their chosen ministry!

What should the disciples understand from this?

- 6) They should exclusively teach about Jesus and use Jesus’s words -> “refer others to the Bible”

The Disciple Focus

John 17:9-10

“I ask on their behalf; **I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me**; for they are Yours; and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them.”

Jesus prays for these disciples as they go into ministry, that their focus is in the right place

Jesus says that He is not praying for “the world” -> **Should we pray for the world?**

We have to keep in mind -> He knows who the chosen are -> we do not

He wants them to understand and remember how precious they are

We sang, “In my life, Lord, be glorified”

Paul loved to focus others on God’s glory:

1 Corinthians 10:31 -> “Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God.**”

Ephesians 3:20 -> “Now all glory to God, who is able, **through his mighty power at work within us**, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.”

The disciples’ lives will bring Jesus the glory He deserves

What should the disciples understand from this?

7) The disciples’ focus should be on bringing God glory from whatever they are asked to do

Lastly, for today, Jesus discusses their future ministry:

The Ministry Focus

John 17:11-12

“I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, **keep them in Your name**, the name which You have given Me, **that they may be one even as We are**. While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.”

Jesus is leaving and the disciples will stay in the world

“**keep them in Your name**” -> The Father will protect them as Jesus did -> “I guarded them”

“**that they may be one even as We are**” – that they would have unity of purpose rather than competition and conflict

What should the disciples understand from this?

8) The disciples’ lives are in the Father’s hands

9) They should be united in their focus on teaching the world about the Father and the Son

Prayer

Benediction