

# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

## JOHN 17.1-26



**T. M. Moore**

*A Scriptorium Study*

*And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets,*

*He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. Luke 24.27*

**The Fellowship of Ailbe**

The Gospel of John: John 17.1-26  
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## Introduction to *John 17.1-26*

Jesus' great high priestly prayer in John 17 is nothing less than the Rosetta Stone of all Scripture.

Here we look into the very heart of God, to discover the themes of most importance to Him. As we listen to Jesus praying for God's glory, His people, and about His own work, we meet the central themes of all Scripture.

In His prayer for His friends and followers, Jesus prayed for us. Let us rejoice and give thanks for such a loving and strong Savior.

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## 1 God Glorified in Christ

Read and meditate on John 17.1-3.

The glory John has been pointing to since chapter 1 is now about to be realized. Jesus has finished His work, or almost so, and in so doing, He brings glory to the Father, and shares in the Father's glory. And He has earned the authority to give eternal life to all those God gives to Him.

*<sup>1</sup>And then  
He spoke, and lifted up His eyes to heav'n,  
and said, "O Father, now the hour has come  
for You to glorify Your only Son,  
that He may glorify You also. <sup>2</sup>You  
have given Him authority to do  
Your will, in giving life eternal to  
all those whom You have chosen, and whom You  
have given to the Son. <sup>3</sup>And this is life  
eternal, that they may know You, and Christ,  
Whom You have sent."*

- John 16.16-18

*Reflect*

1. Most of the time, when we pray, we close our eyes and look down. Jesus opened His eyes and looked up. Why? Why didn't He bow His head and close His eyes? Why do we? Complete this prayer: *Father, I want to see You when I pray, if only with the eye of faith, so...*

2. Jesus would glorify God as God glorified Him. How would God glorify Jesus? How would that glorify the Father? The glory of God was foremost on Jesus' mind as His hour of betrayal, arrest, trial, and crucifixion draws near. What does this suggest for us? *You have called me to Your Kingdom and glory, Father, and every day I...*

3. Because of His work, and the glory of God realized in His work, the Father gave authority to Jesus over all flesh, so that He might give eternal life to some. To whom does Jesus give eternal life? Who are they (cf. Eph. 1.4)? Jesus gives eternal life, but it must be received. How do people receive eternal life? *Thank You, Father, for giving me to Jesus, and in Him, for giving me...*

4. How is Jesus using the word *know* in verse 3? What does it mean to *know* God and to *know* Jesus Christ? How can someone know that he knows them? How does God know? *I know Whom I have believed, Lord Jesus, and I am persuaded that...*

5. Eternal life is not merely going to heaven when you die. Eternal life is not merely having your sins forgiven. Each of these is involved in eternal life, but we should not think of eternal life any way other than as Jesus did. Meditate on 2 Peter 3.18. Is it possible to grow in eternal life? Explain. How would you counsel a new believer to grow in *knowing* God and Christ? Bring together into one the prayers you composed for questions 1-4.

*Summary*

"Again he shows us that he willingly comes to the cross. For how could someone who prayed that this might

happen be unwilling, calling what would happen 'glory' not only for himself the crucified but also for the Father? This was indeed the case, since not only the Son but also the Father too was glorified. For before the crucifixion, not even the Jews knew him. 'Israel,' it says, 'has not known me. But after the crucifixion, the whole world flocked to him. Then he also speaks of how the glory would take place and how [the Father] will glorify him.'" *John Chrysostom (344-407 AD)*

Jesus gives eternal life to all who believe in Him, all whom the Father has given Him from before the foundation of the world. The faith to believe is a gift from God and a work of His Spirit, which leads us into a true and holy relationship with the Deity. To *know* God and Jesus Christ is to sustain an intimacy of love, trust, and obedience which grows continually. How would you explain what it means to have eternal life to an unbelieving friend?

*Closing Prayer*

You who fear the LORD, praise Him!  
All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him,  
And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel!  
For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted;  
Nor has He hidden His face from Him;  
But when He cried to Him, He heard.  
My praise *shall be* of You in the great assembly;  
I will pay My vows before those who fear Him.  
The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
Those who seek Him will praise the LORD.  
Let your heart live forever!  
All the ends of the world  
Shall remember and turn to the LORD,  
And all the families of the nations  
Shall worship before You.  
For the kingdom *is* the LORD's,  
And He rules over the nations.

