**Holy**

John 17:12-19

***John 17*** is one of the most precious gifts to us in all of Scripture. It is the longest recorded prayer of the Lord Jesus, and lets us hear His heart as He prepared to go to the cross. What motivated Him? What burdened Him? What were His desires and concerns? It’s all here!

Let’s review the last couple of weeks as we have walked through John 17.

**John 17:1-5**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **How God the Father glorified Jesus:** | **How we are to glorify Jesus:** |
| 1. By giving Him **Authority** over the whole world 2. By giving Him **People** to redeem and to love 3. By presenting Him as the full **Revelation** of the Godhead 4. By giving Him **Work** to accomplish 5. By giving Him **Life** after death | 1. By **Exercising** the authority He has given to us 2. By **Reaching** the people He has positioned us to reach 3. By **Presenting** Him as the full revelation of the Godhead 4. By **Doing** the work He gave us to do 5. By **Trusting** Him for life after death |

The first five verses of this prayer set the tone and outline the central desires of the Lord Jesus: ***that God the Father would be glorified by revealing the full glory of Jesus***. How did the Father glorify Jesus?

* By giving Him authority over the world that Jesus Himself has created.
* By giving Him people to live with, die for, and redeem for His own possession.
* By presenting Jesus as the full embodiment of deity, that to see Jesus is to see God the Father.
* By giving Jesus a specific task to accomplish, in living a life of perfect righteousness, then laying that life down on the cross.
* And finally, God the Father glorified His only Son by raising Him from the dead on the third day.

These gifts of Father to Son ***translate to us as we also seek to glorify the Lord Jesus***.

* All authority in heaven and on earth was given to Him, and on that basis, He has sent us out to make disciples of all nations.
* We go, make disciples and teach them to obey all that Jesus has commanded us; reaching out to the people God has placed around us and making disciples who make disciples.
* We present Jesus as the God-Man, the full revelation of God’s nature, identity and purpose in the fully human person of Jesus of Nazareth.
* We glorify Jesus by doing the work He has given us to do.
* And we glorify Jesus by trusting that the One who conquered death Himself will save us from death and hell as well.

Then last week we learned:

**Our Victorious Lord (John 17:6-12)**

1. Jesus **Revealed** God’s Name
   * The manifestation of God’s nature and **Identity**
2. Jesus **Proclaimed** God’s Word
   * The explanation of God’s **Purposes** and plans
3. Jesus **Accomplished** God’s Mission
   * The salvation and **Union** of all who believe in Him

***How was Jesus exalted*** through His life, death and resurrection? First, he revealed the holy, powerful, saving NAME of God - the full manifestation of God’s nature and identity. Second, Jesus proclaimed God’s word, the explanation of God’s purposes and plans. Third, Jesus accomplished God’s mission of saving people and uniting them as one in Him.

* We have found salvation, peace and blessing in the Name of Jesus.
* We have heard God’s Word and received it and through His Word and His Spirit we have come to understand and to believe that Jesus truly was from God.
* And we are the product of God’s great work of salvation in Christ - not ony forgiven and set free from sin, but united in the One body of Christ to be His hands and feet and voice in this dark and broken world.

You’ll see all these themes from the first part of Jesus’ prayer continue into this section today. We’ll see **three petitions of Jesus** to not only PRAY along with the Lord, but to PURSUE in His power and for His glory. First:

**Three petitions of Jesus to prayerfully pursue:**

* Lord, **Protect** us in your Name

“While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me.” John 17:12

Jesus not only REVEALED the name of God, **Jesus made that name available** as the place of safety, life and blessing in Him. How did Jesus guard and keep His disciples while He was with them? Through the NAME He was given by the Father.

***Why is the name JESUS so special to us?*** It is the Hebrew Yeshua, which simply means SAVIOR. In the birth accounts we learn that Jesus was also called Immanuel, which means “God with us.” We know Jesus is the Christ, the long awaited Messiah and King of Israel. And we call Jesus LORD, referring to the covenant name of God by which He revealed Himself to Moses, “the great I am,” Yahweh – the God who is; the God of all being.

