

Title: When God Prays

John 17:1–5 NKJV - "Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. **Glorify** Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give **eternal life** to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may **know** You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have **finished the work** which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the **glory which I had** with You before the world was."

INTRO:

- Well, the Christmas season is here. Meaning everyone is going into the Christmas shopping, gift-giving mindset of the year. You're making a list and checking it twice, you're paying a bit extra for the shipping to make sure it gets on time, or you're mentally preparing yourself for the insanity of a trip to the mall.
- **However, gift giving is sometimes stressful. Just ask my brother. Someone once asked him what gift they should get me and his response was just a gift card, and when they said that oh but it's so impersonal, he said and I quote "Ben is the worse person to get gifts for". He then said that the problem is 1) He's very practical when it comes to the gifts he likes and 2) You run the risk of getting it for him twice because he likely has already bought it for himself. I asked him about it and he gave this example "Like if I was planning on buying you a Star Wars book, I'll notice through talking with you or someone else that you already bought it". So I wasn't aware that getting me gifts was so stressful...**
- **But turns out I'm not the only person! I found this list by a man by the name of Herd Foster from New York. He submitted this little piece to the Reader's Digest, the things not to buy your wife.**
 - **Don't buy anything that plugs in. -- Anything that requires electricity is seen as utilitarian.**
 - **Don't buy clothing that involves sizes. -- The chances are one in 7,000 that you will get her size right, and your wife will be offended the other 6,999 times. "Do I look like a size 16?," she'll say. Too small a size doesn't cut it either. "I haven't worn a size 8 in twenty years!"**
 - **Avoid all things useful. -- The new silver polish advertised to save hundreds of hours is not going to win you any brownie points.**
 - **Don't buy anything involving weight loss or self-improvement. -- She'll perceive a six month membership to a diet center as a suggestion that she's overweight.**
 - **Don't buy jewelry. -- The jewelry your wife wants, you can't afford. And the jewelry you can afford, she doesn't want.**
 - **Don't spend too much. -- "How do you think we're going to afford that?" she'll ask.**
 - **Don't spend too little. -- "Is that all I'm worth to you?"**
- **American Express released a poll several years ago about gift giving and this is what they found:**
 - **According to American Express survey: the worst gift is fruitcake**
 - **It was higher than the category "Not getting a gift at all!"**
 - **What people do with unwanted gifts:**
 - **30%: hide it in the closet**
 - **21%: return it**
 - **19%: give it away (so that's why the fruit cakes keep coming up!)**
- Thankfully, God isn't like that. God always knows the perfect gift to give and the perfect timing for the gift, and as we continue through our series "The Greatest Prayer", today you are

going to learn that you and I, as Christians, are gifts from the Father to the Son. But before we look at that let's recap real quick from where we've been.

Recap:

- I. Jesus prays for HIMSELF(v.1-5)
- II. Jesus prays for HIS DISCIPLES(v.6-18)
- III. Jesus prays for HIS CHURCH(v.19-26)

John 17:1-5 Jesus prays for Himself, concerning **5 main things:**

1. His Glorification
2. His Salvation
3. His Relation
4. His Completion
5. His Restoration

- His GLORIFICATION - the Cross

(“God’s GREAT Glory?!”)

- “Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You..”

- His SALVATION - the Christians

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- “..as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.”
- “.. given Him authority over all flesh..”
 - Jesus Christ has been given ALL authority over mankind, now and into eternity
 - Do YOU recognize Jesus’ authority over YOUR life?
Do YOU give Him His proper recognition in your life?

MESSAGE


- So today we're going to continue this verse here and work our way through it. The first thing I want you to notice is what Jesus prays here.
 - John 17:2 "as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him." - NKJV
 - John 17:2 "For you have given him authority over everyone. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him." - NLT
 - Notice the emphasis on giving in this verse. Jesus gives eternal life, but to who? to those the Father has given Him.
 - Christian, you are the gift of love from God the Father to God the Son...Jesus is praying for His SALVATION. The Salvation He is going to offer to all mankind, but

in that prayer He acknowledges the gift the Father has given Him, of those whom He will bring to salvation.