Psalm 22.23-28

**Psalm 22.23-28** (*Darvall: Rejoice, the Lord is King*)

All you who fear the Lord, now praise His holy Name!  
You children of His glorious Word, declare His fame!  
We stand in awe of our eternal God, and on His mercy call.

For He has not despised the anguish of our King,  
Nor from Him hid His eyes, Who knew such suffering.  
Let praise arise from all who love and serve the Ruler of the skies!

The suffering King shall eat and praise with us the Lord.  
Forever we His praise repeat and trust His Word.  
Praise God above, all you who keep His vows and who His mercies love!

All nations shall repent and hasten to the Lord;  
All those to whom His truth is sent shall praise His Word.  
The Lord is King! His sovereign rule on high now we His people sing!

## 2 The Work of the Word

Read and meditate on John 17.4-8.

Jesus glorified God by His work, which was to give the Word of the Father to the men the Father had given Him. The passing on of the Word of God brings glory to God as men believe, receive, and keep that Word. That has not changed.

*<sup>4</sup>“Now I have finished all the work that You have given as My call on earth, and I have glorified Your Name <sup>5</sup>Now glorify Me, Father, with the same eternal glory which I had with You before the world began. <sup>6</sup>For I have, to the men You gave me from the world, made known Your Name. You gave them to Me, who Your own men were, and they have kept Your Word. <sup>7</sup>And they know You have given Me all things. <sup>8</sup>I say to them the words that You have given Me, and they received them; and assuredly they know that I came forth from You, and they believed that You have sent Me to them.”*

- John 17.4-8

Reflect

1. Jesus' work was to communicate God's truth to the people God gave to Him from out of the world. How could that be a work to glorify God? Complete this prayer: *Father, as You gave Your Word to Jesus, You have given it to me as well, so that...*

2. Jesus communicated the Word and will of God not just by His teaching, but by His life. In His *active* obedience, Jesus perfectly fulfilled the Law of God. In Him, all the righteousness God requires has been accomplished (Matt. 5.17-19). Paul summarized this by saying Jesus “knew no sin” (2 Cor. 5.21). Reflecting on Jesus' life, how did He communicate the Word and will of God by His *works*? Why does this matter to us? *Lord Jesus, You have called me to be a witness as well as to give witness to You. And that means I...*

3. Jesus' complete satisfaction of the righteousness God requires is referred to as His *active* obedience. But, even as He prayed, more work remained for Him to do. He spoke about it as though it were already a *fait accompli*, because He had made up His mind to fulfill it. Theologians refer to this work as Jesus' *passive* obedience, in which, as Paul says, God “made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us” (2 Cor. 5.21). Of what did this work of passive obedience consist? Why is it important? *Lord Jesus, only You could satisfy God's wrath against my sin, since...*

4. Jesus manifested the Father's Name to those men the Father had given Him from out of the world. According to Acts 1.13-15, who were included in these “men”? What did Jesus mean by saying, “They were Yours...”? *Thank You Father, for choosing Me, and for giving Me to Jesus so that...*

5. According to Jesus, what are the identifying marks of those whom the Father has given Him, and who benefit from the work He has done (vv. 6-8)? Define each of these words: *kept* (or, *fulfilled*), *known*, *received*,

*believed.* Using all those terms, write a single sentence defining what it means to be a friend and follower of Jesus. Bring together into one prayer the prayers you wrote from questions 1-4.

*Summary*

“And yet the action was still in its beginning, or rather had not even yet begun. What did he mean by ‘I have finished’ then? Either he means that ‘I have done all my part’ or he speaks of the future, as having already happened. Or, the most likely explanation is that all had already been accomplished by anticipation because the root of blessings to come had been laid and its fruits would inevitably follow. This is so because Jesus would be present at and assisting in those things that would take place after these did.” *John Chrysostom (344-407 AD)*

Jesus’ work is done; ours continues daily. In what ways is our work *like* the work of Jesus? In what ways is it *not*?

*Closing Prayer*

Gracious *is* the LORD, and righteous;  
Yes, our God *is* merciful.  
The Lord preserves the simple;  
I was brought low, and He saved me.  
Return to your rest, O my soul,  
For the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.  
For You have delivered my soul from death,  
My eyes from tears,  
*And* my feet from falling.  
I will walk before the LORD  
In the land of the living.  
I believed, therefore I spoke,  
“I am greatly afflicted.”  
I said in my haste,  
“All men *are* liars.”  
What shall I render to the LORD  
*For* all His benefits toward me?  
I will take up the cup of salvation,  
And call upon the name of the LORD.  
I will pay my vows to the LORD  
Now in the presence of all His people.

