

# John 17: Jesus Prayer for Unity, Revival, Salvation

By: Karen Martell

John 17 is commonly known as the High Priest Prayer. It is considered to be the most sacred passage in the four gospels. It reveals again the intimate relationship with the Father, “Abba” (Daddy) that He had. He wants us to have the same relationship with Him. The themes of His prayer are glorification, knowing the Father, obedience and unity. He is looking down through the ages and praying in the shadow of the cross.

**Reflect:** *If this was your last prayer what would you pray?*

As Jesus was preparing the disciples for His departure, and the rough times ahead in John 15 and 16, He gives words of encouragement and reminds them of His love for them.

***“I have loved you the way the Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love... I have named you friends because I’ve let you in on everything I’ve heard from the Father... you did not choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won’t spoil. As fruit bearers whatever you ask the Father in relation to me, He gives you... Remember the root command: Love one another.”*** (Message Bible, John 15) He promises the Holy Spirit will be given to them and that He will lead them and teach them all truth.

In John 16, He promises them much joy. ***“Ask the Father for whatever is in keeping with the things I’ve revealed to you. Ask in my name, according to my will, and He’ll most certainly give it to you. Your joy will be a river overflowing its banks!*** (Message Bible)

John 17, states, ***“Jesus said these things and raised His eyes in prayer.”*** The prayer He prayed was the one that He, himself, will answer. He wants us also to pray with Him that our minds, our hearts and our purpose will all be one and united with His.

Think about what would happen, not only in our personal lives but in our Church, if each of us united our minds, our hearts and our purpose with Jesus and with each other and prayed for healing in relationships, for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and for God to be glorified in His Church.... “That they all might be one.”

**As you pray this prayer with Jesus in John 17, ask Him how you can become the answer to His prayer. It is divided into three parts.**

**1. Jesus prayer for Himself:** He asked that He would be glorified ... so that He could give back to His Father.

**2. Jesus prayed for His disciples:** He prayed not only for the original disciples but for us today.

**3. Jesus looked to the future:** He prayed for all who would believe in Him through the ages because of the testimony of the disciples. You and I came to believe in Jesus because of the testimony of His original followers.

## Part One: John 17: 1-5, Jesus Prays for Himself

***“Father, the time has come, glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted Him authority over all people that He might give eternal life to all those you have given Him. Now this is eternal life; That they may know you, the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory that I had with you before the world began.”***

**Reflect:** ***“You granted Him authority over all people that He might give eternal life to all those you have given Him.”*** How well do I know Jesus, the One who paid the high price of salvation? How much do I love Jesus, the One who went to the cross so I can spend eternity with Him? Jesus was praying in the shadow of the cross for those down through the ages would know God the Father and Jesus whom He sent, that they might have eternal life.

**Pray:**

***“I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.*** Jesus was always obedient and did what the Father told him to do. He honored God and gave Him glory by his obedience. Thus the character of God was revealed to the world through Him and through His sacrifice.

**Pray:** That Christ will be glorified, first in your life, and in then in the life of our churches

- Ask God how you personally might glorify Him in your life and in your work. Is there something in your life that is keeping you from glorifying God?
- Ask Him to complete the work in you, that He has already started in your life and in your ministry. We have this treasure in jars of clay to reveal the life and character of Christ to the world through the power of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 4).
- When one comes to Jesus he/she is changed. Ask God to reveal the specific changes in yourself that He wants to encourage you to change, and for a willingness to let Him work.

**What is God saying to you?** Write anything God has brought to mind below:

**How would you like to respond to God?** Write your prayer below:

## Part Two: John 17: 6-19, Jesus Prays for His Disciples

***John 17:6 “I have revealed You to those whom You gave me out of the world. They were yours, You gave them to me and they have obeyed your Word.”***

**Reflect:** Think about different areas of ministry in our churches and the faithfulness of those who serve willingly, often at much personal sacrifice and with an obedient heart. They are those who honor God through the many areas of ministry this includes those who are paid and volunteer. It would be anyone and everyone who is already a disciple (men, woman and children who shares the good news of Jesus with the gifts that God has given them.)

**Pray:** Ask for an obedient and willing heart to follow any instructions that He has given to you. Pray for others also that they will be willing to make any adjustments necessary in their lives and ministry that will open the door for God to work because they are obedient.

\*Ask God to give you names of individuals that you can support through your prayers. family, church members, leadership.

\* Thank God for these individuals

\* Pray that they will experience much fruit for the Kingdom from their labor.

\* Pray for wisdom as they do God’s work.

\* Pray that they will have courage to meet the challenges that will come their way.

\* Pray that their faith will be increased.

\* Pray blessings for them.

***John 17:7 “They know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They know with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for***

***them. I am not praying for the world but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours and all you have mine.***

***Reflect:*** Think about all the resources and spiritual gifts that are available to the church and to yourself. All He has is ours. What does this mean to you personally and to the church as a whole? Have you asked God to move you beyond the little prayers to the bigger ones?

***Pray: Thank God for the resources that He has given us. “All I have is yours ... and all you have is mine.”***

\* Pray that the principle of good stewardship will be a priority for us personally and for the church body.

\* Pray that God will help us to trust Him with all that is ours.

***John 17:17 - 19, “As you have sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.”***

***Reflect:*** Jesus asks God to sanctify those He sends out into the world.

***Pray :*** For all workers, pastors, and leaders in administrative positions will be sanctified by the truth.

\* Pray that they will believe in, love and trust His word.

\* Pray that they will be filled with joy.

\* Pray that they will hunger and thirst for the Holy Spirit.

\* Pray that they will have an intense earnestness for a fitness to meet with the lost and lead sinners to Christ.

**What is God saying to you?** Write anything God has brought to mind below:

**How would you like to respond to God?** Write your prayer below:

## Part Three: John 17:20-26 Jesus Prays for All Believers

**John 17:13** *I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name. The name you gave me -- so that they may be one as we are one --- While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me.*

**Reflect:** *This part of the prayer was a request for protection from the enemy and for unity among those who already were His. As we go into verses 20-26 we see that Jesus wanted to protect all his disciples from disunity and from the evil one so they would not fall into sin.*

**Pray** *for protection for believers, our Leaders and for our Church as we strive for unity. Pray that they will be able to resist temptation and make right choices as they disciple others.*

**John 17: 20- 26:** *“For those who will believe in me through their message that all may become one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you, may they be in us..... May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you love me.*

**Reflect:** *As we pray for unity what does unity look like in God’s church today? How does God want me to encourage a spirit of unity among God’s people.*

**Pray:** *Pray that all differences, all desires for supremacy and all selfishness will be put aside.*

- \* Pray that believers in all places will demonstrate Christlike love for one another and that those who do not believe will be drawn to Christ by their love.*
- \* Pray in obedience to God’s word and in unity, claiming the power of the gift of the spirit that God has promised.*
- \* Pray with urgency for a finished work.*

**“Now in obedience to the word of the Savior, the disciples, offered their supplications for this gift and in heaven Christ added His intercession. He claimed the gift of the Spirit, that he might pour it upon His people. (AA p 36 )**

I praise God that Jesus will add His intercession to these prayer request and as we unite with Him our minds, our hearts and our purpose, He will unite us with each other and He will pour out His gifts and the Holy Spirit on His Church.

**What is God saying to you?** Write anything God has brought to mind below:

**How would you like to respond to God?** Write your prayer below: