

Jesus' prayer for believers

Knowing God

John 17:1-5

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³ Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

1) Jesus' final hours

- John 17:1 Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.
- These Jesus' final hours prior to His arrest and subsequently His crucifixion.
 - This prayer portrays the heart of who He was and what He came to do
 - He summed up His relationship with His Father, His disciples and all other believers, and His wishes for them
- The hour has come – God does everything according to His perfect time
 - Galatians 4:4-5 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.
 - Romans 5:6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.
 - John 12:23-27 Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.
“Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.
- There were about 420 years of silence in Israel between Malachi and Jesus
 - This was about the same length of time that the Israelites were in slavery in Egypt before God sent them a deliverer – Moses
 - Exodus 12:40-41 Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years. At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the LORD's divisions left Egypt.
- We can only imagine the patience that the Israelites endured waiting to hear from God and for Him to do something in their trials
- It is easy to say that we know God when life is good and easy, but the true test of how much we know Him is when life is difficult and we have to wait for Him to answer us in our distresses.
- Hardships have different effects on people's attitudes towards God
 - Some turn away from God and become bitter and cynical
 - Others turn to God and they draw their strength from Him as they get to know Him, His character, and His ways
- In the hour of His greatest trial Jesus asked for the Father to glorify Him with purpose of giving glory back to the Father
 - Jesus knew the Father and knowing the Father and accepting His perfect timing He could rest in God's perfect will for His life, even dying on a cross for a lost humanity

2) Of greatest importance – knowing God

- John 17:2-3 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.
- So often we talk about eternal life that's a gift given to believers that we'll one day receive after we die
 - Jesus makes it clear that eternal life is not something given apart from God the Father and Himself who came to reveal the Father to us
 - Matthew 11:27 All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.
- We are completely at the mercy of God as it's Jesus' prerogative to whom he'll reveal the Father, and the Father's prerogative to whom He gives to Jesus to give eternal life to
- Knowing God starts and ends with God and not with ourselves
 - It is His mercy that He doesn't overlook us
 - It is His grace that He receives us and grants us eternal life in Himself
- We only know the Father through Jesus the Son
 - It isn't a knowing about God that please Him, but knowing Him personally and intimately
 - Jeremiah 9:23-24 Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."
 - Philippians 3:10-11 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.
- We know that we know God when we are transformed into His character
 - 1 John 4:6-8 We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.
Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.
- We know that we don't know God because there hasn't been any change in our life and we continue living as before even if we say that we've been saved
 - 1 John 3:6 No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

3) Putting on eternal glory

- John 17:4-5 I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.
- Philippians 2:5-7 Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.
- What we see here is Jesus being God who put aside His deity and glory temporarily and to take it up again at His resurrection
- For the believer, this is an indication of putting off the old life of the flesh and putting on our new life in Christ
 - Romans 13:14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.
 - Colossians 3:12-14 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.