Psalm 116.5-14

**Psalm 116.4-14** (*Mit Freuden Zart: All Praise to God Who Reigns Above*)

I called to God, “O Lord, I pray, my soul redeem with favor!”  
The Lord is gracious in His way, and righteous is our Savior.  
His mercy to the simple flies; He lifted me up to the skies –  
I rest in Him forever!

Full well the Lord has dealt with me; my soul from death He delivered.  
My weeping eyes, my stumbling feet, He has redeemed forever.  
Forever I before His face shall walk with those who know His grace,  
And dwell with them forever.

Afflicted, I believe His Word, though lying men would undo me.  
What shall I render to the Lord for all His blessings to me?

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Salvation's cup I lift above and call upon the God of love  
And pay my vows most truly.

### 3 That We May Be One

Read and meditate on John 17.9-12.

Jesus kept and prayed for His disciples. Now that He was leaving, He asked His Father to continue keeping them, and to keep them *one*, that He might be glorified.

<sup>9</sup>“And I pray for them. I do not pray for this world. But the men You gave Me, they are Yours, and I pray for them. <sup>10</sup>And all Mine are Yours, and all who are Yours, they are Mine as well. And I am glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And they are in the world, although I am no longer in it, and I come to You. O holy Father, keep I pray, keep through Your Name those You have given Me, that they may all be one, as We are. <sup>12</sup>In Your Name I kept them while I was with them. Those You have given Me, them I have kept unto You. None of them is lost, but only one, he who is everlasting judgment’s son, that Scripture all might be fulfilled.”

- John 17.9-12

Reflect

1. Jesus was very specific that the focus of His prayer – this prayer, John 17 – was on His friends and followers, those who were with Him during His earthly sojourn, and all those who would descend from their witness (v. 20). Was Jesus saying we shouldn’t pray for lost people (cf. 1 Tim. 2.1-8)? If we *should* pray for lost people, what are some ways we might pray for them? How do you pray for the lost people in your Personal Mission Field? Complete this prayer: *Father, because You love the world, I will pray for it, beginning with...*
2. OK, we can pray for the world, even for lost people. But on this occasion, Jesus was praying for us, and His prayer reveals the priorities of His agenda for us, first, that we might know that we are kept, safe, and secure from being eternally lost and condemned. How can you see that in these verses? *Thank You, Father, that because of Jesus, and the work He did in glorifying You, I...*
3. Jesus indicates that we need prayer because we are “in the world” (v. 11). What is it about being “in the world” that makes prayer so necessary (recall Jn. 16.33)? What does it suggest about prayer that it is useful for such a situation? How would you describe Jesus’ attitude toward prayer (cf. also Heb. 7.25)? Is your attitude toward prayer the same as that of Jesus? Explain. *Lord, I want to be more faithful and diligent and fruitful in prayer! Today, help me...*
4. In what ways are the Persons of the Trinity one? That is, what do they share that makes each God, and them all together God? How does Their oneness help us in thinking about what it means for us to be one? Should we follow the example of Jesus and pray for the oneness of His Church? Explain. *Make us more truly one body, Lord, that the world might...*
5. Jesus prayed that the Father might *keep* us through His Name (v. 11). Based on what we see in verse 12, what does that mean? How does the Father *keep* us? How should being kept by Him affect us as friends and

followers of Jesus? Bring together into one prayer the prayers you wrote for questions 1-4.

*Summary*

“In a word, what the soul is to the body, Christians are to the world. The soul is dispersed through all the members of the body, and Christians throughout the cities of the world. The soul dwells in the body but is not of the body. Likewise, Christians dwell in the world but are not of the world. The soul, which is invisible, is confined in the body, which is visible. In the same way, Christians are recognized as being in the world, and yet their religion remains invisible. The flesh hates the soul and wages war against it, even though it has suffered no wrong, because it is hindered from indulging in its pleasures. Similarly, the world also hates the Christians, even though it has suffered no wrong, because they set themselves against its pleasures. The soul loves the flesh that hates it and its members, and Christians love those who hate them. The soul is enclosed in the body, but it holds the body together. And though Christians are detained in the world as if in a prison, they in fact hold the world together. The soul, which is immortal, lives in a mortal dwelling. In a similar way, Christians live as strangers amid perishable things, while waiting for the imperishable in heaven. The soul, when poorly treated with respect to food and drink, becomes all the better. And so Christians when punished daily increase more and more. Such is the important position to which God has appointed them, and it is not right for them to decline it.” *Anonymous, Letter to Diognetus (third century AD)*