So what really protected the followers of Jesus from the attacks of the enemy and from their own sin? ***It was the holy name of Jesus.***

**Three petitions of Jesus to prayerfully pursue:**

* Lord, **Protect** us in your Name
  + Our shelter from **Judgment** through saving faith

“I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost, except the son of destruction…” John 17:12

Though the example of Judas is a tragic one, his fall and betrayal of Jesus was foretold in Scripture and had to be fulfilled. All of his other followers Jesus guarded and “not one has been lost.” ***Jesus is our shelter from the destruction*** that Judas experienced. Jesus is our stronghold from the coming judgment of God against sin and evil.

We know from Romans 8:1,

**Three petitions of Jesus to prayerfully pursue:**

* Lord, **Protect** us in your Name
  + Our shelter from **Judgment** through saving faith

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1

Where is there safety from the coming judgment? **IN CHRIST JESUS**. Only there. Apart from Jesus people stand exposed to the punishment of eternal destruction in the Biblical truth that the “wages of sin is death.” But in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ there is a shelter from that deserved condemnation.

If you picture God’s righteous judgment as burning lava raining down from the sky, Jesus is like a **titanium umbrella** you hold onto and are protected. But the key is that this protection is not provided automatically to everyone – it is for those who belong to Jesus by faith, who are committed to Him in a covenant relationship; those who are IN CHRIST.

He is our shelter from judgment through personal, saving faith. Specifically, it is the NAME of Jesus by which we are saved.

**Three petitions of Jesus to prayerfully pursue:**

* Lord, **Protect** us in your Name
  + Our shelter from **Judgment** through saving faith

“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

It is those who call on the ***NAME of the LORD*** who will be saved. Only through His Name and faith in His name is anyone safe on the day of judgment.

We experience this in a small degree with friends and family.

* A child with an older brother may get bullied at the park, but ***if she calls on her brother*** in the field nearby, when he hears her cry he will come and deal with the bullies.
* Kids who have trouble at school can call on their parents to step in and help with a situation. The ***Mama Bear instinct*** is real and parents will do anything in their power to protect and advocate for their children.
* If someone attacks you on the street or invades your home, you will ***call 911*** and hopefully the police will respond quickly and protect you from the threat.
* Similarly, if you were overseas and got into trouble with another country’s government or terrorists, you would ***call on the United States*** to help you, and (assuming you’re a citizen) the strength of the US government would be marshalled on your behalf.

Now, **if we take comfort** in a brother, a parent, the police and the US government, how much MORE should we take comfort in CHRIST? He is the ultimate Protector, the ultimate Advocate. There is no higher authority above Him, which is why He shelters us from all dangers. First from the coming judgment of God on sinners like us. And also:

**Three petitions of Jesus to prayerfully pursue:**

* Lord, **Protect** us in your Name
  + Our shield from spiritual attack through believing **Prayer**

“I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.” John 17:15

Throughout this prayer Jesus talks about ***“the world” as a contrast to His Kingdom***. He does not pray for the world because in this context it is the dominion of darkness, the domain of satan, and there is no hope for that great enemy and his demonic servants. No point praying for those guys. They are doomed and they know it, and that eternal lake of fire looms over them filling them with fear and anger as they seek to deceive and destroy as many as they can before Jesus comes back.

***When you get saved you don’t disappear from this world*** and evaporate into heaven. Your spiritual condition changes and you are raised up with Christ and seated with Him in the heavenly realms. But physically we remain on earth, in this world, so we can serve God’s purposes here and now. Jesus didn’t pray for his disciples to be immediately delivered from the world, but that we would be protected from the evil one.

