

**The Word Became Flesh  
(Week 54)  
John 17:20-26  
“The Real LORD’S Prayer - Part 4”**

**Introduction**

**“I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in Me through their word.”**

**John 17:20**

As the LORD’S prayer in **John 17** draws to its conclusion, we see The Savior shift His attention to His church. In His all-knowing wisdom, Christ began to pray for a people, for the most part, yet unborn. For although His disciples would reach many through the testimony of their preaching, far more have been reached through the ages by the testimony of their written word. We have never audibly heard the voice of Jesus, nor the preaching of His disciples. But their enduring “word” has been preserved for us in the Holy Scriptures. And it is by The Word we have come to believe in Christ under the direction of The Holy Spirit. The Spirit has illuminated the truths of these Scriptures to us, and as a result, we have believed and have salvation.

Christ saw this reality from the beginning, and even though so much hinged upon the testimony of His disciples, who were at the very best, unreliable, in their own strength, Christ Himself would see to it that their all important mission was successful. In fact, He guaranteed it would be so by the promise of The Holy Spirit.

**“When The Counselor comes, The One I will send to you from The Father — The Spirit of truth Who proceeds from The Father — He will testify about Me. You also will testify, because you have been with Me from the beginning.”**

**John 15:26-27**

So in all honesty, there was never any doubt that the disciples would carry out their predestined mission, for God Himself would see to it. Every Christian would do well to remember that God always finishes what he begins.

**“I am sure of this, the He Who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”**

**Philippians 1:6**

As Jesus completes His prayer in preparation for the cross that lay before Him, I believe that it is of the utmost importance for us, as Believers, to know how that He prayed for us that night. I think it is imperative for His Church to live according to the requests that He made on our behalf. He was willing to give His life for the things that He desired for us, so it is incumbent upon us to live out our lives as an answer to His prayer. And what did He pray for us? For unity (oneness) with both He and The Father, as well as with one another. It is for this indissoluble union that He died.

This prayer of Christ is beautiful and powerful, simplistic and yet, profound. As He pours out the desires of His heart to His Father, we can see what he envisioned for his Bride, The Church. It is a prayer for us to be ***In Him***, for Him to be ***In Us***, and someday for us to be together with Him ***in Glory***. Let us look together at our LORD’S prayer offered up just hours before the cross. And as we come to fully comprehend its message, may we become both convicted, as well as, blessed, as we see just how great is The Father’s love for us.

**IN Him (vs. 20-21)**

***“I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in Me through their word. May they all be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in Us, so that the world may believe You sent Me.”*** **John 17:20-21**

As I have already mentioned, Jesus knew that there would be many who would come to faith because of the disciples teachings. We are living examples of some of those future believers, who have come to faith as a result of their word. So, as we read this prayer, we can plainly see that The Savior is praying... *for us!* There is nothing in this world that could ever be more encouraging to a Christian than the knowledge that Christ Himself prays for us. For not only did He pray for us before He went to the cross, He prays for us still!

***“Therefore, He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to intercede for them.”*** **Hebrews 7:25**

Christian are you struggling with doubt and fear today? Take courage in the knowledge that Christ is at the right hand of The Father at this very moment, and He is praying for you. There is nothing in this world that we will ever have to face alone. Christ is praying us through. And He will finish what He has begun in us.

It is also important to notice just *how* He is praying for us. His prayer, then and now, is that we all come to complete unity, both with Himself and The Father, and with one another as well.

***May they all be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in Us, so that the world may believe You sent Me.”*** **John 17:21**

Did you catch that? His prayer, and arguably the very reason that He died, is for us to be able to experience *oneness* with God, as well as, *oneness* with every believer. Let that sink in for a moment. Jesus wants us to be as inseparably bound to one another as He is *with His own Father!* There is no bond in all the universe that is stronger than that my friends. And our LORD wants us to be as tightly bound as this. Both to Him and to all believers. Every time I hear these words that Christ prayed so earnestly before heading off to die for us, I am so very convicted by just how badly we have messed this one up.

The church is supposed to be a place of complete and unbreakable unity. But sadly, today many who call themselves “Believers” are as bitter and divisive as the devil. This should never be. If a person is truly in Christ, then the love of Christ should permeate them completely and emanate from them in all that they do. For it truly is impossible to be one with God and not have love for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

***The one who says he is in the light but hates his brother or sister is in the darkness until now. The one who loves his brother or sister remains in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But the one who hates his brother or sister is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and doesn’t know where he’s going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*** **1 John 2:9-11**

If we are *in* Christ, then we are called to love all others who are in Christ. His prayer for us, then and now, is that we remain in His love (**John 15:9**), becoming one with He and The Father, and becoming one with each other. I love this prayer, especially this portion, because He explains the reason for each of His prayer requests as He makes them known. Just look for how many times He asked for something, then follows the request with the word “so”. There is a reason for everything in His perfect will.

