

The Real Lord's Prayer: John 17
Why Did Jesus Pray for Us?



Introduction to:

The Greatest Prayer Ever Prayed

This prayer concludes what is known as the 'upper room discourse' [John 13-16] where Jesus prepares His disciples to carry on the Gospel after His death, resurrection and ascension.

A. Setting an Example

1. Example of dependence: While Jesus was ministering on earth, He did everything in total dependence on the Father. *John 6:57; 5:36*
2. Example of faith: Jesus lived by faith in the revealed Word of God and in prayer. *Matt 4:1-11*

B. Dedicating the People

1. Solomon dedicates the temple *1 Kings 8:22-61*
2. Jesus dedicates the living 'temple' the body of Messiah *John 17; 1 Peter 2:5; 1 Cor 3:16-17*

C. Asking the Father

Joh 17:24 [NLT] Father, I want these whom You have given Me to be with Me where I am.

Jesus made four requests:

1. For God's glory *17:1 "Glorify Your Son that your Son may glorify You."*
2. The security of God's people *17:12 "I kept them..."*
3. The sanctity of God's people *17:19 "They also...sanctified..."*
4. The unity of God's people *17:21 "That they all may be one."*

D. Speaking Joy

Joh 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Joh 17:13 "...these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

1. What 'world' is Jesus praying about? *17:14 [Gk kosmos]*
World's system without God and against God.
See Eph 2:2; Phil 3:20-21
2. God's joy-provision in Christ for victory over the world!
 - a. A deceived world—and God's reality
Deception: One religion is as good as another!
Reality: God provides the gift of eternal life *17:15*
 - b. A dangerous world—and God's security
Danger: Trusting in the kosmos!
Security: God provides the revelation of His name *17:6-12*
 - c. A defiled world—and God's sanctity
Defiled: Lust of the flesh, eyes and pride! *1 John 2:16*
Sanctity: God's Word sanctifies [purifies] *17:13-19*
 - d. A divided world—and God's unity
Division: What 'I' think is all that matters.
Unity: In Him we are one! *17:20-26*

Facts about the Prayer

- 1-It takes about six minutes to read aloud
- 2-There are 650 prayers recorded in the Bible, 19 of them by Jesus—this is the longest
- 3-Four times Jesus says that God the Father sent Him
- 4-Jesus prays for
Himself :1-5
For the disciples :6-19
For the church :20-26
- 5-The word 'world' is used 19 times (*KJV*)
- 6-John included the prayer because it magnifies the awesome truth that Jesus Christ is eternal God. Almost every verse expresses this great fact.
- 7-13 times the Father is seen as the One who 'gives,' highlighting His grace and His role as source of all.
- 8-The prayer contains many of the key themes found throughout the Gospel.
Faith—Knowledge
Love—Oneness
God's name—Sanctification
Glory—Living in the world
The Spirit filled life

The John 17 Challenge

Take an inventory: What is my attitude toward the world? Am I being deceived by something in the world and thus being robbed of reality in Christ? Am I putting myself into a place of danger that could ruin my testimony, my work, my home? Am I secretly being defiled by the world? Am I creating unbiblical divisions instead of encouraging spiritual unity?