

### 1.13. 19 ~ **John 17:1-5, All Glory goes to God.**

Prayer is very important to the spiritual life of God's people. It is no wonder that the Bible commands us (1Thessalonians 5:17) "to pray without ceasing."

The Bible records many prayers of God's people in the Old Testament: Abraham prayed for his son Ishmael (Gen. 17:18), and for God to spare Sodom (Gen. 18:23-32). Moses prayed for God to spare rebellious Israel (Ex. 32:11-14),. Gideon prayed for a sign to know God's will (Judges 6:36-40). Hannah prayed for a son (1Sam. 1:9-11). David prayed for God to spare the son born to Bathsheba after his adulterous affair (2Samuel 12:16). Solomon prayed for wisdom to lead Israel (1Kings 3:5-9). Jonah prayed from inside the stomach of a large fish (Jonah 1:1-10).

New Testament believers continually cried out to God in prayer. The apostles devoted themselves to prayer. Peter prayed before raising Tabitha from the dead. The church in Antioch prayed before sending Barnabas and Paul on their missionary journey. Paul prayed three times to be healed from his illness, he didn't receive healing.

Jesus' prayers are an example of how we are to pray. He prayed at His baptism. He prayed before choosing the twelve apostles. He prayed before feeding the 5,000 and again the 4,000. He prayed before raising Lazarus from the dead. He prayed at the Last Supper and in the garden before His arrest. He prayed from the cross, and again at His ascension back into heaven..

**John 17:1a...** This prayer, at the close of Jesus' time with His disciples in the upper room, prior to Him leading them to the garden where He would be taken from them, is the most profound and far reaching of all His prayers.

"Jesus spoke these things," meaning all that has been recorded in chapters 14-16: Jesus was leaving them to go back to the Father, but He would return for them (John 14:1-3). He would send them the Holy Spirit (14:16-17). They would be persecuted because of Him (15:18). The last thing Jesus told them before this prayer is found in 16:33, "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

Jesus now, lifts up His eyes to heaven" and says, "Father, the hour has come." Jesus is God and yet He expresses His submission to and dependence upon the Father, while He is still in the flesh of a man.

The "hour" Jesus speaks of is that of His death, resurrection, and subsequent ascension. This is the consummation of Jesus' ministry on earth; when through His sacrifice He would defeat sin, death, and Satan by redeeming a people for Himself.

**John 17:1b...** The glory of God is the main subject of this passage. For in going to the cross Jesus brings glory to the Father, at the same time, the Father glorifies the Son as the means by which salvation will come to all who believe in Him.

**John 17:2...** God's Son has been granted authority to give eternal life to all who believe and trust in Him. For you see, Jesus allowed Himself to be captured and nailed to a cross by sinful and wicked men, He was always in control (see John 10:17-18).

The incarnate Christ was fully man and yet fully God, and He had divine authority to heal, to cast out demons, to raise the dead, to forgive sins and to grant salvation in His own name.

Jesus would die for the sins of the world, be raised back to life, and ascend to heaven where the Father (Ephesians 1:20-21), "seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come."

Earlier in the evening Jesus had said (John 14:6), "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me," making it clear that He alone is able to grant forgiveness and eternal life. Earlier in John's gospel John the Baptist said (John 3:35-36), "The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey [believe] the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

**John 17:3...** Eternal life belongs to those who have an intimate relationship with "the only true God," this being made possible through Jesus Christ, who was sent by the Father to save us.

Acts 4:12, "There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

**See John 1:1-4, 14, 18...** Jesus is the revelation and embodiment of God, and He has the Life of God [Greek *Zoe* is translated *Life*= this is eternal, spiritual life, not biological life] in Himself.

Everyone who believes in Him has the life of God in them, and they possess God's peace (John 14:27), God's love (John 15:10), and God's joy (John 15:11).

Eternal life from God is not only a future possession for those who belong to Him, as we have fellowship with God now, and we will live in heaven with Him forever.

Jesus said (John 5:24), "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."

John wrote (1John 5:13), "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life."

**John 17:4-5...** Jesus brought glory to the Father by accomplishing everything the Father gave Him to do on earth. Jesus looked beyond the humiliation and suffering He would endure on the cross, to the glory awaiting Him when He returned to heaven.

Jesus carried out God's will perfectly and completely while remaining sinless. To the Jews who opposed Him, Jesus said (John 8:46), "Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?" Paul said (2Corinthians 5:21), "He [God] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Only a sinless sacrifice could be offered as the final payment for all sin, for all time. Hebrews 9:22 tells us "all things are cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness," (Hebrews 9:12) "through His own blood... once for all... He obtained eternal redemption," (Hebrews 9:26) "He [came] to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself," (Hebrews 10:12) "He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God."

The glory of God is shown in His saving us; He did this through the cross, making eternal life possible for everyone who genuinely believes in God's Son, Jesus Christ.

Even before the cross, everyone who sincerely repented of their sin, trusting in God's merciful forgiveness to justify them as their only hope of being made acceptable to God, having been pardoned for their sins through Christ.

**See Luke 18:9-14** (cf. Isaiah 55:6-7)... Were it not for the cross, no one, no matter what age they lived in, could be saved from sin's condemnation. The eternal plan of God to save us, was made effectual through the cross of Christ.

The glory of God is Christ crucified and resurrected, for it is through the glory of the cross that we are able to bring glory to God while we are on earth and forever in heaven.

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