

The True Lord's Prayer (John 17)

Do you believe God heard (hears) Jesus prayers? John 11:41-42 Jesus, even today, is making intercession for us before the Father. Rom 8:34

Would you like to know what Jesus prayed for YOU?

The true "Lord's prayer" (as compared to the disciple's prayer in Matt 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4), that is, the prayer Jesus made to God the Father, is found in John 17.

Read John 17. Let's break down this prayer and look at what Jesus prayed for us, knowing God heard and answered His prayer;

That we would have Eternal Life (vs 2). Eternal means permanent, forever. Life is the word *zoe* in Greek and it means of the absolute fullness of life, both essential and ethical, which belongs to God. It is a life real and genuine, a life active and vigorous, devoted to God, blessed.

That we may know God (vs 3) and Jesus Christ. The word "know" is *ginosko* in Greek and it means to know, understand, perceive, have knowledge of. It implies intimacy, the way a husband knows his wife, a parent their child, etc. It's more than head knowledge. It means to know the heart of another person.

That we would be kept through the Name of God (vs 11). The word "kept" means to attend to carefully, take care of, to guard, protect and preserve. It is a military term that describes how a soldier protects his charge. The verb tense shows continuous action and indicates that believers are under God's perpetual, round-the-clock protection. What are we kept through? The very Name of God. The Name of God is power. God has a name for any and every situation that you can find yourself in (Jehovah Jirah, Jehovah Shalom, etc.).

That we would have unity with Jesus and God (vs 11, 21, 22) Jesus prayed we'd be One with Him as Jesus and God are one. That we may be found in the Godhead. It is Christ Who lives in us (Gal 2:20). Your life is hidden with Christ in God (Col 3:3). This unity with God should cause the world to believe Jesus was sent by God. He also prayed we'd be one in the Glory of God.

That we would experience the joy of Jesus (vs 13). He prayed we'd have Jesus' joy in us. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross (Heb 12:2).

What is this joy? That He pleased the Father by His obedience. This word for joy implies a full and complete joy. This is something available to us NOW! Of all people we should be the ones most joy-filled.

That we'd be kept from the wicked one (evil) (vs 15). This is the same word used in verse 11. So we are kept safe through the Name of God and that means protected from evil. Wicked one or evil was translated from the Greek word that means of a bad nature or condition in an ethical sense: evil, wicked. The same word is translated in other places as evil things. While we may experience wickedness in this world we are protected from its having rule over us.

That we'd be set apart as holy (sanctified) by the truth (God's Word) vs 17. It is God's Word that sanctifies us. As we walk with the Lord we are being sanctified and growing by the power of the truth of the Word. Heb 2:11 This is an ongoing process although we, positionally, have already been made holy by Jesus offering Himself up for us (Heb 10:10).

That we'd be perfected and complete in unity (vs 23). Perfect means complete, to accomplish, to finish. Again see the focus on the unity of the body of Christ with Jesus and the Father, God. Notice WHY this is important. The purpose of our completeness in Christ with God is so the world will know Jesus was sent and loved by God.

That we may be with Jesus and see His Glory (vs 24). Jesus prayed we would be where He is. In the Spirit realm we are seated at God's right hand in Christ (Eph 1:20). At the same time Christ is in us in this world as we already saw in Galatians and Colossians, etc. We know as believers in Christ that we will be with Jesus in eternity and will behold His glory face to face.

That God's love would be in us (vs 26). It is with God's own love that we love 1 John 4:19. God's love is perfect as described in 1 Cor 13:4-8a. This is the way we should love God and others. 1 John 2:5 says God's love is perfected (made complete) in us. God answered Jesus prayer!

Conclusion: We can see what a wonderful and powerful prayer Jesus prayed for us. This should be a source of great encouragement to every believer. These prayer requests are for you. Rejoice and give God praise for what He has done. This should also be a reminder to us that God hears prayers and answers them.