

THAT WE MIGHT BE ONE

John 17

**Have you ever passed by your parent's room,
seen them on their knees, and heard them praying for YOU?** [Bill T.]

Many of us have been told by our parents that they're praying for us.

We don't often know *what* they're saying to God about us.

Seldom are we able to listen in.

My parents used to tell me they were praying for me.

They never told me what they were saying to God about me.

Others never had parents praying for them.

We all have the opportunity to "listen in" on our Lord's prayer for us.

In John 17 John records Jesus' words as He prays for His followers.

He specifically includes US in this prayer.

This morning we're going to "listen in" on our Lord's concerns for us.

The real "**Lord's Prayer**" is *NOT* the one we've learned and often repeat.

The real "Lord's Prayer" is the prayer He prays for us in John 17.

If we want to know how Jesus prays for us, it will probably reflect the same concerns He expresses in this prayer, 2000 years ago.

That last night, just before His arrest and crucifixion,

while He was still with His followers in the Upper Room,

Jesus stops to pray specifically for His followers.

He has just finished His instructions to His disciples.

Now, in the light of what lies ahead, He prays for them.

As He talks to His Father,

we get a glimpse of the intimate relationship He enjoys with the Father.

We hear His heart express His concerns for His followers.

Jesus' prayer is **NOT** designed to be **analyzed structurally**.

It's an intimate conversation with His Father,

the cry of His heart, expressing His concern for them.

If you want to know what Jesus prays for us, try a **color code study**:

Glory/glorify "You gave .../have given ..." "You sent Me/Him"

The world Guard/protect/keep "Your Name"

One/"to be one" Sanctify [set apart]

PRAYER FOR HIS GLORIFICATION 17:1-5

Jesus prays first for Himself,

that He might receive the glory He had before coming as a man.

**His request is more for His followers' benefit
than for His own benefit.**

**His request demonstrates to His followers
the nature of His eternal relationship with the Father.**

1a *After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:*

"Father, the time has come.

Jesus repeatedly emphasized that His time has not come.

When His brothers want Him to show Himself to the people,

He refuses because the time isn't right.

Now that changes. His time *has* come.

The time's right for Jesus to be glorified.

1b *Glorify your Son, that Your Son may glorify You.*

That's the Father's role.

As the Father glorifies Him, He brings glory to the Father.

God gave Him authority to extend eternal life to those God gave Him. 2 For
***You gave Him* authority over all people**

*that He might give eternal life to all those **You have given Him**.*

The essence of that eternal life is to know God
and to know His Son personally. 3

Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God,
*and Jesus Christ, **whom You sent**.*

It isn't just knowing *about* Him—it's *knowing Him*.

It's based on a personal relationship with Him.

It's to acknowledge Him and trust Him

People try every path imaginable to obtain eternal life.

They try all kinds of works,

including going to church and learning about God.

Jesus is very clear: the essence of eternal life is to know God and to know Jesus
 Christ personally. There's NO OTHER WAY!

While present on earth, Jesus glorified the Father. 4

I have glorified You on earth by completing the work **You gave me** to do.

He revealed God to the world.

That's what He came to do; He faithfully fulfilled His mission.

Now Jesus seeks the glory which is His,

the glory He laid aside to come to earth. 5

*And now, Father, **glorify Me** in Your presence*

*with **the glory** I had with You before the world began.*

He wants His followers to have a glimpse of that glory.

[PRAYER FOR HIS FOLLOWERS 17:6-26]

PRAYER FOR PROTECTION FOR HIS FOLLOWERS 17:6-19

Christ has already *revealed* the Father to His followers.

Jesus prays that the Father will *protect* His followers.

Jesus established His followers in faith. 6-8

⁶ *"I have revealed You to those whom **You gave Me** out of the world.*

*They were Yours; and **You gave them to Me***

and they have obeyed Your Word.

- ⁷ Now they know that everything **You have given Me** comes from You.
⁸ that **I gave them** the words **You gave Me** and they accepted them.
 They knew with certainty that **I came from You**,
 and they believed that **You sent Me**.

Jesus prays for our protection. 9-13 9-11

- ⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world,
 but for those **You have given Me**, because they are Yours.
¹⁰ All I have is Yours, and all You have is Mine.
 And **glory has come to Me** [I have been glorified] through them.
¹¹ I am remaining in the world no longer,
 but they are still in the world, and I am coming to You.
 Holy Father, protect them
 by the power of **Your name—the name You gave me—**
 so **that they may be one** as **We are one**.

Jesus protected them while He was with them.

He used the power of the Name—God's Name—Yahweh.
 By the power of that Name, He has protected them
 —kept them safe—so none have been lost

Now He passes that protective role to His Father.