We cannot be the soul of the world if we’re always allowing our differences to divide us. Christians can’t be the soul of their community if they fail to establish and maintain oneness with other friends and followers of Jesus in that community – other churches (Eph. 4.3). Do you think Jesus would want us to work harder to realize the oneness for which He prayed? Explain.

*Closing Prayer*

Your mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens;  
Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.  
Your righteousness is like the great mountains;  
Your judgments are a great deep;  
O Lord, You preserve man and beast.  
How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God!  
Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings.  
They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house,  
And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures.  
For with You is the fountain of life;  
In Your light we see light.  
Oh, continue Your lovingkindness to those who know You,  
And Your righteousness to the upright in heart.

Psalm 36.5-10

**Psalm 36.5-9** (*Landas: My Faith Has Found a Resting Place*)

Your lovingkindness, Lord, is great, it reaches heav’n above;  
Your faithfulness mounts to the skies, and keeps us in Your love.  
Your righteousness like mountains high and judgment like the deep  
Preserve Your creatures one and all and in Your mercy keep.

How precious is Your love, O Lord; we shelter in Your wings.  
We drink refreshment to the full from Your abundant springs.  
You give us freely of Your grace, we drink it with delight;  
Life’s fountain is with You, O Lord, in Your light we see light.

## 4 In the World but not from It

Read and meditate on John 17.13-17.

Jesus understood the hard road that lay ahead for His friends and followers. But He not only did not seek to spare them the hatred of the world, He deliberately sent them into it, for the cause of truth and holiness.

<sup>13</sup>“But now  
I come to You, and all these things, and how  
I speak them in the world, is so that they  
may have My joy fulfilled by what I say.  
<sup>14</sup>And I have given them Your Word; therefore,  
the world has hated them, because they are  
not of the world, as I am not. <sup>15</sup>I do  
not pray for them, that they from this world You  
should take, but that You should protect them from  
the evil one. <sup>16</sup>Like Me, they are not from  
the world. <sup>17</sup>So sanctify them, Father, by  
Your truth. Your Word is truth.”

- John 16.25-28

Reflect

1. Jesus warned His disciples that the world would hate them. Yet in the midst of that hatred, whatever form it might take, He indicated that we can know *His* joy (v. 13). What is Jesus’ joy? What is its source? How does He experience it? How strong is that joy (cf. Heb. 12.1, 2)? Complete the following prayer: *Lord Jesus, let Your joy be mine today, and I will...*
2. Something about Jesus’ leaving to go to the Father would make it possible for them to know His joy. What was that (cf. Jn. 15.26, 27; Gal. 5.22)? How does this make it possible for us to have Jesus’ joy fulfilled in us? *Father, let Your Spirit bear full fruit in me, so that...*
3. *In* the world, Jesus’ friends and followers will be hated, but they will know fullness of joy because of the Spirit Who dwells in them. What defines us as different from the world – not *from* it, even though we are *in* it – is that we possess the Word of Christ (v. 14), and we *keep* it (vv. 6-8). Should we expect that receiving, believing, and keeping the Word of Jesus will make us stand out in some way? *What* way? Why does this seem to be happening so little in our day? *Lord, You have called us light and salt and leaven, because You expect us to...*
4. The real danger that confronts us in this world is not the world itself, but the evil one, who yet exercises power in the world (v. 15, cf. 1 Pet. 5.8, 9). Explain. How can we know when the evil one is exerting power over us? *Give me grace today, Father, that I may not fall under the sway of the evil one, and thus...*
5. The reason Jesus has given us His truth is that we might be *sanctified* by it (v. 17). What does that mean? How does that sanctification come to pass in us? Is it ever complete in this life? Explain. Bring together your prayers from questions 1-4 into one prayer.

