



## John 17 The Lord's Prayer

**17** Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, <sup>2</sup> as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. <sup>4</sup> I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. <sup>6</sup> “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. <sup>8</sup> For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. <sup>9</sup> **“I pray for them.** I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. <sup>10</sup> And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.

*“John Knox, on his death-bed in 1572, asked his wife to read to him [John 17](#), ‘where’, he said, ‘I cast my first anchor.’” (Bruce)*

**The sentences are simple, but the ideas are deep, moving, and meaningful.**

**“There is no voice which has ever been heard, either in heaven or in earth, more exalted, more holy, more fruitful, more sublime, than this prayer offered up by the Son of God Himself.”**

**THIS MARVELLOUS** seventeenth chapter of St. John's Gospel has been called the Incense Altar of the New Testament. It is full of the sweet fragrance of our Lord's intercession for His own. Let us linger over it for a little, that its wondrous depths may unfold before our eyes. It is a window into His inner consciousness, from which we may read some of the thoughts that habitually filled His soul.

**“The request of our Lord thus given in John's seventeenth chapter is clearly no prayer of an inferior to a superior: constantly there is seen in it the co-equality of the Speaker with The Father. The Two have but one mind... Where the Son speaks He is not seeking to bend The Father to Him: rather is He voicing the purpose of the Godhead.” (Trench)**

**“In the sacred record, however, much more space is taken up by our Lord's intercessions as he nears the end of his labors. After the closing supper, his public preaching work being ended, and nothing remaining to be done but to die, he gave himself wholly unto prayer. He was not again to instruct the multitude, nor to heal the sick, and in the interval which remained, before he should lay down his life, he girded himself for special intercession. He poured out his soul in life before he poured it out unto death.” (Spurgeon)**

**“We so often understand this prayer as though it were rather gloomy. It is not. It is uttered by One who has just affirmed that He has overcome the world ([John 16:33](#)), and it starts from this conviction.” (Morris)**

Genuine prayer often reveals a person's innermost being. [John 17](#) is an unique opportunity to see the nature and heart of Jesus. In this prayer, Jesus will touch on many of themes developed in this Gospel: *glory, glorify, sent, believe, world, love*.

**I don't fully understand how prayer works.**

### III. Electricity and water

- **Keep Them-**

✓ **Through thy name- verse 11 see verses 6, 12, 26**

**“You have been redeemed; but you must still be kept. You have been regenerated; but you must be kept. You are pure in heart and hands; but you must be kept.” (Spurgeon)**

tērēō, tay-reh'-o; (a watch); to guard (from loss or injury, properly, by keeping the eye upon; and thus differing from [G5442](#) (as in the 2<sup>nd</sup> kept in verse 12), which is properly to prevent escaping; and from [G2892](#), which implies a fortress or full military lines of apparatus) **verses 6, 11, 12, 15**

✓ **That they may be one.- verse 11**

- We need keeping from division:
- We need keeping from error.
- We need keeping from sin.
- We need keeping from hypocrisy.

**“The unity mentioned here is not simply a unity achieved by legislation. It is a unity of nature because it is comparable to that of the Son and the Father.” (Tenney)**

The unity Jesus prayed for among His people has a pattern. Even as the Father and the Son are one yet are not the same, we do not expect that genuine Christian unity will mean uniformity or unity of structure. It will mean unity of spirit, unity of heart, unity of purpose, and unity of destiny.

**Church covenant repeated at every service.**

Having given ourselves to God by our faith in Jesus Christ, and having adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, and as members of this local Body of Christ, we now give ourselves to one another in this solemn covenant. We hereby promise:

- To be committed to each other in seeking to love and obey Jesus Christ<sup>1,5</sup>; and for His sake love<sup>2</sup>, accept<sup>3</sup>, and forgive<sup>4</sup> each other with affectionate care and watchfulness.
- To join with fellow members to seek God's will in our common decision-making; to allow every member the privilege of seeking to influence the church in its pursuit of God's will<sup>6</sup>; to accept congregational decisions without grumbling<sup>7</sup>; and to work to prevent division in the body<sup>8</sup>.
- To help one another grow in Jesus Christ by building up one another <sup>9</sup>, bearing one another's burdens<sup>10</sup>, encouraging one another<sup>11</sup>, exhorting one another<sup>12</sup>, praying for one another, confessing our sins to one another, speaking the truth in love to one another, admonishing one another, , teaching

one another, comforting one another, submitting to one another, serving one another, patiently bearing with one another, being hospitable to one another, being kind and tenderhearted to one another.<sup>13</sup>