This is the prayer Jesus taught us to pray: “Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil” or from the “evil one.” Prayer is our key weapon of warfare against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

* Lord, **Protect** us in your Name
  + Our shield from spiritual attack through believing **Prayer**

“In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.” Ephesians 6:16-18

Ephesians 6 reminds us to suit up in the full armor of God in order to take our stand against the devil and his schemes. God has given us **powerful resources in Christ**, but we must appropriate them by faith and get dressed every day by PRAYING and trusting and walking with the Lord Jesus.

The shield of faith is first lifted in prayer and we hold it up in prayer. Think of ***a soldier advancing against enemy lines,*** flaming arrows raining down. How foolish would the soldier be to leave the shield lowered and not raise it up over him? We raise the shield IN PRAYER. We flex the muscle of our faith by kneeling and bowing and asking the Lord for help.

It is not the AMOUNT of your faith that matters, ***it is the OBJECT of your faith that matters***. Whenever you call on the name of Jesus, darkness flees. The enemy turns tail and runs. Just the mention of His name and demons tremble.

There is a wild story in the book of Acts (ch. 19) with a group of guys going around driving out demons in Jesus’ name. 2,000 years ago people were much more aware of the spiritual realm, knowing that angels and demons were around and there were things you could do to aggravate or enable them. A Jewish high priest had ***seven sons*** and they heard about the apostle Paul’s ministry and began to invoke the name of Jesus.

The demon-possessed man they were trying to help mocked these seven foolish Jews and beat them bloody, tearing off their clothes. The demon rebuked them saying, “Jesus I know and Paul I’ve heard about, but who are you?” ***You can’t use the name of Jesus unless you have a personal relationship with Him.***

But if you do belong to Jesus by faith, then He instructs you to **pray in His Name**, exercising His authority for the purposes of His Kingdom – which includes casting out demons, healing diseases and resisting the devil. So we can join with Jesus in this prayer as we pray for others: “lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil,” “keep them from temptation and deception and trials and tribulations and deliver them from the evil one.”

Jesus prayed for our protection, and we not only join in praying that protection for ourselves and others, we pursue His protection for others and seek justice and righteousness in His name. Second petition of Jesus:

**Three petitions of Jesus to prayerfully pursue:**

* Lord, **Sanctify** us in your Truth

“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.” John 17:17

As those who are not of the world but have been redeemed FROM THE WORLD, we are called to now walk in a manner worthy of our calling. Having been justified by faith in Christ, now we are in ***the process of being sanctified***, made more and more into the image of Jesus.

Isn’t it encouraging to know that ***Jesus did pray and IS PRAYING for YOUR sanctification***?

“Sanctify them in the truth.”

**Three petitions of Jesus to prayerfully pursue:**

* Lord, **Sanctify** us in your Truth
  + Our light of **Joy** through the Word of God

“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.” John 17:17

How are we to pursue the fulfillment of this prayer? ***Through God’s Word.*** It is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Through Scripture the Holy Spirit reminds us of all the teachings of Jesus and guides us into all truth.

* Lord, **Sanctify** us in your Truth
  + Our light of **Joy** through the Word of God

“But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.” John 17:13

Why did Jesus pray this prayer out loud, so John and the other disciples could hear and so it could be preserved for us in this gospel account? FOR OUR JOY.

Notice it is ***Jesus’ own joy*** that we can have fulfilled in us. The overflowing, never-ending, life-giving joy of the Triune Godhead is what Jesus prays we will experience. And the way we access this joy is through the WORDS Jesus spoke. ***His Words are our light.***

* If you find yourself in the darkness of discouragement, open God’s Word.
* If you find yourself struggling with confusion and doubt, open God’s Word.
* If you feel weak and are hurting, in need of some light and encouragement, open God’s Word.

***This Book is living and active.*** It is the means by which the Holy Spirit speaks to us, rebukes and corrects us, guides and instructs us, empowers and leads us. God still speaks through the Words He has spoken. And as you hear God’s voice in the pages of this book, you experience the joy of Jesus himself. His joy can be fulfilled in you.