Summary

“I pray not,” he adds, “that you should take them out of the world but that you should keep them from the evil.” For they still thought it was necessary to be in the world, although they were no longer of it. Then he repeats the same statement: “They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth.” For they are kept from the evil, as he had previously prayed that they might be. But it may be inquired

how they were no longer of the world if they were not yet sanctified in the truth. Or, if they already were, why does he request that they should be sanctified? Isn't it because even those who are sanctified still continue to make progress in the same sanctification and grow in holiness? And they do not do so without the aid of God's grace but by his sanctifying of their progress, even as he sanctified them at the outset [of their sanctification]." *Augustine (354-430 AD)*

In the world, but not from it, our calling is to receive the truth which is Jesus, be sanctified by it, and show that truth to the world. This is every believer's calling. What would you say are the key components to fulfilling this calling?

*Closing Prayer*

Show me Your ways, O LORD;  
Teach me Your paths.  
Lead me in Your truth and teach me,  
For You are the God of my salvation;  
On You I wait all the day.  
Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses,  
For they are from of old.  
Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions;  
According to Your mercy remember me,  
For Your goodness' sake, O LORD.  
Good and upright is the LORD;  
Therefore He teaches sinners in the way.  
The humble He guides in justice,  
And the humble He teaches His way.  
All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth,  
To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.

Psalm 25.4-10

**Psalm 25.4-10** (*Festal Song: Revive Thy Work, O Lord*)

Make me to know Your ways, teach me Your paths, O Lord!  
My Savior, all day long I wait and seek You in Your Word.

Remember mercy, Lord, and steadfast love to me!  
And all my sins before You let them not remembered be!

My sins have been of old, Your love is new each day;  
According to Your goodness, Lord, regard my sinful way.

Upright and good are You, You lead us in Your way;  
The humble You instruct in truth and guide him day by day.

The paths of God are all of love and faithfulness;  
All they who keep His covenant the Lord will surely bless.

## 5 Oneness and Witness

Read and meditate on John 17.19-23.

Jesus' purpose in sanctifying Himself for the great work of glory He would accomplish on the cross, was so that the world might believe the Father had sent Him. And the means to that end involves the people who believe in Him.

*<sup>19</sup>So that in the truth they may be sanctified, I sanctify Myself. <sup>20</sup>I pray not for them only; I pray also for all those who will believe in Me because of their word. May it please You, Father, <sup>21</sup>that they may be one; as You are in Me, I in You, so let them, too, be one in Us, so that the world may know that You have sent Me. <sup>22</sup>Father, make it so, that may be one just as We are. I have given them Your glory. Glorify Yourself, and make them one with Us: <sup>23</sup>I in them, and You in Me, that they may by their oneness perfect be, and that all men may know You sent Me, and that You love them as You have loved Me."*

- John 17.19-23

Reflect

1. Briefly explain the connection between sanctification (cf. v. 17), Christian unity, and the Church's witness in the world. Complete this prayer: *Lord, help me always to remember that Your goal is for the world to know Jesus as Your Messiah, whether they believe in Him or not. Today, as I go out into the world, help me...*
2. The goal is that, as the glory of God becomes known through our sanctification and oneness, the world will be able to see that Jesus Christ has come from God (v. 23). Why should that be so? Does this mean that everyone in the world will become believers? Jesus used the verb *believe* here in the subjunctive sense, which is the verbal mood of *possibility*, not necessarily of *fact*. What is He saying about our witness to the world? *What can I do today, Lord, to help Your people know more unity in Your Spirit (Eph. 4.3)? Show me one...*
3. Jesus sanctified – set Himself apart – for the work of the cross, which, by dealing with our sins, makes it possible for the work of sanctification in the truth to proceed in our lives. Why is personal sanctification *essential* to Christian unity? Can Christians know true unity where they are not being sanctified in God's truth? Explain. *Lord, let Your Spirit be powerfully at work in me today to...*
4. Jesus prayed that all His followers may be one, like the oneness He enjoys with the Father. What does that look like in a local church? In a community with many churches? Worldwide? How would you describe the state of Christian unity in our day? *Lord, I pray for a growing vision of unity among the churches in our community, so that...*
5. Sanctification and unity are preconditions for effective witness. What are the greatest obstacles to increased unity among the friends and followers of Christ in our day? What can you do to encourage more unity in the Spirit among the Christians in your community? Bring together into one your prayers from questions 1-4.

