

“The Time Has Come To Pray (Part 2)”

The prayer that Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane before His arrest and crucifixion is recorded in John 17. Jesus’ prayer is divided into three sections: a) in Section 1, 17:1-5, Jesus prays for Himself; b) in Section 2, 17:6-19, Jesus prays for His disciples; c) in Section 3, 17:20-26, Jesus prays for all believers. Today we will focus on Section 1, where Jesus prays for Himself in John 17:1-5: *“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, ² as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴ I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵ And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.’”*

There are three lessons we can learn from this passage of Scripture. **First, when we come down to the end of our lives, we should most certainly find our refuge and strength from our Heavenly Father.** This was the last night of Jesus’ life, and He found refuge and strength from His close relationship with His Father. Knowing that death was near Jesus turned to the Father for strength and support. What a privilege it is to fall into our Father’s arms of love! The **second** lesson we should learn from this passage of Scripture, is that **our main goal in life is to glorify God.** In 17:4 Jesus indicated that He brought glory to God *by completing the work God gave Him to do.* We, too, can bring glory to God by serving the Lord in some area(s) of ministry and service. God has something for everyone. Sometimes our gifts and passions match perfectly with our ministry assignments. At other times, we simply respond because there’s a need, even if we feel unqualified. Always remember: *God doesn’t call the qualified, He qualifies the called.* In whatever area(s) you get involved in service for the Lord, do it as unto the Lord and depend upon the ability which God gives. The **third** lesson we learn from this passage is that **there’s only one way to eternal life.** Jesus said in 17:3: *“Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.”* The Gospel truth is that the road is narrow and there’s only One Way to the Father → through Jesus Christ. Knowing God and Jesus is more than just head knowledge, it’s an ever-growing knowledge that comes by experience in our daily walk.

Discussion Guide/Action Steps

1. Turn to God in prayer for strength and support when trouble is near.
2. What areas of service match your gifts and passions?
3. Is there some area of need in the church or community that you need to step into as a volunteer?
4. Know God and grow closer to Him each day.