- To work together for the continuance of a faithful evangelical ministry in this church, as we support and sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines. As we are being built up we will reach out to the lost and to the fallen, and through our love and service seek to bring them into fellowship with Jesus Christ. Through self-denial, faith and good works we endeavor to grow together in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.<sup>14-21</sup>
- To practice Biblical stewardship<sup>22</sup> of our resources, and to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel to all nations.
- To seek, by God's grace, to live carefully in the world, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to be an example in our speech and conduct<sup>24,25</sup>, purposing to lead new and holy lives in the power of the Holy Spirit, especially with regard to the following:
  - To use chemical substances such as alcohol and drugs only as informed by the teachings of the Bible<sup>26</sup>, wise medical counsel, and the dictates of the law.
  - To flee sexual immorality<sup>27</sup>; to shun pornography<sup>28</sup>; to reserve sexual activity solely for one man and one woman united in the covenant of marriage<sup>30</sup>; to not initiate a divorce, unless the spouse decisively and physically deserts the relationship, commits repeated, unrepentant adultery, is guilty of protracted, unrepentant life-endangerment, or is guilty of physical and/or sexual abuse of a child or minor.<sup>31</sup>
  - To protect and defend the lives of our children from the moment of their conception; to bring up those in our home in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and by a pure and loving example seek the salvation of our family, teaching and encouraging them to love, follow and serve God.
  - To practice justice and compassion toward all people, especially the poor, the sick, the disabled, widows, and orphans.
  - To conduct all business in honesty and integrity<sup>32</sup>, counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society<sup>33</sup>.
- To submit to the leadership of the Holy Spirit and pursue the fruit that He brings forth<sup>34</sup> and to work and pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

### **The Protection:**

We enter into this covenant voluntarily and affirm the ambitions of this covenant as our own. We realize that we can only fulfill this covenant through the power of Jesus Christ living in us. We invite fellow members to pray for us, teach us, correct us and rebuke us, if necessary, in a spirit of gentleness and humility should we stray from the Lord's commands. We voluntarily submit ourselves to one another and to the biblical authority of this church<sup>35</sup>. If we fail to live up to this covenant, we commit to yield to correction with meekness, to seek forgiveness and reconciliation, and to turn from our sin, relying on God's grace to lift us up. Should church discipline ever be required, it will always be undertaken for the purpose of restoration to fellowship with God and with this covenant community – and it will always be done in accordance with Scriptural

procedures in Matthew 18:15-22 and Galatians 6:1. We further commit to never refuse forgiveness and reconciliation in the face of Godly repentance.<sup>36</sup>

If we find ourselves unwilling to try to fulfill this covenant, we commit to remove our self from this congregation. If relocation outside the community prevents us from fulfilling this covenant, we commit to unite with another congregation and to continue to pursue growth as a Christian.

**That they all may be one: Jesus envisioned the great multitude before the throne of God of every nation, race, language, class, and social level ([Revelation 7:9-10](#)). Jesus prayed that they might rise above their different backgrounds and understand their unity; that they may all be as one.**

**The more saintly men are, the more they love their Lord and one another; and thus they come into closer union with each other.” (Spurgeon)**

### **III. My fellow workers- a word of warning! A major tactic of the devil is to make you quit through the actions of fellow believers!!!**

#### **✓ From the evil one- verse 15**

Jesus prayed for His own to be kept **from the evil one**, the world he rules, and of all of his evil schemes and strategies.

- Kept from the evil of apostasy.
- Kept from the evil of worldliness.
- Kept from the evil of unholiness.
- **It is *not* to be kept from the evil of trouble or hardship.**

Sanctify them by Your truth: Sanctify means to be set apart for God’s special pleasure and use. It implies holiness, being set apart from the corruption of the world and for God’s use.

“The word hagios (rendered ‘sanctify,’ ‘hallow,’ ‘consecrate’) means to set-apart-and-devote-to-God: whether it be things, or sacrificial animals, or men for His service.” (Trench)

#### **Verses 16-19**

- **Satisfy them-** verse 13

**that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.**

- **Present**

**They may have My joy ([chara](#)) made full ([perfect tense](#))**(a completed action with a result that continues to hold true in the present) **in themselves** - **Made full** is the same verb [pleroo](#) used above for the Scriptural prophecy being fulfilled in [John 17:12](#).

