

### *Our Lord's Prayer*

What we are entering into is most commonly called the high priestly prayer. This is a prayer from God the Son to God the Father. It took place during the upper room discourse. John 17 truly is the Lord's prayer.

**JESUS BEGAN THIS PRAYER FOCUSING ON THE GLORY THAT HE DESERVED IN LIGHT OF THE GLORY HE HAD GIVEN THE FATHER.**

In this text, we see an initial request, followed by 6 reasons for the request, and then the ultimate request.

**The Initial Request** - Jesus asks the Father to glorify the Son. **17:1**

Jesus' hour culminated on the cross, but we could say that the cross was the means by which Jesus would be forever and eternally glorified. It was the work on the cross that allowed Him to rise from the grave, to ascend to heaven, and to be given the name above every name.

Jesus was saying, "Father, put me on that cross, because that cross is my route to glory."

6 reasons are given for why Jesus should be glorified.

**(Reason #1)** - So that the Son may glorify the Father. **17:1**

God is in the business of bringing Himself glory. The sooner we come to terms with this the better.

**(Reason #2)** - The Father had given all people under the authority of the Son. **17:2**

Jesus has authority over every single person. That is a Biblical truth. Jesus has rank, power, reign, and rule over everyone. There will come a day where everyone will stand before Jesus.

**(Reason #3)** - The Father had given the Son the power to give eternal life. **17:2**

Jesus is the giver of eternal life. He has proven that fact by rising from the dead.

**(Reason #4)** - The Father had gifted certain people to the Son for the purpose of eternal life. **17:2**

We cannot deny the fact that out of the world of people, God the Father has selected certain people to give to Jesus as a gift.

In what way does Jesus have power and authority to give eternal life?

Here is how I will describe it. It's like God the Father has told the Son, "I have given you to be judge over all people. And we know all people have sinned, and you're the judge of those people. But, among all people, here is a group of people I have selected that I want to give to you, and I am giving you the freedom to give eternal life to these people."

Jesus could have said, "thank You for giving me these people, but they're evil, sinful people, and as judge, I am going to see to it that everyone goes to condemnation because that is what they deserve." Jesus had the ability to do that, but Jesus chose to take those people whom the Father had given Him, and bring them into a right relationship with The Father. In doing that, Jesus remained consistent with the character of God and promises of God. God does not deny Himself, does not lie, and does not go back on His word. God said that salvation would be declared among the nations, and Jesus was not going to turn His back on what God had previously promised.

Jesus did not say, "I will give these selected people eternal life by dying for them." That would be what is called limited atonement. I don't think limited atonement is taught in the Bible. I believe unlimited atonement is Biblical. I believe Jesus died for everyone, but for those who were selected as a gift to the Son by the Father, Jesus saved by not only dying for them but also by bringing them to a knowledge of Himself, a knowledge of His work on the cross, and a knowledge of God the Father. This is all done through childlike faith in the Person and work of Jesus.

A good question to ask at this point is: What does eternal life mean?

**(Parenthetical Explanation of Eternal Life)** - To know the one true God, and Jesus Christ. **17:3**

S. Lewis Johnson noted that this word indicated more than intellectual knowledge, but it is intellectual and experiential - that you know God by personal relationship.

Eternal life is more than intellectually knowing there is only one true God. It is experientially knowing that true God.

How do you get to know God? Well, we cannot separate the second half of verse 3 from the first. God the Father sent Jesus the Son so that the Son could bring you to the Father. You cannot know God unless you know Jesus. You cannot be brought to God unless you go through Jesus. Your knowledge of God the Father rests upon your knowledge of Jesus. No one comes to the Father but by Jesus. Jesus must bring you to a knowledge of the Father. You have to know Jesus.

How does one come to know Jesus? By Faith. Believe. (1 John 5:11-13; 20)

Eternal life is more than living forever. It's more than eternal duration. Eternal life is quality of life as God intended it.

**(Reason #5)** - The Son had glorified the Father during His time on earth. **17:4**

What was Jesus' focus on earth? The glory of God.

**(Reason #6)** - The Son had perfectly accomplished the work set before Him. **17:4**

Jesus lived the perfect life. He was born under the Law of Moses. He fulfilled that Law. He never transgressed the Law. He never sinned. He alone has lived the perfect life. God gave Him a mission and He did not fail. He deserves the glory. It's no wonder that Jesus was able to say what He said in verse 5.

**The Ultimate Request** - Restore the Son to His rightful Glory in the very presence of the Father. **17:5**

What Jesus said here is described in detail by the apostle Paul in Philippians 2:5-11. By the time Paul wrote the letter to the Philippians, Jesus' prayer had been answered.

Application: If Jesus is in the business of making much of the glory of God and He lives in you, what should you be in the business of?