Paul tells us that Jesus still intervenes on our behalf.
 But now *the Father* protects us by the power of His own Name.
 God loves us and keeps us
 His power is available for us—to keep us so that none are lost—
 That ought to produce great joy. **12-13**

- ¹² While I was with them,
 I protected them by **Your name** which **You gave Me**.
 I kept them safe and none of them has been lost [lost/destroyed]
 except the one doomed to destruction [son of lostness/destruction]
 so that the Scripture might be fulfilled.
¹³ “But now I am coming to You,
 but I say these things while I am still in the world,
 so that they may have the full measure of My joy within them.

Jesus' followers are different from the world. 14-19

Because we're different than the world, . . .

Jesus asks the Father to protect us.

He's especially concerned that we be protected *from* the world.

Jesus asks the Father to keep us separate from the world by His Word [the truth].

Separation from the world doesn't refer to *isolation* from the world, nor to some
legalistic system.

Jesus doesn't ask the Father to remove us from the world.

Biblical separation is knowing the truth and walking in it,
even when the crowd's heading the opposite direction.

- ¹⁴ *I have given them Your Word and the world has hated them,
for they are not of the world just as I am not of the world.*
¹⁵ *My prayer is . . . NOT that You take them out of the world
but that You **protect them from the evil one.***
¹⁶ *They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.*
¹⁷ *Sanctify them [set them apart from world] by the truth; Your Word is truth.*
¹⁸ *As **You sent Me** into the world, **I also sent them** into the world.*
¹⁹ *and for their sake I sanctify Myself [I'm setting Myself apart]
that they too might be sanctified [set apart] by the truth.*

Moody wrote in front of his Bible (we've repeated the practice):

"This book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this book."

PRAYER FOR UNITY OF ALL BELIEVERS 17:20-23

Jesus prays that all who trust Him will be united.

**His petition extends to those who trust Him
because of the witness of those who follow Him.**

**His petition isn't directed toward all people,
*no matter what they believe.***

His petition is directed toward all who trust in Him.

- ²⁰ *"My prayer is not for them alone.
But also for those who believe in Me through their message,*
²¹ ***that all of them may be one,**
Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You.
that they may also be in Us
that the world may believe that You sent Me.*
²² ***I have given them the glory that You gave Me,**
that they may be one as We are one: ²³ *I in them and You in Me.
That they may be brought to complete unity
That the world might know that You sent Me
and have loved them even as You have loved Me.**

As the world sees the unity of God's people, . . .

they'll realize that God is in this—He's done this—

This kind of unity isn't normal.

There'll always be *differences*—of personality and of opinion.

But we have much more in common:

a common Savior, common hope, common Father, one body.

These ought to produce genuine love for one another, and unity.

As the world sees that unity, . . .

The world will be convinced that God sent Jesus.

The world will know that God loves them.

PRAYER FOR PRESENCE OF ALL BELIEVERS WITH HIM 17:24

- *"Father, I want those **You have given Me** . . . [My desire for them is]*

. . . That where I am, these may also be with Me,

*That they might see My glory, which **You have given Me***

because You loved Me before the creation of the world.

Jesus wants His followers to be with Him.

Jesus want us to [be with Him so we can] see His glory.

Such a revelation serves as a climactic confirmation of our faith.

PRAYER FOR HIS PRESENCE IN ALL BELIEVERS 17:25-26

Jesus prays that we might know the Father better.

Jesus prays that we might experience

His [love and His] presence with us.

25 *"Righteous Father, though the world does not know You,*

*I know You, and these know that **You have sent Me.***

26 *I have made You [Your name] known to them,*

and will continue to make You [it = Your name] known

in order that the love You have for Me may be in them

and that I Myself may be in them."

THE PRAYER OF JESUS' HEART FOR US

His petition extends to those who trust Him

because of the testimony of those who follow Him. Therefore, . . .

The prayer of Jesus' heart for US includes

the same concerns that He prayed for His disciples.

* **That He be glorified -in US!**

* **That we be one**

Unity of His followers with one another

Unity of His followers with God.

* **That we be protected from attack**

By the world

By the evil one [from the evil that characterizes the world]

* **That we be kept separate from the world by the truth (God's Word).**

* **That the world might realize that . . .**

God sent Jesus into the world.

God loves them.

This is what Jesus desires to see in us:

the same priorities that He prayed for His disciples.

Are these things true of our lives?

Is God's work in us evident to the world around us?

Can they see that we're one with God and with His people?

Are they aware that God sent Jesus into the world
because they see His love in us.

Are they aware of God's love for them,
because they see it reflected in us?

These are Jesus' priorities and concerns for His followers.

Only God can produce this kind of fruit in our lives!

Are His desires for us evidenced in our lives?

Tozer: "Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow."

We will only be truly united with one another,
when we're in tune with God's tuning fork—with our Savior.

When we're all in tune with Him,
the world will see our love for one another and be drawn to our Savior.