

Jesus prays for you

John 17:1-19

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Summary

Jesus, having accomplished His mission on earth, prays for His followers; those who had walked with Him for three years, and for all who will come after (you and me)! What does the loving-heart of Jesus ask of His Provider-Father?

Jesus prayed for Father-God to be glorified, as He is bringing glory to Jesus.

Jesus prays for us to be united. This means living in the same love-centered Union the Triune God experiences. Out of this experience of union, we are filled with joy. This is the joy that can only come from Christ, a well-spring of joy flowing from with us. Jesus prays for us to be pure and holy. Purity that can only come from being “washed in the blood of the Lamb.” All our sin washed away, we are whiter than snow. The result? We are set apart, made holy by the work of a Holy God. We are a new creation, old things pass away, all things (in us and around us) are made new. Our response to Jesus’ prayer for us? Yes! And Amen!!!

“The prayer is intended to summarize in Jesus’ own words his relationship with the Father and the relationship he wishes his disciples to maintain with him and the Father.”

The prayer can be divided into three parts:

- a) Jesus’ prayer concerning himself (vv.1-5).
- b) His prayer for those that are his (vv.6-19):
 - That they might be kept (v. 11-16).
 - That they might be pure and holy (sanctified) (v. 17-19).
 - That they might be united (v. 11 and 20-23).
- c) His prayer for all believers present and future (vv.20-26).

1. Jesus prays for Father-God to be glorified! (Vv. 1-5)

*17 After saying all these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you. ²For you have given him **authority over everyone.** He gives eternal life to each one you have given him. ³And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth. ⁴I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. ⁵Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began.*

“The word “glorify” should be applied to the total complex of these events as the climax of the Incarnation. The Son glorified the Father by revealing God’s sovereignty over evil, his compassion for humans, and the finality of redemption for believers. His entire career was focused on fulfilling the Father’s purpose and on delivering the Father’s message.”

a) Jesus has Authority over everything and everyone.

Matthew 28:18 ***“All authority has been given to me...”***
This was Jesus’ Central Purpose, to give eternal life!

b) Jesus glorified God by completing His work.

The Work of giving eternal life to everyone the Father gave Him. This is the Trinitarian Glory Jesus experience before the beginning of Creation. The perfect union of love! Again, Eternal life described as relationship!

NOTE: (V. 4) Within 24 hours he will be betrayed, arrested, abandoned, put on (illegal) trial, beaten, mocked, ridiculed, judged, and crucified... yet, He willingly chose this path... to complete the work to which the Father has called Him!

2. Jesus prayed for you to be united! (Vv. 6-12)

Jesus prayed for you to be **united**, one with each other as the Father, Son, and Spirit are one. United in love, purpose, and spirit. This is a deep oneness where we work together for the good of each individual and the whole. We all “do our part,” by being who we were created to be!

⁶ “I have revealed you [Greek have revealed your name] to the ones you gave me from this world. They were always yours. You gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything I have is a gift from you, ⁸ for I have passed on to them the message you gave me. They accepted it and know that I came from you, and they believe you sent me.

*⁹ “My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you. ¹⁰ All who are mine belong to you, and you have given them to me, so they bring me glory. ¹¹ Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. **Holy Father, you have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are.** ¹² During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name you gave me. I guarded them so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold.*

a) Jesus remained in Father-God and passed on the message from God. The disciples accepted the message and believed... in Jesus as the Christ-Messiah, the Promised One sent by God to restore the Glory of God in the Chosen People.

Look around: you see people of diverse languages, culture, experience... we could find a lot of differences between us... BUT, what do we have in common? *We are one in the bond of love* (song).

b) Jesus affirmed we (those who believe) belong to God. We have been given a name (adopted Children of God), and are united with the Trinity through Jesus, just as Jesus is united with the Trinity. We are guarded and protected as His Chosen Ones.

3. Jesus prays for you to be filled with Joy! (vv. 13-16)

This is not happiness the world gives, but a deep abiding joy, like a spring of living water welling up inside you. This is joy only God can give; He has already given it to you. Jesus has given God’s Word to securing us in joy.

*¹³ “Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy. ¹⁴ **I have given them your word.** And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵ I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. ¹⁶ They do not belong to this world any more than I do.”*

a) We are filled with joy because Jesus has given us His Word!

Psalm 32

- ¹ Oh, what joy for those
whose disobedience is forgiven,
whose sin is put out of sight!
- ² Yes, what joy for those
whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt,
whose lives are lived in complete honesty!
- ³ When I refused to confess my sin,
my body wasted away,
and I groaned all day long.
- ⁴ Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me.
My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat.
- ⁵ Finally, I confessed all my sins to you
and stopped trying to hide my guilt.
I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the Lord."
And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.
- ⁶ Therefore, let all the godly pray to you while there is still time,
that they may not drown in the floodwaters of judgment.
- ⁷ For you are my hiding place;
you protect me from trouble.
You surround me with songs of victory.
- ⁸ The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life.
I will advise you and watch over you.
- ⁹ Do not be like a senseless horse or mule
that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control."
- ¹⁰ Many sorrows come to the wicked,
but unfailing love surrounds those who trust the Lord.
- ¹¹ So rejoice in the Lord and be glad, all you who obey him!
Shout for joy, all you whose hearts are pure!

b) We are safe from the evil one.

SONG: *The Joy of the Lord is My Strength.*

4. Jesus prays for you to be pure and holy. (Vv. 17-19)

Cleansed of all sin, and set apart for His Glory, His purpose. These are the reasons Jesus intercedes for you. To cap all this off, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be our advocate, teaching and training us. Even when we don't know what to pray, the Spirit speaks for us (Romans 8:26). Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to seal us in His love (Ephesians 1:13).

¹⁷ ***Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.*** ¹⁸ *Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world.* ¹⁹ *And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth.*

a) We are made holy by His truth.

"You will know the truth and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32)

b) We are apostolate, "sent ones" ... to do His work.

c) Jesus gave Himself to be our sacrificial Lamb to make us holy, pure, free.