

“JESUS PRAYED FOR YOU”

John 17:20-26

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INTRODUCTION

“Does Jesus care when my heart is pained too deeply for mirth and song; as the burdens press and the cares distress, and the way grows weary and long?
Does Jesus care . . . is it aught to Him? Does He see?

O yes, He cares—I know He cares, His heart is touched with my grief . . .
I know my Savior cares.”

How do I know? Maybe He is *too busy*. Maybe I am *not important enough*.

Maybe *He can't see and know everything that happens*. Maybe *He does not love me enough*.
Maybe *He is not strong enough*.

One of the reasons we suffer from discouragement and depression is that we have a wrong view of God!!!

It is not merely a truism when we say that God is too powerful to ever fail; too loving to ever do anything that is not for my best; and too wise to ever make a mistake.

In this passage Jesus outlines in His prayer His plans for us His people before we were ever born. As the God-Man on earth He makes His plans the object of His prayer to His Father, and then prays aloud so that His followers could hear Him.

If you are a Christian, Jesus wants you to know that **he has your life already planned for His glory and for your good**. What is it that He wants for you?

Your Faith; Your Unity; Your Witness; and Your Presence in Heaven.

The basis of Jesus' prayer is the **Character** of God the Father, the **Revelation of the Father** made by Jesus while He was here on Earth, and the **Reception of the Message** by those on earth.

RELAX! JESUS HAS PRAYED FOR YOU.

I. THE BASIS OF JESUS' PRAYER (17:25-26)

A. The Character of God—“*Righteous Father*” (v. 25)

Everyone will get his due—what is coming to him, what he deserves.

But, that is based not on human merit, but on his response to the gracious invitation of God in Jesus Christ.

1. Righteous—His character is perfectly upright; his laws are based on His character. He always does what is right!
2. Father—He is gracious and has a loving relationship with His family.

B. The Revelation of God

1. The Son *has made known* the Father's **name** to His followers.
He has "given" the Father's glory to them.
The Father had "given" this glory to the Son.
2. The Son will *continue* to make the Father's name known once He returns to the Father—through the Holy Spirit by the ministry of the disciples. Thus even future followers will know the Father.

C. The Reception of the Father

1. **The world** did not know you. [Explain "the world"]
2. **I** knew you —therefore I made known the Father.
3. **These** knew that you sent Me.

Since the Father has been made known and some have favorably received Him, the Father in His righteous character will deal appropriately with each person. **He will make sure that each believing follower gets what Jesus has asked for in this prayer: Faith, Unity, Witness, Presence in Heaven.**

II. THE CONTENT OF JESUS' PRAYER (17:20-24)

A. Faith (20)

1. He doesn't limit His prayer for those who are already His disciples.
2. He prays for those who "are believing"—both in the present and in the future.
This is faith that continues.
3. This is faith through the **WORD**
The message preached by the disciples (20)

Jesus wants you to believe, but He also wants you to be ONE with all of His followers.

B. Unity (21, 23)

1. Total unity—every believer throughout the age—**ALL**
2. Perfected Unity—fully completed, all that Christ intends to accomplish (v. 23)
3. Spiritual unity—in the Father and the son "in Us"; Christ in them (23, 26);
They are in the Father because the Father is in Jesus (23).
4. Pattern of Unity—example of the Godhead—"As we re one" (22b);
"As Thou Father are in Me and I in Thee" (21); "Thou in Me" (23).

Obviously the unity of the Godhead is different, in that the each share the total Divine Essence—every divine attribute in totality. Yet, the Persons remain distinct.

The unity in both cases is a living unity—each individual being united without losing his individual essence. Believers are one—yet distinct.

There would be no unity on the human level apart from real unity on the divine level.

Jesus wants your Faith, your Unity, but also your **Witness**.

C. Witness (21, 23)

The Lord desires that the World (of mankind, people) may *believe* (*know*--23):

1. That the Father sent the Son—the divine mission (21, 23)
2. That the Father loved His disciples (23, 26) and they love each other.
“You loved them”; God’s love “may be in them (26).” This love of the believer for God and for each other helps to manifest their unity in a practical way, visible to the world.
3. That the Father loved His Son (23, 26)
The Father loved His Son “before the foundation of the world”—before creation, i.e. from eternity (24).

D. Presence in Heaven (24)

1. Jesus’ sovereign **desire**—the expression of His will by emotion.
2. Jesus’ precious gift—those believers given from the Father.
3. Jesus personal presence—“They may be with Me where I am”—He is no longer on Earth, but goes to the Father (cf. 14:3).
4. Jesus’ restoration to glory—in His glorified humanity
Note that this glory is “given” to Him as the conquering Son, exalted to the Father’s right hand.
5. This glory was His from eternity—since the Father loved Him from before the “foundation of the world.” The eternal glory that He had with the Father previously (v. 5).

CONCLUSION

Yes, the Lord Jesus Christ wants you saved (a believer), united with all other believers, witnessing to and winning the unsaved world around you, and coming to Heaven to be with Him and behold His glory!

THIS IS HIS PLAN FOR YOU, AND THIS WAS HIS PRAYER FOR YOU!

How much do you appreciate this and how much are you living toward its fulfillment?

RELAX! Jesus Has prayed for you.

HE CARES FOR YOU AND WORKS TOWARD THE FULFILLMENT OF HIS PRAYERS.

Will you trust Him and live for Him as He brings you toward these goals?