

the gospel of

JOHN

all intents and purposes

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 4: CERTAINTY IN GOD'S GLORY

Read the Text

John 17:1-5

1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, 2 since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. 4 I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. 5 And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

Main Point

This passage is the first part of Jesus' High Priestly Prayer. We see Jesus engage the Father directly in prayer as He prays for Himself and His glorification. An unsurprising yet striking part of this prayer is the confidence in which Jesus prays it. From Jesus' certainty about His own authority, we learn that ***the glorification of God should produce certainty in us about our status with the Father.*** Through Jesus, we have eternal life. It's that simple. Our response to this truth can sometimes produce fear where we doubt our own salvation. It can also produce over-confidence where we take our salvation for granted and presume upon God's grace and don't experience true heart change. ***Whether we fall***

into fear or over-confidence, God is inviting us to move to a place of certainty of where we stand with Him. All we need to do is have faith in Jesus. That's it. How do we know if our faith is genuine though? *A good indication of true faith is if our lives produce fruit, we confess our sin, believe in the credibility of Jesus and His word, engage in regular prayer, and celebrate evidences of God's grace.*

Reflect Together

1. **Who is God?** God the Father and Jesus are perfectly glorified. Jesus has all authority and gives us eternal life. What does that mean to you? How are you able to fathom these truths?
2. **What has He done?:** To inherit eternal life, all we need to do is have faith in Jesus and what He has done for us. That's it. How does the simplicity and gravity of this truth impact you?
3. **Who are you?:** Seeing God's glory often produces one of two responses in our hearts: fear where we doubt our salvation; or over-confidence where we take our salvation for granted. We can vacillate between these two responses. Where do you find yourself falling on the spectrum of fear and overconfidence?
4. **What are you to do?:** We talked about how following Jesus will lead to fruitful lives, confession of sin, trust in Jesus and His word, prayer, and celebration of God's grace. Which one of these areas do you struggle with, and how would you like to grow in it?

Abide Together

Pray as a group over what came up during your discussion. Take time to glorify Him together and praise Him for Jesus' work on the cross.

Mission Together

Who in your life needs to be told or reminded of Jesus' offering of eternal life? What's a step you can take to share the Gospel with that person?