**Five Themes in the Lord’s Prayer**

*John 17*

**Introduction**

1. **John 17** contains the longest recorded prayer of our Lord. It is truly “the Lord’s prayer,” in contrast to His model supplied to the disciples (**cf. Matthew 6:8-15**). It is only a prayer which He could utter.
2. Following His final talk given to His disciples before ***“going away [to the Father]” (John 14:28***), Jesus offers up this prayer of consecration:
	1. ***“And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.” (v. 19, ESV)***
	2. **For Jesus** – consecrated to the finality of the salvific work He was sent to accomplish; **For the apostles** – consecrated to the continuation of Jesus’ work in the gospel after His ascension; **For all believers** – consecrated to the fulfillment of the Father’s plan to bring Him glory through His Son.
	3. **(vv. 1-5)** – prayer concerning Himself, that having accomplished His work on earth, God would restore His preincarnate glory so He could conclude the Father’s plan from heaven; **(vv. 6-19)** – prayer for the apostles, that as they were left in the world without His physical presence that they would be united, and set apart by the truth to bring others to Christ; **(vv. 20-26)** – prayer for all believers, that they would be united as the Father and the Son, and united with them, to one day see and participate in their glory.
3. This prayer was spoken in such a way to be heard by His apostles (**cf. John 11:41-42**).
	1. One has said it is “at once a prayer, and a profession, and a revelation.”
	2. In it we find profound and important truths concerning the purpose of Christ’s work according to the Father’s plan, and the deep meanings of fellowship with God through Christ, and thus, eternal life.
4. Glory
5. The prayer begins **(vv. 1-5)** and ends **(vv. 22-26)** with considerations of glory.
	1. *Doxa* (N) – 3x; *Doxazō* (V) – 5x
6. Glory of the Father and the Son **(vv. 1-5)**
	1. **(v. 5)** – prayer for restored eternal, heavenly glory.
		1. Before – **John 1:1-2** – with God.
		2. Left – **John 3:13; 6:33** – came down from heaven.
	2. **(v. 22)** – glory given Him – on earth.
		1. Ultimately, of His work in revealing the Father, and the exclusive position/ability to do so – **John 1:14, 18; 5:22-27; 14:6**
		2. In doing His Father’s will – **John 5:41-44; 7:18**
			1. In glorifying the Father, the Father is glorifying Him – **John 13:31-32**
			2. ***“For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’” (2 Peter 1:17).***
			3. **(v. 4)** – He has accomplished the glorification of God on earth – determined – it’s as good as done – sacrifice.
	3. **(v. 1)** – requested glory is instrumental in returned glory to the Father.
		1. **(vv. 2-3)** – the consummation of His work in bringing God glory is through the giving of eternal life – THIS REQUIRES HIS RESTORED GLORY (ASCENSION).
			1. **John 16:7, 12-15** – must ascend to send the Helper that salvation might be finally proclaimed. **(cf. John 7:16, 18)**
			2. **(v. 3)** – then they can know the Father through Jesus.
7. Glory of Believers **(vv. 22-26)**
	1. **(vv. 1-3)** – God is glorified in the salvation we have received from the authority of Jesus.
		1. To His glory – **Ephesians 1:6, 12**
	2. **(vv. 20, 22)** – the salvation given is to the glory of God, but those receiving salvation are given glory.
		1. The same that was given the Son – NAMELY, THE INSTRUMENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN CARRYING OUT THE FATHER’S WILL.
		2. **(vv. 6, 8, 10)** – apostles – Jesus revealed God, they believed and kept His word, in doing so glorified Jesus (and God) – but such was a reception of glory as well (as when Jesus did God’s will).
		3. **2 Corinthians 3:18; 4:6, 12, 16** – through their work we are given glory too, but this all goes to God’s glory
		4. **Ephesians 3:16, 20-21** – the church, filled and glorified by Christ, brings glory to the Father.
	3. **(v. 24)** – ultimate aim to which this leads is the participation in the glories of heaven – seeing God.
		1. Our glorified state in the end is still to His glory – **Ephesians 1:14; 2 Thessalonians 1:10**
8. Election
9. Election – **1 Peter 1:1-2** – including sanctification by Spirit’s teaching, and obedience, and applied blood of Christ.
	1. Not individual, but regarding the class of those – any people can be a part of – participate in such activity.
	2. Called, chosen, faithful – **Revelation 17:14 (cf. Matthew 22:14)**
10. Concerning the Apostles
	1. **(vv. 6-9, 11-12)** – Jesus speaks of them as having been given Him from the Father.
	2. In what way were they given?
		1. **(vv. 6-9)** – Jesus manifested God to them through proclaiming the word God gave Him, they received it, and believed, and kept the word.
		2. John, Andrew, and Peter – **John 1:35-42** – taught by John in prep to receive Christ, taught by Christ, follow Christ.
		3. Philip and Nathanael – **John 1:43-49** – called by Jesus, followed, taught, believed, Nathanael investigated, believed.
		4. **John 1:50-51** – representative of the communication of heaven to earth concerning the revelation of God in the Man Jesus. (**cf. John 14:9-11**)
	3. What about Judas Iscariot? – **(vv. 6, 12)** – He did not keep Jesus’ word.
