

**The Word Became Flesh**  
**(Week 52)**  
**John 17:6-12**  
**“The Real LORD’S Prayer - Part 2”**

**Introduction**

***“...The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I AM in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who lives in me does his works. Believe me that I AM in the Father and the Father is in me. Otherwise, believe because of the works themselves.”***

**John 14:9b-11**

Today we are continuing our study of **John 17**, dissecting with as much detail possible what many *Bible* teachers have dubbed as “The Real LORD’S Prayer”. A closer examination of Christ’s prayer before He went to the cross will reveal to us not only the heart of The Savior Himself, but also the love of our Heavenly Father. As we have previously stated, this prayer can be broken down into three sections: 1) Christ’s prayer for Himself. This section consists of the first five verses (**John 17:1-5**). 2) Christ prays for His disciples. This is the larger portion of the prayer consisting of some fourteen verses (**John 17:6-19**). And 3) Christ prays for all Believers who will come to faith in Him through the teaching of His disciples. This portion is made up of the last seven verses (**John 17:20-26**).

Though the words of the LORD’S prayer are simple and heartfelt upon a superficial reading, the message that is revealed within the context of the prayer is both deep and powerful. We can clearly see exactly how the relationship between the Believer and The Savior is not only initiated, but also maintained. Those in Christian circles who do not believe in the eternal security of the Believer should revisit the issue by a careful examination of the prayer of Christ in this **Seventeenth Chapter of John’s Gospel**. For in this passage, the security of those who are in Christ Jesus is clearly defined.

I am taken aback, and often convicted, when I read this prayer. For in it we can clearly see how Jesus longs for the effectiveness, unity, and protection of all who belong to Him. Every time I read this prayer, I am reminded of a woman with whom I attended church many years ago. She was quite literally the most spiteful, crabby, judgmental, and anti-social person I have ever had the displeasure of being acquainted with (lots of adjectives there, but absolutely no exaggeration!). We were having a *Bible* study at the church one night, and this lady spoke up (as she was often want to do) and proclaimed that Christ’s prayer in **John Seventeen** was her favorite passage of Scripture!

Upon hearing this, I know that my jaw must have dropped. For she, in all her self-righteous “splendor”, was absolutely nothing like Christ had prayed for His disciples to be in this passage. Before Christ went to the cross, He earnestly prayed that all of His followers would be ONE. One with He and His Father, and one with each other. Every time I read the prayer, I am convicted to be more loving and considerate of my fellow believers and to continue to work on my love relationship with my Savior and Heavenly Father. How could anyone who claims to be a Christian read this prayer and **not** be convicted?

And yet, here was this woman who treated pretty much **everyone**, except for a select few of course (everybody needs at least a few friends I suppose), as beneath her station and not worth the trouble of getting to know. Several years later that conversation still haunts me. And I can only imagine The Savior’s reaction. Christ, above all, wants us to love. To love our brothers and sisters (**John 13:35**), as well as, our enemies (**Matthew 5:43-48**).

So, as we continue our study of Christ’s powerful prayer offered up in the presence of His followers, *so that they could hear it*, let us also examine ourselves to see if we are a living embodiment of what He prayed for on that fateful night. Today, we will be looking at **verses 6-12** as Jesus prayed for His disciples. We can clearly see how much He cared for them by what He requested of The Father on their behalf. Christ prayed that He had **Revealed The Father** to them. And as a result, The Son had been **Received by The Believers**, and due their belief in The Son, they are **Retained by The Father**.

**Revealed by The Son (vs. 6)**

***“I have revealed Your name to the people You gave Me from the world. They were Yours. You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.”*** **John 17:6**

As Christ shifts the focus of His prayer from Himself to His followers, the first thing He mentioned is that He had revealed The Father to them. What exactly does this mean? It means exactly what He had said to Philip in the upper room that very night.

***“The one who has seen Me has seen The Father.”*** **John 14:9b**

In *The Scriptures* to reveal a “Name” is to reveal that person’s character. Jesus Christ is a living embodiment of The Father; not only in the words that He spoke, but also in the things that He did, and the way that He conducted Himself. John the disciple establishes this reality in the very first chapter of his gospel, when he states unequivocally, ***“In The beginning was The Word, and The Word was with God and The Word was God.”*** Jesus was, and is, the embodiment of the Godhead. When He walked upon this earth, He was fully God and fully man. The very nature of God was revealed to mankind in the person of Jesus Christ. This is why the writer of Hebrews says:

***“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact expression of His nature, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”*** **Hebrews 1:3**

So when Jesus said that He had revealed His Father to His followers, that is exactly what He had done. When they saw Him, they had seen The Father in action.

Another striking thing about this wondrous prayer is the repetition of two words. The first one being “Gift” (or its various forms gave, given). As we have mentioned previously in this study, every believer that comes to Jesus has been drawn to Him by The Father. Therefore, every believer is a “Gift” from God The Father to The Son. And because of this fact, no one who comes to Christ in faith does so of their own volition. And not only that, Christ will never reject such a one, for to do so would be to reject a gift of love from His very Own Father.

***“Everyone The Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never cast out.”*** **John 6:37**

It is imperative that every Believer understand this reality: True Believers are a gift from The Father to His Son, and they are not only accepted, but are also **kept** by The Father, Son, and Spirit. The word *kept*, in its various forms, is mentioned five times in this prayer. And we will examine this word in its context within this passage as thoroughly as possible, for it plainly shows how a Believer’s security in Christ is maintained.