*Summary*

“The Son dwells in us in a corporeal sense as man, commingled and united with us by the mystery of the Eucharist. And also [he dwells with us] in a spiritual sense as God, by the effectual working and grace of his own Spirit, building up our spirit into newness of life and making us partakers of his divine nature. Christ, then, is seen to be the bond of union between us and God the Father. He is seen as human, making us, as it were, his branches, and is seen as God because he is by nature inherent in his own Father. For in no other way could that nature which is subject to corruption be elevated to incorruption, except by the coming down to it of that nature that is high above all corruption and changeability.... We have, therefore, been made perfect in unity with God the Father, through the mediation of Christ. For by receiving in ourselves (both in a corporeal and spiritual sense, as I said just now) him who is the Son by nature and who has essential union with the Father, we have been glorified and become partakers in the nature of the Most High.” *Cyril of Alexandria (375-444 AD)*

Where believers are growing and being sanctified, unity of believers will be in evidence. Where such unity is in evidence, God is glorified, and the Church’s witness becomes more accessible and credible. What is your role in that process?

*Closing Prayer*

Behold, the eye of the LORD *is* on those who fear Him,  
On those who hope in His mercy,  
To deliver their soul from death,  
And to keep them alive in famine.  
Our soul waits for the LORD;  
He is our help and our shield.  
For our heart shall rejoice in Him,  
Because we have trusted in His holy name.

Psalm 33.13-21

**Psalm 33.18-22** (*Truro: Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns*)

God watches those who fear His Name, who hope upon His grace and love;  
He keeps their souls from death and shame who trust in Him Who reigns above.

God is our Helper and our Shield; upon us let Your grace descend!  
We hope in You; to You we yield; we trust in Jesus to the end.

## 6 Glory All Around

Read and meditate on John 17.24-26.

Jesus glorified the Father, and now He asked that the Father should glorify Him, and that the glory they know together, His disciples should know as well. We are redeemed for glory, and nothing could be better than that.

*<sup>24</sup>Father, those whom You have given me, I want them with me, too, where I am, that they may behold in Me the glory You have given unto Me before the world began. <sup>25</sup>The world has not known You, O righteous Father, as it ought to have, but I have known You; and these men have known that You have sent Me. <sup>26</sup>And to them I have proclaimed Your Name, and will proclaim it, that the love You have for Me, the same may be in them, and I in them.”*

- John 17.24-26

Reflect

1. Jesus wants His friends and followers to be with Him. Where? When? In that final day, how will we know that we are with Him (1 Jn. 3.1-3)? How can we know when we are with Him now (Matt. 28.18-20; Eph. 2.6)? How does being with Jesus now relate to being with Him then? Complete this prayer: *Lord Jesus, Immanuel, “God with Us,” let me know Your presence today unto...*
2. Jesus said He had glorified the Father with His work (v. 4), and now He was about to return to the glory He enjoyed with the Father before the world began (cf. Phil. 2.5-11). He seemed pretty excited about this. What is it about knowing the glory of God that is so eminently desirable? Is knowing God in His glory the driving force in your life, like it was for Jesus? Explain. *Father, I know that when I meet with You in Your glory, that...*
3. Jesus said the world “has not known” the Father, but Paul insisted that *everyone* knows God (Rom. 1.18ff). Is this a contradiction? How is Paul using *know*? How was Jesus using *know*? What does it mean for someone to *know* the Father in the way Jesus was praying about here? *Father, to know You, and Jesus Christ Whom You have sent – this is eternal life. Every day, Lord, let me increase in...*
4. Jesus revealed the Father to His disciples, and He promised more revelation to come. How should this instruct us to think about our own knowledge of the Father, and of Jesus, which is eternal life? Meditate on Psalm 116.12-14 as you think about your answer. *Thank You, Lord Jesus, for showing me the Father. Every day, Lord, show me...*
5. Knowing the Father, seeing His glory, being sanctified in His truth, and being one together, sharing in Him and His glory through Jesus – this is what Jesus prayed for us. But not as ends in themselves. Knowing God like this should lead to something more specific (v. 26, cf. Jn. 13.35). What? Bring together into one your prayers from questions 1-4.

Summary

“For, [Jesus says], if they learn who you are, O Father, then they will know that I am not separated from you.

