

FINAL WORDS OF PRAYER



PRECEPT

JOHN 17:1-26

¹ After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³ Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. (Read the rest of verses 6-26.)

PROMISE

It is clear that someone’s final words can be of great importance to the person whose life will soon end. It is usually their last words that reveal what’s in their hearts. Jesus’ final words give us a powerful insight into His thoughts as He took all the sins of mankind upon Himself. The Bible tells us that in John 17, Jesus prayed to be glorified, prayed for His disciples, and for all believers. What a comfort it is to know that He is praying for us! Hebrews 7:25 says, “*He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him because He always lives to intercede for them.*” and 1 John 2:1 says, “*We have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.*” Philip Yancey, in his book entitled *Prayer*, also writes: “*As Jesus once prayed for Peter, now He prays for us... In fact, the New Testament’s only glimpse of what Jesus is doing right now depicts Him at the right hand of God ‘interceding for us.’ In three years of active ministry, Jesus changed the moral landscape of the planet. For nearly two thousand years, He has been using another tactic: prayer.*”

Jesus is praying for our protection; protection from false doctrine (heresy/heretical teaching) and from the deception of the enemy and total abandonment of the Christian faith. Verse 12 says, “*While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that Name you gave Me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.*” and verse 15 says, “*My prayer is not that You take them out of the world but that You protect them from the evil one.*” There’s power in the Name of Jesus. He will protect us by His Name and He is praying for our protection from apostasy. Jesus is also praying for our happiness; happiness that is not measured by the standard of the world, for we don’t belong in this world. A joy and happiness according to the standard of God, the quality of life not based on the quantity or number of our possessions. True happiness can only be found in Jesus, and He is offering that to us through Him. He is praying that we will experience the full measure of joy in Him. Verses 13-14 says, “*I am coming to You now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of My joy within them. 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.*” Jesus also intercedes for our spiritual growth and salvation. He was sent into this world for a specific mission, and He is also sending His disciples for a specific mission. He is praying for us to grow in knowledge of the truth and that we will also accomplish our mission. His prayer in the following verses reflect this: “*16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17 Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth. 18 As You sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. 24 “Father, I want those You have given me to be with Me where I am, and to see My glory, the glory You have given Me because You loved Me before the creation of the world.”* Praise Jesus that He continuously prays for us. He is continually praying that we will experience His love, and for unified love among all believers.

PRACTICE

1. **Christ’s Prayer.** How might Christ’s prayer in John 17 be a model for our own prayer lives?
2. **Jesus is Praying For Us.** How does knowing that Jesus intercedes for us change the way we perceive our lives? How does it change the way we pray for others?

PRAYER

I. Marriages

- Pray for all marriages that they will be a picture to the world of Christ’s love to the church.

II. Life Groups

- Pray that all our members will grow in knowledge, love, and faith in Jesus Christ.

III. Guidance

- May we always consult God for instruction in all areas of our lives. Let Him direct our path.

IV. Patience

- Pray for patience and persistence as we await God’s answers to our prayers and desires.

V. Joy

- Remember Psalm 30:5 in your trials, “there may be pain in the night, but joy comes in the morning.”

VI. Healing

- Pray for healing for those afflicted with various diseases. May God’s comfort be with them always.

VII. Humility

- Pray that we will all have humility and sacrificial love for one another.