

**NEW SERIES: "The REAL Lord's Prayer"**

**Jesus Prays for His Disciples**

**John 17:6-19**

**Big Idea – Jesus came to do the Father's work and reveal Him to mankind.**

Intro: Last week we saw how Jesus prayed for Himself (vs. 1-5). The Father answered His Son's request and gave Him the glory. There is in heaven today a glorified Man, the God-Man, Jesus Christ! Because He has been glorified in heaven, sinners can be saved on earth. Anyone who trusts Jesus Christ will receive the gift of eternal life.

Because we share His life, we are overcomers; for we also share His victory! "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:4). When you were born the first time, you were born "in Adam" and were a loser. When you are born again through faith in Christ, you are born a winner!

Satan has tried to obscure the precious truth of the finished work of Jesus Christ, (2 Cor. 4:4 "...the god of this world has blinded the minds"), because he knows it is a basis for spiritual victory. "And they overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb" (Rev. 12:11). Don't let Satan rob you of your overcoming power through Christ's finished work.

As Jesus continues His prayer He prays for His disciples and speaks of more gifts that He gives in addition to eternal life in vs. 2, 3. Notice what He mentions in His prayer for them:

**1. Revealing of Name and Nature of God – vss. 6-12**

Old Testament Jews knew God as the great "I Am" (Exodus 3:11-14)

Ex 3:13 Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?"

14 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "

Jesus took this sacred name "I AM" - 7 times in Gospel of John Jesus used this phrase "I am" the door, the Vine, the light, the good shepherd, the bread, the resurrection and the life, the way, the truth and the life.

In other words, Jesus revealed the Father's gracious name by showing His disciples that He was everything they needed.

In fact, in John 8:58 Jesus told the Jews who hated him "Before Abraham was, I Am"

He also said "If you have seen me, you have seen the Father." So John bears witness to the deity of Jesus Christ – Jesus is God!

Jesus also taught His disciples that God—the great I AM—was their Heavenly Father. The word Father is used 53 times in John 13-17, and 122 times in John's Gospel! In His messages to the Jews, Jesus made it clear that the Father sent Him, that He was equal to the Father, and that His words and works came from the Father.

In the Bible, "name" refers to "nature," because names so often were given to reveal something special about the nature of the person bearing the name. Jacob was a schemer, and his name comes from a Hebrew root that means "to take by the heel," i.e., to trip up, to deceive (Gen. 25:26). The name Isaac means "laughter" (Gen. 21:6) because he brought joy to Abraham and Sarah. Even the name Jesus reveals that He is the Savior (Matt. 1:21). "I have manifested Thy name" means "I have revealed the nature of God." One of the ministries of the Son was to declare the Father (John 1:18).

Jesus also speaks of the safety & security of the believer; God keeps His own (John 17:11-12). Our safety depends on the nature of God, not our own character or conduct. When He was on earth, Jesus kept His disciples and they could depend on Him. "I kept them in Thy name" (John 17:12). Jesus did not lose any of his disciples – what about Judas Iscariot? He was never truly a disciple – why he's called "son of perdition"

2 Timothy 1:12 Paul said, "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him..."

## **2. The Word of God – vs. 13 – 19**

"I have given them Thy Word" (vs. 14 and v. 8). The Word of God is the gift of God to us. The Father gave the words to His Son (John 17:8), and the Son gave them to His disciples who, in turn, have passed them along to us as they were inspired by the Spirit (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

>Word gives joy – vs. 13. Neh. 8:10 "the joy of the Lord is your strength" This is the kind of joy He wants us to have, and we can have it through His Word. "Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart" (Jer. 15:16). "I have rejoiced in the way of Thy testimonies, as much as in all riches" (Ps. 119:14). "I rejoice at Thy word, as one that finds great spoil" (Ps. 119:162).

>it also assures us of His love (John 17:14). The world hates us, but we are able to confront this hatred with God's own love, a love imparted to us by the Spirit through the Word. The world hates us because we do not belong to its system (John 15:18-19) and will not be conformed to its practices and standards (Rom. 12:2). The Word reveals to us what the world is really like; the Word exposes the world's deceptions and dangerous devices.

The world competes for the Father's love (1 John 2:15-17), but the Word of God enables us to enjoy the Father's love. One of the first steps toward a worldly life is the neglect of the Word of God. D.L. Moody wrote in the front of his Bible, "This book will keep you from sin or sin will keep you from this book." Just as the pillar of fire was darkness to the Egyptians but light to Israel, so God's Word is our light in this dark world, but the world cannot understand the things of God (Ex. 14:20; 1 Cor. 2:12-16).

>it also imparts God's power for holy living (John 17:15-17). The burden of our Lord's prayer in John 17:6-12 was security, but here it is sanctity, practical holy living to the glory of God. We are in the world but not of the world, and we must not live like the world. Sometimes we think it would be easier if we were "out of the world," but this is not true. Wherever we go, we take our own sinful self with us, and the powers of darkness will follow us. I have met people who have gone into "spiritual isolation" in order to become more holy, only to discover that it does not always work.

True sanctification (being set apart for God) comes through the ministry of the Word of God. "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you" (John 15:3). When you were saved, you were set apart for God. As you grow in your faith, you are more and more experiencing sanctification. You love sin less and you love God more. You want to serve Him and be a blessing to others. All of this comes through the Word.

God's truth has been given to us in three "editions": His Word is truth (John 17:17); His Son is the truth (John 14:6); and His Spirit is the truth (1 John 5:6). We need all three if we are to experience true sanctification, a sanctification that touches every part of our inner person. With the mind, we learn God's truth through the Word. With the heart, we love God's truth, His Son. With the will, we yield to the Spirit and live God's truth day by day. It takes all three for a balanced experience of sanctification.

It is not enough merely to study the Bible and learn a great deal of doctrinal truth. We must also love Jesus Christ more as we learn all that He is and all He has done for us. Learning and loving should lead to living, allowing the Spirit of God to enable us to obey His Word. This is how we glorify Him in this present evil world.

The Word gives us joy, love, and power to live a holy life.

>It also gives us what we need to serve Him as witnesses in this world (John 17:18-19). Sanctification is not for the purpose of selfish enjoyment or boasting; it is so that we might represent Christ in this world and win others to Him. Aka "Soulwinning"

Jesus set Himself apart for us, and now He has set us apart for Him. The Father sent Him into the world, and now He sends us into the world. We are people "under orders" and we had better obey! Jesus is now "set apart" in heaven, praying for us, that our witness will bear fruit as many repent of their sins and turn to the Lord.