

# **Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus**

## **42) Jesus Prays For His Disciples**

***'I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me'***

**(John 17:6-8)**

## What Jesus said about His disciples

- ✓ **1) He manifested the Father's name to them**
- ✓ **The name of a person stands for his character. Jesus revealed the Father by His teaching and His life. 'Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father"' (John 14:9). 'For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily' (Col.2:9)**
- ✓ **2) They were given to Jesus by the Father. They were marked out. There are only 2 groups of people: those *in the world*, and those *in Christ*, who have been given to Him out of the world**

- ✓ **To be of the world is to view things apart from God.** *'...you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience'* (Eph.2:2). **But we now have the mind of Christ. Regardless of how many times we fail, our mind is centered on God**
- ✓ **a) Here we see salvation from God's point of view. The more we discern the Father's interests in us, the greater our confidence when we come to Him a prayer**
- ✓ **b) But from the human point of view – they received His words, knew He was from God and believed God sent Him**

- ✓ **3) They kept His Word**
- ✓ **Soon after Jesus spoke these words, they all forsook Him and fled, and one of them denied Him. Yet He speaks here of them honourably**
- ✓ **Jesus sees His people in a different way than they see themselves, or than others see them. They were weak and unstable; but they received the Son's testimony of the Father and believed the Father sent Him into the world to save us. It is this which distinguishes us from the world and defines what a believer is**
- ✓ **4) Jesus gave to them the words the Father gave to Him. Then, they gave to us the words Jesus gave to them. This is how the church grows**

***'I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled'***

**(John 17:9-12)**

## What Jesus prayed for His disciples

- ✓ **1) He prays directly for them and indirectly for the world, 'As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world' (John 17:18)**
- ✓ **Jesus's disciples are God's gift to Him. He is glorified in them**
- ✓ **2) He prays that they may be kept through the Father's name**
- ✓ **The work of keeping a believer is so great that it takes the name of God – the whole character and authority of God, ('I AM' Ex.3:14). 'And God spoke to Moses and said to him: "I am the LORD. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name LORD I was not known to them' (Ex.6:3)**



- ✓ *'May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble; may the name of the God of Jacob defend you...Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the LORD our God' (Psa.20:1,7)*
- ✓ **We cannot keep ourselves or others in any other name or power**
- ✓ **He who does the redeeming, also does the keeping**



- ✓ **3) He prays that their unity will be demonstrated in a practical way**
- ✓ **Our unity is an organic reality. Like the Father and the Son, we share a common life**
- ✓ **But many things can disrupt that unity: jealousy, competitiveness, isolationism, independent spirit, selfishness, unforgiveness, etc.**
- ✓ **We are to keep that unity in a harmonious way, *'Walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace'* (Eph.4:1-3)**

- ✓ **This prayer was answered, 'Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul' (Acts 4:32)**
- ✓ **'While He was with them' He kept them safe, but now He is leaving the world He commits them to the Father**
- ✓ **Jesus is our intercessor too. He prays for us, asking God the Father to keep us. 'Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us' (Rom.8:34). 'Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them' (Heb.7:25)**

**\*Jesus kept all safe 'but' Judas, not 'except'. The disjunctive participle is used here, as frequently in Scripture, to contrast those belonging to two different classes (e.g. Matt.12:4; Acts 27:22)**

**\*Not one of those given to Christ by the Father can, or will, be lost. Judas was never given by the Father to the Son, was never 'clean', had no real faith, was called a 'devil' (see John 6:70)**

**\*Like others he was attracted to Jesus for the wrong reason. He was a thief**

**\*He is called the son of perdition. This term is only used here and in 2 Thes.2:3 of the Antichrist. The term means one totally ruined, abandoned and utterly lost**

***'But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth'***

**(John 17:13-19)**

**\*4) He prayed that they might have joy during the coming persecution. Remember, He prays these things out loud, so they can hear**

**\*What joy? The joy of fellowship with the Father, which that He had at that very time. *'...that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full'* (1 John 1:3-4)**

**\*Outward circumstances do not bring joy; it comes from within**



**\*5) He prayed that they might be kept from the evil one**

**\*The way the evil one attacks us is through the hatred of the world and by promoting disunity amongst believers**

**\*Being not of the world and receiving His words would draw opposition. But removing them from the world is not what Jesus prayed for because, like Him, they had a mission to fulfill**

**\*He sends them into the world which is hostile. He drops them behind enemy lines. He asks instead for protection from the evil one, who is the prince of the world**

**\*Jesus not only prayed for them in this regard, but taught us to pray that we will be delivered from the evil one**

***\*'Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you' (1 Pet.5:8-10)***



**\*6) He prays that they might be sanctified**

**\*This process, like the keeping process, is not left to us alone; it is the work of God in us**

**\*We are sanctified by the Word. Jesus is the 'word' and the 'truth'. As He is revealed to us through the Word we are transformed into His image**

**\*A person or a thing that is sanctified is set apart for a purpose**

**\*Before the disciples could be fully sanctified Jesus first set Himself apart as the Lamb of God for our redemption. *'Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate'* (Heb.13:12)**