The first time the word “kept” is used by Christ in this prayer is when He declares that His disciples have “kept” The Father’s Word (**vs. 6**). The Greek word for “kept” that The Savior uses over and over again in this passage is “tereo” (pronounced tay-reh’-o), and it carries with it the meaning of securing something as within a fortress and standing a guard over it. Jesus begins this passage by telling His Father that He has revealed The Father’s Word to His disciples, and they have kept, or literally guarded, that word as one would guard a treasure. In short, they had believed everything that Jesus had taught and showed them.

Even though sometimes they had not always fully understood what He was saying to them, they took His Word for truth, and as such, they had treasured it. Every true Believer in Christ knows exactly what this means! We simply love The Word of God. Even though there are times it seems to go so far above our heads, we still cherish every word. To know Christ is to be *given* to Him by His Father and to *keep* The Word. We regard The Word of God as a treasure, as we strive to obey its commands. This is what Jesus meant when He prayed, ***“They have kept Your Word.”***

**Received by The Believer (vs. 7-8)**

***“Now they know that everything You have given Me is from You, because I have given them the words You gave Me. They have received them and have known for certain that I came from You. They have believed that You sent Me.”*** **John 17:7-8**

After explaining that His followers had seen The Father revealed by The Son and had regarded the words of The Son as truth, the end result of this was their belief in The Son of God. Simply put, they trusted His words and deeds, accepted that He had truly been sent by The Father, and placed their faith in Him. And as a result, they had been saved by grace through faith! This is how every Believer is given the salvation that God offers. You must believe in The Son that God has sent. This concept should not come as a surprise to anyone for it goes all the way back to the book of *Genesis*. In order to be counted among the righteous, one must believe in what God has said. This is the same method by which Father Abraham was given “righteous credit”.

***“Abram believed The LORD, and He credited it to him as righteousness.”*** **Genesis 15:6**

What a beautiful verse of Scripture. Abraham was not saved because he was a great guy. In fact according to Scripture, there are no “great guys”. Abraham was saved, because He took God at His Word and acted accordingly. So when God sent His Son as a living embodiment of His very nature to this earth, He required any who would desire forgiveness and salvation to believe in The Son. Those who did/do are given “righteous credit”. But those who do not will one day face the wrath of God for their sins.

***“Anyone who believes in Him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the Name of The One and Only Son of God.”*** **John 3:18**

Just like Abraham, the disciples were saved when they believed The Word of God. And when they heard Jesus speak The Word to them, they weren’t getting it from just any preacher. They were getting it from its very source.

***In The Beginning was The Word, and The Word was with God, and The Word WAS God.*** **John 1:1** (emphasis added)

And:

***The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*** **John 1:14a**

When you receive Christ and receive The Word about Christ, then you my friend become God’s gift to Him. You are forever saved by grace through faith.

***So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ.*** **Romans 10:17**

So receive and believe The Word, and you shall be received by Christ as a gift from The Father.

**Retained by The Father (vs. 9-12)**

***"I pray for them. I am not praying for the world but for those you have given Me, because they are Yours. Everything I have is Yours, and everything You have is Mine, and I am glorified in them. I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, protect them by Your name that You have given Me, so that they may be one as We are One. While I was with them, I was protecting them by Your name that You have given Me. I guarded them and not one of them is lost, except the son of destruction, so that the Scripture may be fulfilled.***

**John 17:9-12**

As I have mentioned earlier, the Greek word for "kept" or "keep" is mentioned several times in this passage. In the CSB, it is translated "guard" or even "protect". The reality of this is simple. When Jesus was ready to return to His Father, He stated that He had personally "kept" His disciples safe, and now that He was leaving them, His prayer was that The Father continue to "keep" (protect) them. This goes to the very heart of our eternal security in Christ. For we do not keep ourselves in Him, but rather, it is God that keeps us!

So here is the reality of this prayer. If you have truly been saved by grace through faith, then you are presented by The Father to The Son as a gift. And if you have been given to The Son, then it is He that holds on to you. It is God Himself, Who guards and protects your status in The Son. You have neither the power to save yourself, nor to keep yourself saved! All of this is done by a work of grace by God! So, if you are ever worried about "losing your salvation", forget it. You didn't save yourself, and you are not keeping yourself saved.

***For you are saved by grace through faith, AND THIS NOT FROM YOURSELVES: it is God's gift — not from works, so that no one can boast.***

**Ephesians 2:8**

(emphasis added)

Jesus told His Father that He had received His disciples as a gift from Him, and as such, they belonged to both He and The Father (**vs.10**). Judas was not kept, because Judas was not a Believer. But the rest of the disciples were glorifying Christ by their undying faith in Him. So Christ called upon His Father to keep them safe. And just as He and The Father are One, sharing in all things as One, Christ prayed that His followers would experience this same kind of unity, not only with He and The Father, but with each other, as they were kept by The Father.

Did you catch that? Christ's desire for us is that we be one with Him and The Father and with each other. This is what He died for. He will repeat this, His heart's desire, once more in the last portion of His prayer as He begins to pray for all believers. I find this to be very convicting as I read how my Savior wants me to love God with all my heart, soul, and strength, and to love my neighbor with the very same kind of passion. I must admit today that I do not always adhere to this standard as well as I should. How about you?

So to be clear, we are saved by God, and we are kept saved by God. So, as Believers secure in our salvation the only thing that is required of us is to have faith and obey God's Word, guarding it as our treasure. To obey The Word is to love God and to love one another. Jesus has never lost a follower, so you do not have to worry about being the first! **He will keep you.** The question is: will you keep His Word, so that you may bring Him glory in all that you say and do? For that is the part in all of this that proves you are truly His.

***"The one who has My commands and keeps them is the one who loves Me. And the one who loves Me will be loved by My Father. I also will love him and will reveal Myself to him."***

**John 14:21**

Let all those who love Him, and are kept safe in Him, declare... TRUTH!!!