*The Gospel of John: John 17.1-26*

They will know that I am one of your most dearly loved, a true Son and someone who is closely knit to you. And those who are rightly persuaded of this will keep their faith focused on me and remain in perfect love. And as long as they exercise their love as they should, I remain in them. Isn't it great how he finishes off this discourse on the note of love, the mother of all blessings? Let us then believe and love God, that it may not be said of us, 'They profess that they know God, but in their works they deny him.' And again, 'He has denied the faith and is worse than an infidel.'" *John Chrysostom (344-407 AD)*

Three themes interweave throughout this prayer: the glory of God, the people of God and their purpose, and the finished work of our Lord Jesus Christ. In a single sentence, explain how these relate to one another.

*Closing Prayer*

The LORD is my strength and song,  
And He has become my salvation.  
The voice of rejoicing and salvation  
Is in the tents of the righteous;  
The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.  
The right hand of the LORD is exalted;  
The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.  
I shall not die, but live,  
And declare the works of the LORD.

Psalm 118.14-17

**Psalm 118.14-18** (*St. George's Windsor: Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*)

In the Savior we are strong! He is all our strength and song!  
To His grace now raise your voice; in His righteousness rejoice!  
For the Lord does valiantly; we shall live eternally.  
Praise His works with all your breath, you whom He redeems from death.

## 7 Three Themes

*Read and meditate on John 17.1-26.*

Three themes dominate Jesus' prayer in John 17. In these themes, the heart of God is revealed, not only for understanding Jesus' prayer, but for understanding all of Scripture.

*<sup>1</sup>And then  
He spoke, and lifted up His eyes to heav'n,  
and said, "Of Father, now the hour has come  
for You to glorify Your only Son,  
that He may glorify You also. <sup>2</sup>You  
have given Him authority to do  
Your will, in giving life eternal to  
all those whom You have chosen, and whom You  
have given to the Son. <sup>3</sup>And this is life  
eternal, that they may know You, and Christ,  
Whom You have sent. <sup>4</sup>Now I have finished all  
the work that You have given as My call  
on earth, and I have glorified Your Name  
<sup>5</sup>Now glorify Me, Father, with the same  
eternal glory which I had with You  
before the world began. <sup>6</sup>For I have, to  
the men You gave me from the world, made known  
Your Name. You gave them to Me, who Your own  
men were, and they have kept Your Word. <sup>7</sup>And they  
know You have given Me all things. <sup>8</sup>I say  
to them the words that You have given Me,  
and they received them; and assuredly  
they know that I came forth from You,  
and they believed that You have sent Me to  
them. <sup>9</sup>And I pray for them. I do not pray  
for this world. But the men You gave Me, they  
are Yours, and I pray for them. <sup>10</sup>And all Mine  
are Yours, and all who are Yours, they are Mine  
as well. And I am glorified in them.  
<sup>11</sup>And they are in the world, although I am  
no longer in it, and I come to You.  
O holy Father, keep I pray, keep through  
Your Name those You have given Me, that they  
may all be one, as We are. <sup>12</sup>In Your Name  
I kept them while I was with them. Those You  
have given Me, them I have kept unto  
You. None of them is lost, but only one,  
he who is everlasting judgment's son,  
that Scripture all might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup>But now  
I come to You, and all these things, and how  
I speak them in the world, is so that they  
may have My joy fulfilled by what I say.  
<sup>14</sup>And I have given them Your Word; therefore,  
the world has hated them, because they are*

not of the world, as I am not. <sup>15</sup>I do not pray for them, that they from this world You should take, but that You should protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>Like Me, they are not from the world. <sup>17</sup>So sanctify them, Father, by Your truth. Your Word is truth. <sup>18</sup>And just as I was sent to this world, so I also to this world have sent them. <sup>19</sup>So that in the truth they may be sanctified, I sanctify Myself. <sup>20</sup>I pray not for them only; I pray also for all those who will believe in Me because of their word. May it please You, Father, <sup>21</sup>that they may be one; as You are in Me, I in You, so let them, too, be one in Us, so that the world may know that You have sent Me. <sup>22</sup>Father, make it so, that may be one just as We are. I have given them Your glory. Glorify Yourself, and make them one with Us: <sup>23</sup>I in them, and You in Me, that they may by their oneness perfect be, and that all men may know You sent Me, and that You love them as You have loved Me. <sup>24</sup>Father, those whom You have given me, I want them with me, too, where I am, that they may behold in Me the glory You have given unto Me before the world began. <sup>25</sup>The world has not known You, O righteous Father, as it ought to have, but I have known You; and these men have known that You have sent Me. <sup>26</sup>And to them I have proclaimed Your Name, and will proclaim it, that the love You have for Me, the same may be in them, and I in them.”