- **Powerful**

**MY JOY** which means it is not natural, human joy, but supernatural joy

- **Personal**

He is asking this **joy** would be in them like a cup filled to the brim and completely full. This is the third time Jesus mentions **joy** in the Upper Room Discourse. In [John 15:11+](#) Jesus declared to His disciples that "These things I have spoken to you so that **MY JOY** may be in you, and that your joy may be made full." In addition [Jn 16:20-22+](#) Jesus promised the eleven that their grief would be turned to **joy** and that "no one will take your **joy** away from you."

"Their joy will be greater for remembering that Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, prayed for his followers."  
(Carson)

Spurgeon - In this wondrous prayer, note the special design of the words of Christ; not only that we might have joy, but that we might have Christ's joy, and not merely have a little of it, but might have it fulfilled in ourselves.....While he drained the cup of sorrow to the dregs, and went forward to all the agonies of the cruel cross, he wanted his disciples to have his joy fulfilled in them, that they might be filled full with his joy.....Have you ever obtained this blessing, brethren, — Christ's joy in you, — what is more, Christ's joy fulfilled in you? God grant to all of us to know by happy experience the meaning of this wondrous expression!.....Are you dull and sad today? Does anything depress your spirits? It is not according to your Saviour's mind that you should be unhappy; it is his will and purpose that the joy should be fulfilled in you. Ask for a sip from his cup of joy at this moment, one drop of his joy will make the dullest to be bright, and the saddest to be glad.

Jesus had a life filled with joy; He could speak of **My joy**. If He did not, this part of the prayer would make no sense. Truly Jesus was *a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief* ([Isaiah 53:3](#)). Nevertheless there was a joy and a satisfaction in the life experience of Jesus that surpassed the joy of any other who ever lived.

- His joy was rooted in unbroken fellowship with God His Father.
- His joy was the fruit of true faith and confidence in His Father.
- His joy came from seeing the great things God had done.
- His joy was never diminished by His own sin.
- His joy was never diminished by deception.
- His joy was never diminished by allowing even the smallest foothold to the devil.

- If we were taken from the world, the world would be in utter darkness and would perish; Jesus said, "You are the light of the world." So, shine.
- If we were taken from the world, the world would not have us as a witness, to be a means of salvation unto them. So, win others to Jesus.
- If we were taken from the world, we would be denied the opportunity to serve Jesus in the same place we have sinned against Him. So, serve Jesus.

- If we were taken from the world, we would not see that there are aspects of God's wisdom, truth, power and grace that are better appreciated on earth rather than in heaven. So, see the glory of the Lord.
- If we were taken from the world, we would be denied the place to prepare for heaven. There is no purgatory; our preparation is now. So, get ready for heaven.
- If we were taken from the world, we could not show the power of God's grace to preserve us in the midst of difficulty. So, continue on.

## • **Encourage them-** The hope of glory-

“Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.- verse 24

- **He knows us**
- **He cares for us**
- **He desires the best for us**

There are many ways that Jesus gives His glory to His people.

- The glory of His presence.
- The glory of His Word.
- The glory of His Spirit.
- The glory of His power.
- The glory of His leadership.
- The glory of His preservation.

In all these aspects, there is the essential aspect of the *presence* of Jesus, God the Son. Scripturally speaking, when God gives or displays His glory to His people, it is some type of manifestation of God's *presence*. God's glory is, in some way, the radiance or shining of His presence, His essential nature.

**Where there is a sense of God's glory, unity is so much easier. Lesser things that often divide us are set far in the background when there is a sense of God's glory at work.**

. This reminds us of the importance of unity and love among Christians..

- There are unloving and critical followers of Jesus.
- There is a need for rebuke and exhortation.
- This is one reason that the world does not come to Jesus.

([2 Corinthians 3:13-16](#), [Ephesians 4:17-19](#), [Romans 1:20-21](#))..

“But what a sad thing was it, that a heathen should soon after have cause to say, No beasts are so mischievous to men, as Christians are to one another.” (Trapp)

Keep them: Do your part to be walking in unity.

Satisfy them: Do your part is walking in the joy of Jesus.

Encourage them: Do your part of following the example of Jesus with others.