

John Ch 17:1-5

“The Lord’s Prayer”

Vs1-5

Of the various themes woven throughout the pages of the Word of God, few are more profound, or surface in such a way as to take precedence over the priority of prayer. and I would venture to say that outside of the attention given to the person of Jesus Christ Himself, how that in the *volume* of the book it is written of Him, the emphasis that’s placed upon the need to know Him and understand what it is that He’s done in *for* you and on the behalf *of* you, that prayer comes directly after that as the primary priority of the believer. Which of course walks hand in hand with the study of God’s Word; you remember when Samuel was speaking to the nation of Israel and he said, “...*far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.*” 1 Sam 12:23

You see it wasn’t that they didn’t need to be taught, but Samuel understood that it was necessary for praying to come before preaching. How can I come and present to you God’s Word, if I haven’t spent time in God’s presence, in communion with Him, pouring out *my* heart, searching out *His* heart. Through prayer I can be strengthened in the resolve that He’s leading me to, I can receive His direction, or if necessary His correction, which He’ll always confirm by His word. Prayer and the Word are hand in glove, if I believe God is leading me through prayer in a certain way, be it directional, or correctional, I’ll always find the principle contextually balanced in His Word.

But as we consider the topic of prayer, we could point to any # of powerfully profound prayers found throughout the bible. The way that Ab interceded before the Lord in Gen 18, the way that Moses stood in the gap, praying for the people in Ex 32. The intimate communion David had with the Lord in 2nd Sam 7, the sweetness of Solomon’s prayer in 1st Kings Ch 8 as he dedicated the temple, the way that Daniel cried out to the Lord in Dan Ch 9, or Nehemiah there in Neh Ch 1, the way the Holy Spirit inspired Paul the apostle to pray in Eph Ch 1 and 3. and Every one of those prayers, no doubt along with many others in the bible are worthy of study, meditation and consideration. Prayers that moved the hand of God, impacted people, and saved nations alive, but every one of those prayers pale in comparison to by far the greatest prayer ever recorded in the history of mankind right here in John Ch 17.

It’s been referred to as the Holy of Holies in the temple of scripture. and Believe me when I tell you that I in no way pretend to be able to plum the depths *of* it, there’s no way I can improve *upon* it by teaching *through* it, we just want to look *into* it, and glean *from* it hopefully what the Lord would have us to.

This is truly the Lord's Prayer. Often times the model prayer that Jesus gave us there in Luke 11 is referred to as the Lord's Prayer, but that's not the Lord's Prayer. In that prayer Jesus taught that we should pray for forgiveness of sin, and transgression, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." But the Lord had no trespass, He had no transgression, He was without sin, so that wasn't *the Lord's Prayer*. He never prayed that way, He didn't need to, we do, but here we find the Lord's Prayer. We find Him interceding on the behalf of His disciples, of you, and of me. The book of Hebrews tells us, "*He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*" Heb 7:25

There are several ways one could approach this Ch, through the study of key words such as glory, glorified, believe, world, the themes of unity, sanctification, and love that are woven throughout this prayer. But as much as this is a prayer, in many ways it's also a report.

As the Son is preparing to be *with* the Father, He gives a report *to* the Father as to what He's done with the time that He's had, and as we travel through the text we'll see 8 things that Jesus points out that have been the practical priorities of His life. When people in the world come to the end of *their* lives, they look back on their lives in a whole different way as to what it is that constitutes success. But if when you and I come to the end of *our* earthly lives, we're able to evaluate our lives in a manner similar to what we find the Lord doing here, I have no doubt that we'll hear those words we all long to hear. "*Well done, good and faithful servant;*" Matt 25:23 So as we chew on this ch for a couple of studies we have an opportunity to enter into this holy of holies and listen in on what Jesus saw as of paramount importance regarding life. and The things that we see Jesus bring up are the principles we want to have at work in our lives as well.

Now back in vs 1 we read that, "Jesus spoke these words," what words? The reference there is to the words found in the discourse that He just finished, but specifically He's just spoken to them about the power and protocol of prayer. How a sorrowful situation can experience transformation through the power of prayer, and He said, you need to know that in the world you're going to have tribulation, there's going to be problems that enter into the equation of your life. But be of good cheer, keep the eternal perspective, you're in *Me*, and *I've* overcome the world. and When He spoke those words, He lifted up His eyes to heaven and began to pray.