- There are many scriptures that talk about God choosing us from the foundations of the world.
 - ***“..as You have given Him.”***
 - **Ephesians 1:4 (NKJV): “..He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world..”**
 - **John 15:16 (NKJV): “You did not choose Me, but I chose you..”**
 - **John 6:70–71 (NKJV): “Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?” He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.”**
 - However, the Bible also teaches that we need to make the choice to come to the Lord. That God, as an act of love, has given us the ability to choose for ourselves.
 - **John 3:15-16 NKJV - “that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”**
 - **John 3:36 NKJV “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”**
 - **Acts 2:28 NKJV “Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”**
 - **Revelation 22:17 NKJV “And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”**
 - **Mark 8:34 NKJV “When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”**
 - Do wait, does God choose us, or do we choose Him? The answer is yes. the Bible teaches both!
 - We have been **CHOSEN** by the Father, but we are free to **CHOOSE** Him if we want...
 - Now, these two concepts sound contradictory, and it has caused a lot of problems in the church. Specifically the two warring factions of Calvinism and Arminianism. Calvinism exalts God's choice. Arminianism exalts man's choice. The problem is they are both wrong because they reject the other side. The Bible truly does teach both ideas.
 - So how do we reconcile them?
 - Here's one answer, the fact that God is omniscient and has foreknowledge...well what does that mean? It means God knows everything including the future.
 - Now bear with me because we're going to get into some big ideas here, I know it's Sunday, but you guys are smart. God knows everything, including the future. So could it be that perhaps God knew under what circumstances you would willingly choose Him? He knew that if you walked into this room, on this

date, at this time, you would encounter someone who'd tell you about Jesus and you would choose to follow Him. So then He ensured that those circumstances happened, choosing you based on His future knowledge, while still not taking away from you the ability to make a real choice.

- **"God may give the gift of repentance, but He won't repent for someone – they must do it. God may draw a person, but they still must come. At some point, human response – faith; trusting in, relying on, clinging to Jesus – is essential." - David Guzik**

▪ Here's another way to see it **Captain of a cruise ship**  **filled with thousands of passengers...**

▪ Here's another way to answer it...it's a mystery. Perhaps it's really as simple as the fact that our finite human minds cannot comprehend these two truths on this side of eternity. But God, who is infinite, and so much smarter and greater, does. See it takes faith. It takes faith to admit the Bible teaches both of these things, and that we can't really comprehend it entirely. But that's part of the Christian life is it not? Understanding that God has information and knowledge I don't, and that these might seem contradictory to me, but on His side of the equation, He holds a piece that makes it all fit together.

- **"The Father gave His Son the authority to give eternal life to those whom the Father gave to the Son. From the human viewpoint, we receive the gift of eternal life when we believe on Jesus Christ. But from the divine viewpoint, we have already been given to the Son in divine election. This is a mystery that the human mind cannot fully understand or explain; we must accept it by faith." - Warren Wiersbe**

▪ Let me make it this simple then, you should make the decision to choose Jesus, then you'll realize He's also chosen you. Then rest in the fact that He chose you. Don't complicate your life. Choose Jesus, and rejoice that He also chose you. Walk with Him daily, and make choose to daily make Him the Lord and Master of your life. The rest of it, leave it up to Him.

▪ ***"..eternal life.."***

▪ *These are the Greek words "aionios" and "zoe" which mean 'spiritual life that last for the eons and eons of time'*

▪ *Eternal life is a **QUANTITY** of life, but even more so a **QUALITY** of life! (Jn 10:10 - *"..life... abundant life."*)*

▪ *One aspect of this "eternal life" is **SALVATION**...*

▪ *Another aspect of this "eternal life" is **SATISFACTION**...*

▪ **Psalm 23:1 NLT - "The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need."**

▪ **Philippians 4:19 NKJV - "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."**

▪ What about you? To many Christians are experiencing the salvation, but not the satisfaction. Jesus is not promising a

life free from pain and suffering. But He is promising that in Him you can have a life of meaning, of purpose, of contentment and joy in the midst of the suffering. I want to encourage you, read Ephesians and Philippians. See the riches and identity you have in Christ, and learn about the joy that is available to believers.

- The Christian life is more than just salvation, it is more than just "I'm not going to hell". It is far more deeper, far more wondrous, far more beautiful, far more purposeful. It gives life meaning and wonder. It brings hope and joy. It fills us with courage and passion. It transforms us into what the Lord meant for us to be.
- This eternal life (sal/sat) is **ONLY** found/enjoyed in Jesus Christ... not Buddha, Allah, or in any sinful pleasure/pursuit!!
 - **John 4:13–14 (NKJV): “Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst.”**
 - I was saved at 16...I lacked satisfaction in life, seeking it in ways that were empty...I refuse to go back now after walking with Jesus for 14 years. There's nothing out there that will satisfy.
 - To many of you live unsatisfied lives because you aren't looking to Jesus, but to a relationship, to a job, to finances, to thrills. Those will last but a season. Jesus is the only way to find true satisfaction. And you must remain there. If you stop drinking from His well and seek another, you will find yourself unsatisfied again. Remain in Jesus and drink of the only water that satisfies.
 - INVITATION: If you have never truly put your faith in Jesus, do so today. If you feel unsatisfied and are tired of drinking from empty wells, choose Him today. Choose Him today, and then realize He's chosen you! Receive the gift Jesus offers, and become a gift for Jesus....