

A Prayer From Christ

John 17:1-19

Nov. 3

In this prayer we clearly see two main takeaways that we must apply to our lives. 1. A clear love to glorify God the Father and serve Him. 2. A concern for God's disciples, the church. Remember Jesus died because He deeply cares about us! This prayer by Jesus Christ, needs to thrust us toward: 1. Glorifying God with our lives, and 2. Serving in the Church, His means of our growth towards His glory. We see in this passage two persons of the trinity, God the Father, and God the Son. We also see that Jesus models a dependency to communicate with God the Father through prayer. Take note, prayer is the most underutilized spiritual discipline that believers have the privilege of partaking in. Why? Satan may not be able to take away our salvation, but he can busy us, detract us, paralyze us enough to make us spiritually weak. We get to access God 24/7, so do it!

A Prayer to Glorify Both God the Father and God the Son (John 17:1-5) May this be our daily prayer, "God I want to make much of you, I want to bring you glory today!" I believe God honors this prayer. We see this happen in Acts 4:31: ***"And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness."***

- a. God is glorified by us sharing the gospel (vv. 2-3)
- b. God is glorified by us serving Him with our lives (v. 4) If you are ever wondering what on earth you were put on this planet to do, the answer is clearly found in the Great Commission. If you can be great at one thing, be great at making disciples! It takes your availability and God's authority in order for anyone to become a disciple of Jesus Christ.

A Prayer for God's Given Disciples (John 17:6-9) Do you pray for your lost friends and family members? I want to challenge you to make a list of unsaved people. Pray specifically that they would be given to God through a saving relationship with Jesus Christ! EM Bounds said, "How can we talk to men about God when we haven't talked to God about men." This prayer is for those disciples on that day as well as us some 2000 years later! You were and are prayed for! This prayer is also a great reminder for us to pray for the saints, believers, those who are given to God. Paul reminds us of this in Ephesians 6:18-19 during the Spiritual Armor speech. ***"Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints. Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel."*** The greatest gift a believer can give another believer is prayer!

A Prayer to Guard God's Disciples (John 17:10-16) We don't have eyes to see the spiritual realm, of angels and demons fighting over us. If we did, we'd take eternal matters more

seriously. The prayer of Jesus here for all believers to be guarded and protected from evil is real. We are to engage in this prayer daily. Listen to David's prayer recorded in 2 Samuel 22:3-4: ***"my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies."*** I challenge you to look around. Take a moment to pray for one another. Pray for those who haven't been in a while. Call and check on them. Pray for God's protection, that we grow in Him. That we will not grow weary, but endure for the gospel.

A Prayer to Guide God's Disciples (John 17:17-19) The best way to be guided is stated in verse 17 "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." Sin will keep us from the Word, but the Word will keep us from sin. Most churchgoers remember Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

When most of us think of a modeled prayer, we think of the Lord's Prayer recorded in Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:1-4 used to teach us about praying. Here is another simple reminder of what to pray for from Jesus himself. Make this prayer apply to you and your context. "Lord help me glorify you, bless those that have given their lives to you, guard us and guide us for your glory!"