So in this particular prayer Jesus lifted His eyes rather than what we might do which is to bow our heads and close our eyes. Is God concerned about your posture of prayer? Not really, God is concerned for the position of our hearts, not the posture of our bodies, Moses would often fall on his face, Solomon stood, then he took to his knees, Paul spoke of bowing his knee. Now generally speaking we don't associate the posture of standing, and looking up with deep prayer. and It's good I think for *us* to close our eyes when the situation is conducive to that because we tend to be easily distracted.

I don't think the Lord was easily distracted, and if you're praying while you're driving, or walking down the street, you do well to keep your eyes open. But if you're able to communicate the deep recesses of your heart to God standing up, go for it, if you can concentrate better laying down, or on your knees, than do that, but posture is a non-essential custom, the position of the heart is an essential aspect of prayer.

The 1st thing Jesus says is, "Father, the hour has come." What hour? The hour that had been ordained from before the foundations of the earth whereby Jesus would pay the redemptive price of the breaking of His body, and the shedding of His blood for the remission of our sin. Up until this moment the hour hasn't come, and all throughout this gospel we've noted how Jesus was conscious of the fact that He lived His life on a divine timetable. Even saying at times, "My hour has *not* yet come." Well now it has, and He knows it, and so He says, "Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You."

In this statement He's resolving Himself to the substitutionary sacrifice of Himself upon the cross, the statement; *Glorify Your Son* is a reference to the cross. Glorified through being crucified and raising again the 3rd day, that even as Moses lifted up the brass serpent in the wilderness even so the Son of Man must be lifted up on the cross so that whoever would believe upon *Him* would *never* perish but have *everlasting* life. You see with Moses when the people bitten by the fiery serpents looked upon the brass serpent they would receive the remission of that toxin that was killing them, and live, but not forever. But Jesus is saying that when we who have been bitten by the fiery serpent of sin (which is all of us) look to *Him*, and believe in *Him* who has been lifted up on the cross, we'll receive remission of the sin that's killing *us*, only we'll never die, we'll receive *everlasting* life.

So in being crucified, and raised up on the cross, the Son would be glorified in being the instrument of the remission of sin and the author of eternal life. and In that He's resolved that for the joy that was set before Him, though despising the shame, He'd *endure* the cross, (notice) "that Your Son may glorify You." Now what do we see here? That even though Jesus was praying for *Himself*, His prayer was far from *selfish*, His motive was not for self *exaltation*, but rather for the Father's *glorification*. Remember when He was contemplating the cross there in ch 12 and He said, "*Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. 'Father, glorify Your name.'*" John 12:27-28 He was never seeking personal exaltation, but the Father's glorification, He wanted the Father to be glorified in His life. Even as Paul said, "...according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death." Phil 1:20

He wasn't worried about Himself, He wanted Jesus to be magnified in His body personally and practically, and that's that Jesus is saying here in relationship to the Father. "Glorify Your Son, follow through on Your plan of redemption that Your Son might glorify You." You see the cross of Jesus Christ brings glory to God the Father who was in Christ reconciling us to Himself. He could've let us perish in our sin, but it's to His glory to save us through His Son.

But what I wanted you to see here is that the motive of Jesus in praying for Himself was far from selfish. and I don't want you to think that praying for yourself is wrong; the question is what's your motive? God knows your needs, it's not wrong to bring your needs to Him, He desires that we do that, but even in meeting your needs God can be glorified. In desiring to be made right *before* God, confessing your sin *to* God, getting in line *with* God, all these things bring glory to God to work His grace and forgiveness, His strength, His love, and His holiness into your life. So don't think that by asking God to pour out His mercies, or strengthen you in your commitment to Him; is to somehow pray selfishly, these are the things that make for His glory. How can you play an instrument that's completely out of tune? Even so how is God to use our lives until we've taken the time to allow Him to calibrate our lives, tune us into *Him*, that He might be glorified in *us*?

That's what prayer is all about, not getting our will done in Heaven, but getting His will done on earth, getting us in line *with* Him, and made right *before* Him, tuned *into* Him that He might be glorified in our lives. Even if that means suffering, or humility, Father if that's the path you've chosen *for* me, then have Your way *in* Me, and be glorified *through* Me, not my will but Yours be done, I want to glorify You. and That's the resolve of Jesus in this moment, and then He makes this incredible statement here in vs 2.