- John 17.1-26

*Reflect*

1. The three themes that recur throughout this prayer are the glory of God, the redemption (including sanctification and glorification) of God's people, and Jesus' work in accomplishing that redemption and glorifying God. Read through the prayer and note for each theme the verses where they occur. You'll need to have these before you to work through the remaining questions. Complete this prayer: *Lord Jesus, open my eyes to see into Your heart, so that my heart...*

2. The dominant theme of Jesus' prayer, and of all Scripture, is the glory of God. Jesus came and fulfilled His work so that God would be glorified, that God would glorify Him, and that the glory they enjoy together they will share with the people God has given to Him. Summarize the teaching of Jesus' prayer about the glory of God. How can you see that this is also a dominant theme of all Scripture? *Father, I would know You in Your glory, and glorify You in my life. Help me to...*

3. The second theme focuses on the people God gave to Jesus – all who believe in Him and receive His Word. You should be able to identify all three of the major aspects of our salvation in this prayer – justification, sanctification, and glorification. Summarize what we learn about God's people from Jesus'

prayer. How can you see that this, too, is a primary theme of all Scripture? *Thank You, Father, that You have saved me, are saving me, and will...*

4. The final – and central or operative theme – of Jesus’ prayer, as of all Scripture, is the work Jesus came to do. How would you summarize His work as He prays about it here? How can you see that this is also a primary theme of all Scripture (recall Jn. 5.39)? *Thank You, Jesus, that You have...*

5. Review questions 3-4. Summarize in a single sentence the primary themes of Jesus’ prayer. These themes represent the heart of God, and are the primary themes of all Scripture. How should knowing this help us in reading the Bible? Bring together into one prayer the prayers you composed for questions 1-4.

*Summary*

“But how else is the love with which the Father has loved the Son in us as well, except because of the fact that we are his members and are loved in him—since he is loved in the totality of his person as both head and members? Therefore he added, ‘and I in them,’ as if he were saying, ‘Since I am also in them.’ For in one sense he is in us as in his temple. But in another sense, he is also in us because we are also [part of] him, since, when he became man and our head, we became his body. And so, the Savior’s prayer is finished, his passion begins.” *Augustine (354-430 AD)*

Jesus’ prayer can guide us in our calling as His friends and followers. How shall we seek to know God’s glory, and to glorify Him? What progress are we realizing in our salvation? How can we keep Jesus always before us, and know His presence with us always? Meditate on these questions.

*Closing Prayer*

You who fear the LORD, praise Him!  
All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him,  
And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel!  
For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted;  
Nor has He hidden His face from Him;  
But when He cried to Him, He heard.  
My praise shall be of You in the great assembly;  
I will pay My vows before those who fear Him.  
The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
Those who seek Him will praise the LORD.  
Let your heart live forever!  
All the ends of the world  
Shall remember and turn to the LORD,  
And all the families of the nations  
Shall worship before You.  
For the kingdom is the LORD’s,  
And He rules over the nations.  
All the prosperous of the earth  
Shall eat and worship;  
All those who go down to the dust  
Shall bow before Him,  
Even he who cannot keep himself alive.  
A posterity shall serve Him.  
It will be recounted of the Lord to the next generation,  
They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born,  
That He has done this.

Psalm 22.23-31

**Psalm 22.29-31** (*Dix: For the Beauty of the Earth*)

All the prosp'rous of the earth shall before His mercy fall;  
Bending low before His worth, hear them humbly on Him call.  
Even those low in the grave He will by His mercy save.

Let the generations all witness to His saving grace;  
Let them to all nations call, "Bow before His holy face!"  
Let the children of the earth hear of Jesus' saving worth!

*The Gospel of John: John 17.1-26*

*Questions for reflection or discussion*

1. What makes this prayer of our Lord Jesus so very important to us as His friends and followers?
2. Meditate on 2 Corinthians 3.12-18, 1 Corinthians 10.31, and Habakkuk 2.14. How can Jesus' prayer help us to understand God's glory and our relationship to it?
3. Our salvation, in all its parts, is a work of God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Explain.
4. How can Jesus' prayer guide us in understanding the rest of the Bible?
5. What's the most important lesson you've learned from John 17.1-26? How are you putting that lesson to work in your walk with and work for the Lord?

*Items for prayer:*

## The Fellowship of Ailbe

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Thank you.