

A Glimpse into the Heart of Jesus

John 17:1-5

What a person prays for reveals their priorities. It provides a glimpse into what they value and hold most dear. John 17 provides a glimpse into the heart of Jesus. In this chapter, Jesus prays for himself (1-5), his disciples (6-19), and for future believers (20-26). **The main theme of Jesus' prayer is his desire for the Father's glory and the disciples' welfare.**

The way the prayer begins (17:1) and ends (18:1) links it to the Upper Room Discourse (John 13-17). It indicates that Jesus most likely prayed it in the upper room before he entered the Garden of Gethsemane.

The prayer provides a glimpse into the heart of Jesus as well as a foretaste of his intercessory ministry.

After teaching the disciples, Jesus addresses his Father in prayer (1).

Prayer can be offered in a variety of postures—standing, sitting, kneeling, lying prostrate, eyes open, eyes closed, hands folded, hands raised, etc. Raising his eyes to heaven symbolized Jesus' full attention on God as well as his reverence for and confidence in God.

Addressing God as Father emphasizes the intimate, personal relationship that Jesus enjoyed with the Father.

Jesus' prayer is purpose driven, not self-oriented. His primary request was for God's glory. **Jesus asked God to glorify him so that he could glorify the Father.** This showed his commitment to do the Father's will, even to the point of dying on the cross.

"The deepest passion of the heart of Jesus was not the saving of men, but the glory of God; and then the saving of men, because that is for the glory of God." G. Campbell Morgan

The Father glorified the Son by giving him the authority to give eternal life to all those whom the Father had given to the Son (2). This authority was granted before creation (Psalm 2:8) and extends over all creation (Matthew 28:18). The Son has authority to judge (5:27), to take up his life (10:18), and to give eternal life.

Eternal life is not defined in terms of time, but in terms of relationship (3). Eternal life is essentially to know God experientially through faith in Jesus Christ, his Son.

The Father is the only true God, in contrast to many idols and so-called gods in this world.

Jesus glorified the Father by accomplishing the work that the Father had given him to do (4).

Jesus asks the Father to glorify him with the glory that he had in heaven (5).

Principles to Practice

Pray that you will finish well, that you will finish the task God has given you to do.

Pray that you will grow in your knowledge of and love for God.

Pray that you will glorify God in and through your life.

Pray that you will keep God's glory as your first priority in every endeavor.