

### ***Our Lord's Prayer for Believers***

Romans 8 tells us that Jesus, who is at the right hand of God, is indeed interceding for us, and Hebrews 7 tells us that Jesus always lives to make intercession for the saved. Jesus intervenes on our behalf.

That means Jesus prays for us. Jesus prays to the Father on behalf of believers. That is one of the many current ministry roles of Jesus. And in John 17, we get a taste of what kind of prayers Jesus offers up for his own.

#### **CHRISTIANS HAVE A PRAYER WARRIOR IN JESUS.**

What does Jesus pray about?

I want to point out 4 prayer requests Jesus made on behalf of Christians.

**Question** - Who exactly does Jesus pray for? **17:6-10**

Who does Jesus consider to be a true Christian? What classifies someone as actually being a Christian?

Jesus gives 4 realities regarding His take on who is truly a Christian.

- (True Christian Reality #1) - A true Christian is one who is given out of the world by God the Father to Jesus the Son. **17:6**
- (True Christian Reality #2) - A true Christian has received the words of Jesus. **17:7-8**
- (True Christian Reality #3) - A true Christian has come to know (understand) that Jesus is of God. **17:8**
- (True Christian Reality #4) - A true Christian has believed that Jesus has been sent by God the Father to save sinners from God's wrath. **17:8-9**

If we continue to read the New Testament, we will discover the Bible is clear on this: a true Christian is a person who has heard the message of Jesus, heard the words of Jesus, received those words, understood the implications of those words, and then has believed in Jesus. This is the person who has been given by the Father to the Son as a gift.

**Prayer Request #1** - Protection - that God would keep them in His name. **17:11-16**

Jesus is interested in the Father keeping you in His name - Guarding you, protecting you, and preserving you. Jesus is interested in God the Father keeping you under His care. That is what Jesus has prayed for - That God keeps hold of Christians so that they remain in His name.

What exactly does that mean? What is meant when Jesus says "in your name, which you have given me?" Well, the name of God the Father is the character and quality of who God is, and as Jesus was living life as a man on earth, Jesus was revealing the character, quality, and nature of God the Father in the man Christ Jesus. Jesus came to reveal God to this world (Col 1:19; 2:9; John 1:18).

Jesus mentioned some results that come from God caring for His own to that degree. #1 - Unity. #2 - Joy. #3 - protection from evil.

**Prayer Request #2** - Sanctification - that God would make them holy by His Word. **17:17-19**

What does sanctify mean? Sanctify, saint, consecrate, and holy all have the same root meaning, and that is: to be set apart. To get more specific, it means to be set apart by God for God's purposes. A Christian is one who God has set apart from the world for Himself.

What Jesus is referring to here would be progressive sanctification. The disciples were already set apart from their penalty of sin by faith in Jesus, but now Jesus is asking that they would be set apart from the power of sin in their daily lives.

How does this happen? The Word of God.

The Bible stands set apart from all other religious teachings, and I believe it alone contains the truth that sets a person free. The word of God, the Bible, is so critical.

**Prayer Request #3 - Unity - that they would be connected together in Christ. 17:20-23**

Not only is Jesus praying for His 11 believing disciples, but He is praying for all the people who will believe in Jesus through their word. That's us. That is you, if you have believed in Jesus. And we note, once again, it's about faith in the Person of Jesus. That is the hinge point of salvation.

Jesus' prayer is that believers would all be connected to one another by our connection to God.

And as the world looks on and sees this unique, strange, interconnected group of heavenly people, the world would be drawn to faith in Jesus.

Jesus is not here physically on this earth to display the glory of God, but He has put His Holy Spirit in each and every believer to shine His glory through us.

The world can actually look at a Christian and know that Jesus was sent from the Father, and the Father is a God of love. And it's not just one Christian the world should look at, it ought to be the theme of every Christian.

**Prayer Request #4 - Glorification - that they would see Jesus in all His heavenly glory. 17:24-26**

If you are doubting the security of your salvation, just know that Jesus has prayed for believers to get to come to glory and see Jesus' full glory in heaven. Jesus possessed the glory of God before creation, but upon coming to this earth, His glory was set aside. After His work on the cross and ascending to the Father, God has magnified His glory to a point where people will one day be with Him in heaven to behold His glory and have fellowship with Him.

Christians have a prayer warrior in Jesus. He has prayed for our protection, our sanctification, our unity, and our glorification.

And in light of what Jesus has prayed for regarding you, I would urge you, ask God to answer Jesus' prayer in your life.