***The best resource for SANCTIFICATION is JOY.*** Delight is a far more powerful motivator than duty. Enjoyment is much more impactful than discipline. The greatest motivator of all is LOVE and what does love look like? Enjoyment of the Beloved.

Is it hard for you to ***serve your spouse***? Maybe it is now because you’ve had all these years to fight about little nonsense things. But early on, when you still had all those warm feelings for each other, did it take a lot of willpower and effort to lovingly serve each other? No, it was a joy.

Is it a struggle to serve ***your children and grandchildren***? Do you have to really work up your motivation to get on the floor and play with the little ones or to take them out for ice cream? It’s your joy to be with them! You do silly things like try to play Fortnite just because you love your kids. It’s laughable how bad you are at video games like this. (I’m not talking about myself, I’m amazing at the game, but I’ve seen some of you.)

What about ***a longtime friend***? Does it feel like work for you to set up a lunch with them? Do you need a full energy drink just to get to that meeting? No! It is your JOY to catch up with them, just to hear their voice.

This is ***the great resource for your growth in the Lord: the light of JOY*** we access through God’s Word.

Jesus prayed, “Sanctify them in the truth.” This is where you find the truth about God, yourself and the world. Be sanctified as you prayerfully read, study, meditate on and apply the words of Scripture to your life. That is how to access the light of joy through God’s Word. We also grow in holiness by experiencing Jesus’ love in His sacrifice for us on the cross.

**Three petitions of Jesus to prayerfully pursue:**

* Lord, **Sanctify** us in your Truth
  + Our life of **Love** through the sacrifice of Jesus

“And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified.” John 17:19

Jesus prayed for our sanctification, then he died for our sanctification. The word “consecrate” is the same word as “sanctify.” Both mean ***“to set apart as holy.”*** Jesus set himself apart first by living a life of perfect righteousness and love. Then he set himself apart – he consecrated himself – by committing to the task the Father had set before Him: dying on the cross.

***Jesus set Himself apart, so we could be set apart.*** He consecrated Himself to the sacrifice of the cross, so you and I could be declared righteous in him, our sins forgiven and our holiness purchased with his blood.

The wonderful good news of the gospel is the message by which you get saved in the first place and it is the same message by which you grow in holiness and sanctification. We need not be ashamed of the gospel because **it IS the power of God for our total salvation**: from conviction to repentance to faith to justification, to sanctification to glorification.

The key to growing in your Christian life is reflecting on the love of God for you in Christ Jesus. The more you personally know and experience how wide and long and high and deep is His love for you, the more you will be filled with His love, joy, peace and power.

***So preach the gospel to yourself every day.*** Remind yourself of the overflowing goodness and mercy of God to sinners like you and me. Jesus set himself apart for the task of dying a sinner’s death in order to save sinners like us, to set us apart as those who belong to God and are HOLY before Him. One more petition of Jesus to prayerfully pursue.

**Three petitions of Jesus to prayerfully pursue:**

* Lord, **Empower** us through your Spirit

“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” John 17:18

As those who have been set apart, sanctified for the purposes of God, ***we have been SENT out by the Lord Jesus to make disciples of all nations.*** Just as God the Father sent His Son, so the Son has sent us as His ambassadors to our neighbors and the nations. “As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.”

Jesus did not immediately take his followers out of the world. He saves us and redeems us, changes us from the inside out, then sends us back to our family members and friends to love and serve and reach out to them in His Name. We’ve learned a lot about the Holy Spirit these last few weeks, here is another reminder about our Comforter and Helper.

* Lord, **Empower** us through your Spirit
  + Our Tutor to **Explain** Jesus’ teachings to us

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” John 14:26

We cannot grow to maturity in Christ apart from the Spirit, and we can’t have ministry impact in the world without the Holy Spirit. ***The Spirit of God first helps us UNDERSTAND*** the gospel and the teachings of Jesus so we can then EXPLAIN these spiritual truths to others.