"...as You have given Him authority over all flesh." Jesus said, "*All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*" Matt 28:18 In other words, the Lord is *in* control, and *has* control over the ultimate destiny of every man. Now what does He choose to do with that authority? Notice, "...give eternal life to as many as You (the Father) have given Him." How many has the Father given Him? As many as will come to Him, Jesus said, "*All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.*" John 6:37 The bible tells us, "...*whoever* calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." Rom 10:13 God will not refuse eternal life to anyone who will but come to Him, and surrender their lives to Him, He will give *all* who come to Him to the Son that the Son might give to them eternal life. Notice that this vs is very clear regarding who it is that gives eternal life. It's Jesus and Jesus alone, the Father has given *Him* authority over all flesh that He should give eternal life to those who are given to Him.

Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*" John 14:6 He said, "*I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved,*" John 10:9 and We read in the book of Acts, "*Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*" Acts 4:12 Jesus is the only door through which we can enter, if we're to receive eternal life.

Well what is eternal life? Some might say eternal life is missing hell and going Heaven. Certainly being in Heaven, and not being separated from God is *apart* of eternal life, but it's not the *essence* of eternal life. Others might say eternal life is the forgiveness of sin, being made right in the sight of God, again that's *apart* of eternal life, or we could say a *result* of eternal life but it's not the *essence* of eternal life. Look at vs 3

Vs3

The heartbeat of eternal life is found in knowing the Father- the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom He has sent. Or to understand that another way, the results of eternal life as phenomenal and awe inspiring as they are, (not going to hell, being in Heaven, being forgiven of sin, made righteous before God) as awesome as those things are they're *peripheral*. The heartbeat of eternal life is *relational*, if you don't know the Lord, you don't have everlasting life, and none of those other things are imputed to you, or availed to you until 1st you come to know Him. You see the heart of eternal life is in knowing Him, not knowing *about* Him, there's a difference, not just believing that there is a God, or that Jesus Christ is alive today.

It's one thing to know about the President of the United States because I've read some books, but it's a completely different thing to know him personally and relationally because I spend time at the white house, or at his ranch in Texas riding horses because we're friends, that's 2 different things altogether. and That's what Jesus is talking about here, it's not knowing about Him because you've read a few *books*, or been to church a few *times*. It's knowing Him in a way that's relational because you've spent time with Him, and have come to know Him personally and are growing in that intimacy. How do I do that? How do I come to know the Father? The only true God. By opening my heart to Jesus Christ Whom He has sent, by placing my trust in Him, believing by faith that He paid the penalty for my sin, and accepting Him into my heart as my Saviour, "*He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*" 1 John 5:12 So that's paramount. That's the primary thing that I need to do to come to know Him, and then I begin to *commune* with Him and *spend time* with Him in prayer and in His Word, getting more and more acquainted with Him, and familiar with His ways and His will for my life.

Vs4

Earlier I mentioned the fact that there was 8 things that Jesus points out in the course of this prayer that He offers to the Father that constitutes His successful mission here on this earth. Things that made for the foundation of His ministry as it relates to what will take place when He's physically gone, things that we do well to have happening in our lives as well if this is what makes for a job well done in the eyes of the Father. and Of those 8 things here are 2 of them right here. #1 I have glorified You on the earth, and #2 I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

Jesus says, "I have glorified You on the earth." Now John told us, "*He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.*" 1 John 2:6 So then, the question that is forced upon me as I weigh my life in the balance of the things that Jesus did, and we see here the 1st thing that He reported to the Father regarding His earthly evaluation was that He glorified the Father on the earth, is does my life glorify God? Is God glorified in my life on the earth? 1 of the 8 primary objectives of Jesus Christ as represented in this prayer was to glorify the Father in *Heaven* as He lived His life on the *earth*.

That speaks volumes to me as to how important it is that my life bring glory to God. This is point 1 out of 8 that determines how successful my life has been thus far in the eyes of Heaven. and I think we do well from time to time to ask God how we're doing on this one, who it is that's getting the glory from our lives? Maybe you're a great/godly mom or dad, maybe you're a phenomenal bible expositor, maybe you have incredible athletic ability or musical talent, or you're a hard worker at the plant or on the job site. Who's getting the glory for that? Jesus had a way of doing things, be it the miraculous, or a work of some kind, that the people would marvel and glorify God in Heaven. Even the way He submitted to dying on the cross, in Luke's Gospel we read, "*So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, 'Certainly this was a righteous Man!'*" Luke 23:47 No matter what Jesus did, He did it in such a way as to give God the glory. How about you, what about me? Jesus said, "*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*" Matt 5:16 So in your parenting, your work ethic, or business savvy, who's truly getting the glory? Jesus said, "I have glorified *You* on the earth."

#2 "I have finished the work which You have given Me to do." The 2nd point of evaluation as Jesus comes to the end of His earthly ministry; "I finished the work." Not, "I started the work," or "thought about the work," not, "I was going to get to it but time got away from Me." "I have glorified You and I *finished* the work." Let me tell you something, the roads from bible colleges, bible studies, bible conference etc... are strewn with the lives of men and women who *began* a work that God committed to their trust, but never *finished* it. They said, "Yeah, I'm going to *do* it!" But they never quite followed through *in* it.

How about me? What about you? You know that 1 thing, or those few things over the course of your life that perhaps God has really impressed upon your heart that you're to do. Keeping your family in the word at home, praying with your wife or kids, perhaps serving in some capacity or making good on that commitment that you committed to Him in, in your heart? What if today were your last day? and You knew in a few hours you would be in His presence, and you were spending that time in prayer just preparing your heart, could you say this? Have you finished the work? Or would you be saying, "I know you put that on my heart last year, or 3 weeks ago, and I thought about it, wanted to get to it, but just haven't followed through on it." Or could you say, "Father, I've finished the work." Remember, it's not "Well begun" it's what? "Well done."

Jesus says, "I've finished the work which *You* have given Me to do." Let me tell you something, you'll never finish the work that *people* give you to do, expect of you, or want you to do, pour out on you. Jesus wasn't to concerned about the work that people tried to lay upon Him, but He was purposed in His heart to finish the work that the Father had given Him to do. and I'm so glad that there upon the cross Jesus cried out, "*It is finished!*" John 19:30

What if Jesus would've cried out "It's almost finished but I've had enough I'm outta here!" Everyone of us would spend eternity in hell, literally. But because He finished the work, "*we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace*" Eph 1:7 and May God help you, and help me to finish the work that He's entrusted to us, but to do that we have to be willing to not count our own lives dear to ourselves. You recall there in Acts Ch 20 when Paul was telling the Ephesian elders that they would never see him again, and that when he went to Jerusalem chains and tribulations awaited him, and he knew that because the Holy Spirit was bearing witness of that everywhere he went. and He said, "*But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus,*" Acts 20:24

What happened when he came to the end of *his* life on this earth, he wrote to his young protégé Timothy, and he said, "*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*" 2 Tim 4:7-8

He finished the work, and he knew that a good reward awaited him, that everything that he had endured on this side of eternity would all be worth it once he seen Jesus face to face. Jesus said, "I've glorified You on the earth, and I've finished the work which You have given Me to do."

Vs5

We'll pick up here next time.

But this is the Lord's prayer, the things that weigh on His heart, that the Father be glorified as He gives to us eternal life, and that we know that eternal life is found in that personal relationship with Him. and Once we come to know Him we want to bring glory to Him, and finish the work that He's given us to do.

If you're here and you've never taken this step of giving your life to Christ, you can rest assured that due to the very fact that you are here it's the Father's desire to give you to His Son that Jesus Christ might give you eternal life. and If you'll just accept His invitation of love, His desire to forgive you of your sin and make you white as snow, you can know the only true God by opening your heart to Jesus Christ Whom He has sent. Eternal life isn't found in a book, you don't have it by reading the bible, or coming to church, Jesus said we search the scriptures thinking that in them we have eternal life but these are they which testify of Him. But we have to be willing to come to Him that we might have life, are you willing to come to Jesus today, eternal life is found in a person, the person of Jesus Christ He who has the Son has life, and you can have life today, eternal life, if you'll but open your heart and say Jesus here I am, come into my heart, into my life and forgive me of my sin and just fill me with your Spirit, with your presence.