In this first section as He prays for us, His will is that we will be one with God and one with each other **SO...** this world may believe in Him. For you see, when this world sees the church existing together in agape love, in unity with one another and with God, they will be drawn to Christ! This world cannot get

along with itself for more than five minutes at a time, so Christ wants us to demonstrate to the world the unity that we have *in Him*.

***“By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.”***

**John 13:35**

To be in Christ is to be in love, my friends. In love with God and in love with all who are in Christ. Are you being made one with God and one with God’s people? This should be your life’s ambition as a child of The King.

**IN Us (vs. 22-23)**

***“I have given them the glory You have given Me, so that they may be one as We are One. I am in them and You are in Me, so that they may be made completely one, that the world may know You have sent Me and have loved them as You have loved Me.”***

**John 17:22-23**

The LORD told His Father that He has given all future believers ***“the glory You have given Me”*** (**vs. 22**). This is, of course, a reference to the indwelling Holy Spirit, Who lives within every believer. He goes on to explain what He meant in **verse 23** by saying, ***“I am in them and You are in Me....”*** The Apostle Paul told the church at Ephesus that The Spirit is a deposit which guarantees all that has been promised to the Believer.

***In Him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed. The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory.***

**Ephesians 1:13-14**

So, take note of what Paul says in this passage and apply it to what Christ has said in His prayer in **John 17**. Because you have heard “The Word of Truth”, which has been passed on by the very same disciples that The LORD prayed for that night, you have believed their message, just as The LORD prayed for **you** that night. Both of those request have been answered by God, and you have been made one with Christ and by Him made one with The Father. And as a seal of this transaction, The Spirit of The Living God now lives **in you**. So, as a result of God’s calling and your faith, you are now in God, and God is in you. This is the very same power that will provide all that you need to love your brothers and sisters in Christ to the point of being ONE with them. This power that has been provided to us is an awesome power indeed.

***I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what is the wealth of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of His strength. He exercised this power in Christ by raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavens — far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given, not only in this age but also in the one to come.***

**Ephesians 1:18-21**

I hope you caught that, because what Paul is saying, in essence, is that the very same power that raised Christ from the dead is also the same power that is within every Believer! And what is the source of this great power? It is none other than The Holy Spirit, Who lives in us! Jesus has promised and delivered to us the “glory” that was given to Him by The Father (**vs.22**). And He has done this once

again, for a specific purpose. (Get ready for another “so”.) We are made one in Christ, and He with us by The Spirit so....

**that the world may know You have sent Me and have loved them as You have loved Me.”** **John 17:23b**

Did you see that? We have been given the witness of The Spirit, **SO** we can be a living example of the reality of Christ in this world, and for the world to see that in Him we are loved by The Father. In fact, Jesus says that those who trust in Him will be loved by The Father the same as The Father loves The Son! Now that ought to give you some encouragement today my friends. And if you think of it, this makes perfect sense. If Christ is IN you, then why wouldn't the Father love you as much as The Son. You have been made **one** with The Son!

### **IN Heaven (vs. 24-26)**

**“Father, I want those You have given Me to be with Me where I am, so that they will see My glory, which You have given Me because You loved Me before the world’s foundation. Righteous Father, the world has not known You. However, I have known You, and they have known that You sent Me. I made Your name known to them and will continue to make it known, so that the love You have loved Me with may be in them and I may be in them.”** **John 17:24-26**

As if it isn't beautiful enough that Christ has prayed that we be made one with Him, The Father, and one another, just listen to the end of His prayer for us! He prays that we will one day be with Him in heaven, **so** that we can see His glory. What a powerful hope we have in Jesus. That we shall be in heaven with Him for all eternity. He has “revealed The Father's Name” to us, which simply means that He has shown us the Father's character. And what do we see as a result of that revealed character? The Father's LOVE. **For God so loved that He gave (John 3:16).**

This world has refused to believe in The Son, and therefore, they will have to face the wrath of the “Righteous Father”. For A Holy God cannot tolerate sin. However, *God so loved that He sent His Son* in order to reveal that love to a lost and dying world. And The Son has prayed that this love of The Father be manifested in us, SO this world will see, believe, and be saved. For Christ wants them to be where He is in glory.

When I read the different Scriptures as they describe what heaven will be like for us, I am struck by one thing, and one thing only. Heaven will be awesome, because Christ is there! To be where He is and to behold His glory will be what makes heaven so wonderful for us. Christ is the glory of heaven.

**The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because the glory of God illuminates it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.** **Revelation 21:23-24**

This my friends is what The LORD Jesus has prayed for us to see. Everything that He prayed for has already come to pass except for this. And one day it will. We have the downpayment of The Spirit to guarantee our inheritance. And He has made us one. We are in Christ, and Christ is in us. We are to be one with each other until He comes, and then we shall be together with Him forever in glory! What a glorious day that will be!

Let all who are in Him say... TRUTH!