		1. **John 13:2, 27** – He let Satan in through avarice, and did not keep Jesus’ word though he had opportunity.
		2. When Mary anointed Jesus’ feet with costly oil – **John 12:4-6** – Judas’ heart was not right and primed for betrayal of Jesus.
	4. They were called by Jesus and made the decision to follow Him faithfully – **John 15:3-4** – to continue to abide in Him.
11. Concerning All Believers
	1. **(v. 24)** – speaks of them as those the Father has given Him.
	2. How?
		1. **(v. 20)** – they heard, received, and believed Christ’s word through the apostles.
		2. **John 6:37, 44-45** – father gives, they come, no one comes unless drawn by Father, heard and learn from Father then come to Jesus.
	3. God wants all to be saved, but only those who believe and obey are elected – **John 1:11-13**
12. Unity
13. Jesus’ Revelation of the Father Demonstrates Their Unity
	1. **(vv. 7-8)** – They realized what Jesus taught came from God, and His doctrine was one with the Father’s.
	2. **John 6:41-42, 62-63, 67-69** – they accepted that Jesus was sent by God and had the words of life from the Father.
	3. **(vv. 10-11)** – they were to be kept through God’s name upon Jesus’ departure to be unified as God and Jesus are.
	4. **John 14:19-21** – He had told them when He ascends and sends the Spirit they will fully realize this unity between Him and the Father, and would likewise be united with them.
		1. **This is through the keeping of His word/commandments.**
14. Believers are to be United Together with the Father and the Son
	1. **(vv. 20-23)** – by believing in the apostolic doctrine (Christ’s word, God’s word), they are united together, and with the Father and Jesus.
		1. United as the Father and Son – mind, will, affection, etc.
	2. **(v. 22)** – the glory given them unites them – as they partake in that glory through faithful obedience, they are united in the Spirit. (**cf. Philippians 1:27** – one spirit, one mind, striving for gospel)
	3. **This Is not a unity in diversity because the unity between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is not one of diversity.**
15. Sanctification
16. “Prayer of consecration” – **(v. 19)** – Jesus’ sanctification was necessary for the Apostles' sanctification, and all believers.
	1. Negative – set apart from sin – qualified as necessary sacrifice.
	2. Positive – set apart for God’s will – dedicated to God’s service.
	3. Apostles/disciples:
		1. Negative – set apart from sin – purified and separated from world.
		2. Positive – set apart for God’s will – prepared and devoted for God’s service.
17. How does God sanctify us?
	1. How does God keep us pure, separated from sin?
	2. How does God keep us ordered and prepared and devoted for His service?
	3. **(vv. 11-12a)** – Jesus is to depart, they are to remain in the world, and as He kept them by the Father’s name, He requests the Father do the same when He leaves.
		1. Name – **(v. 6)** – the revelation of who the Father is – nature, character, attributes.
	4. **(vv. 14-19)** – the word Jesus gave them has made them different from the world in which they remain – hated – continually kept separate from the evil in the world through the word of truth.
		1. They must be in the world – to do their work.
		2. They cannot be of the world.
		3. The truth keeps them from being part of the world while being in the world.
			1. Negative – separate from sin through righteous instruction.
			2. Positive – devoted to God’s service through preparation by the word.
	5. **Cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15** – sanctified by Spirit/truth, obtaining of glory (now – service; future – redeemed body), holding Divine traditions – as sanctified to do. (**cf. Hebrews 9:14** – purified to serve)
18. Evangelism
19. Apostles **(vv. 17-19)**
	1. Jesus is sending them into the world – there is an active role among the world that is apparent.
		1. Jesus was sent into the world – **Luke 19:10** – to seek and save lost.
	2. To bear fruit – **John 15:8**
	3. To bear witness of Jesus – **John 15:26-27; 16:8-11** – convict the world.
	4. **Matthew 28:18-20** – they were to make disciples.
20. All Believers (**vv. 20-23**)
	1. **(v. 20)** – the apostles’ work finds success – many will believe.
	2. **(v. 21)** – in believing, they will unite in Christ and God, and through their unity together, and with Christ and God the world comes to belief in Jesus.
	3. **(vv. 22-23)** – as they are transformed, and grow in unity, the world will know Jesus through them.
	4. TRUE FAITH SPREADS GOD’S WORD, PRODUCING FAITH IN OTHERS – This is God’s will, and a large part of Jesus’ focus in His prayer – **(vv. 1-3)**

**Conclusion**

1. This prayer represents Jesus’ innermost thoughts, concerns, and desires in the moments leading to His death on the cross.
2. This is what He prayed for, and it is of great importance.
3. We should make His focus our own, and pray that God would be glorified in us as we take on Christ’s glorious image, that we would remain His own, that we would be united together with Him, and would be separate from the world in dedication to God’s will, and that we would reach out to others to bring them into this sacred and blessed relationship with God through Jesus.