The Holy Spirit teaches us ALL THINGS and reminds us of everything we have learned from Scripture before and especially of all of the teachings of Jesus.

* Lord, **Empower** us through your Spirit
  + Our Tutor to **Explain** Jesus’ teachings to us

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth.” John 16:13

Not only does the Holy Spirit help us understand, believe and respond to the gospel, He guides us into ALL TRUTH. He illuminates the whole Bible for us to see what it means and how it fits together. The Holy Spirit is our TUTOR to clarify the meaning of Scripture and help us apply it to our lives – for our own growth and progress in the Lord, and for our ministry to others.

* Lord, **Empower** us through your Spirit
  + Our Helper as we finish the work for which you **Sent** us into the world

“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” John 17:18

The Father did not send Jesus into the world alone. Throughout the Gospel accounts we see Jesus being led by the Spirit and empowered by the Spirit to do all the ministry He did. John 5 teaches us that Jesus did NOTHING on his own, but only what he saw the Father doing already. He saw and discerned those things by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In the same way, Jesus has given US the Holy Spirit to empower us to finish the work He has given us.

* Lord, **Empower** us through your Spirit
  + Our Helper as we finish the work for which you **Sent** us into the world

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19

We have been commissioned by the Lord Jesus to go and ***make disciples of all nations***. There still remain billions of people on this planet who have never heard the name of Jesus. It is our job as part of the global church to finish this task and bring the good news of eternal life in Christ to a lost and dying world.

***We have GOOD NEWS to declare*** that forgiveness and eternal life is available in the Lord Jesus Christ. Apart from Him people are lost in their sin and destined for an eternity of suffering. We not only have good news to proclaim, we have good deeds to accomplish.

* Lord, **Empower** us through your Spirit
  + Our Helper as we finish the work for which you **Sent** us into the world

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10

We, as the body of Christ at Oakwood, have good works God has prepared for us to do. You as a part of the body of Christ have loving service to do in the name of Jesus. And we as the global body of Christ have work to do in service to the King and His Kingdom.

* Lord, **Empower** us through your Spirit
  + Our Helper as we finish the work for which you **Sent** us into the world

“Our great God and Savior Jesus Christ… gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.” Titus 2:13-14

***Why did Jesus die for us?*** To redeem us from sinful lives and sanctify us as holy ones who belong to Him. But notice the result of that: we are ZEALOUS to do good works. It becomes the joyful passion of our lives to build the kingdom of God here as we pray His kingdom will come and His will would be done on earth as it is in heaven.

So here is our summary for today:

**Three petitions of Jesus to prayerfully pursue:**

* Lord, **Protect** us in your Name
  + Our shelter from **Judgment** through saving faith
  + Our shield from spiritual attack through believing **Prayer**
* Lord, **Sanctify** us in your Truth
  + Our light of **Joy** through the Word of God
  + Our life of **Love** through the sacrifice of Jesus
* Lord, **Empower** us through your Spirit
  + Our Tutor to **Explain** Jesus’ teachings to us
  + Our Helper as we finish the work for which you **Sent** us into the world

First, we pray for the protection of the Lord Jesus in His Name. We celebrate the security we have in Him to shelter us from eternal judgment and condemnation and also to shield us from the deception and attacks of the enemy.

Second, we join with Jesus’ prayer for our sanctification and growth in Him. “Lord, sanctify us in the truth – your Word is truth.” Scripture is our light of joy to help us grow to be more like Jesus. And the gospel helps us experience the life and love of the Lord Jesus as we remember His perfect sacrifice for us.

Finally, we pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to go and make disciples both where we are and wherever we can go on mission. And we pray for power to serve, zealously devoting ourselves to every opportunity to love and bless people in Jesus’ name.