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## THE LORD'S PRAYER

John's gospel portrays Jesus as fulfilling the Old Testament roles of prophet, priest, and king. John 17 records the poignant personal prayer of Jesus - the night before His crucifixion, when He would offer His own life as the once-for-all sacrifice for sin. Scholars call it His "High Priestly Prayer." Let's explore the Lord's prayer for what we can learn for our own prayers - as we pray in Jesus' name.

**1- GLORIFY Jesus...** He lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, "*Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You; having accomplished the work You gave Me to do.*" Because the work of the obedient Son of God is guaranteed, He speaks of it as already completed - crucifixion, resurrection, ascension - His glorification which glorifies the Father. He affirms His "definite atonement" as His work assuredly gives eternal life to all the people the Father gave Him, so that they do come to know Him.

**2- MAGNIFY God's truth...** He prays, "*I have manifested Your name to the people You gave Me; they have come to know in truth that I came from You.*" He gave the Spirit of Truth to glorify Jesus. The Holy Spirit communicates God's Word, regenerates fallen sinners, bringing them to faith and growing them to be more like Christ. Your prayers reveal your understanding of the Bible. Jesus said, "*If you abide in Me and My words abide in You, ask whatever you wish and it will be done.*" You will have confidence in prayer when you pray God's words and His will, as you remain united to Christ, like branches to the vine.

**3- UNIFY in God's name...** Jesus prays for His disciples, "*Holy Father, keep them in your name, that they may be one, even as We are one.*" When you receive Jesus as Lord and Savior, the Bible says you are "in union" with Him and with all others who also believe in Him. As Jesus hands off His mission to the disciples, He prays for their unity. In John 13 He said, "*Love one another as I have loved you; by this the world will know that you are My disciples.*" As believers obey God's Word, in the Spirit's power, they reflect the unity of Father, Son, and Spirit, as the community of believers united in faith in His name.

**4- SATISFY & FORTIFY in Jesus...** He prays, "*I have guarded them; I speak these things that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves; keep them from the evil one.*" Jesus prays for the preservation of the saints, as John 15 says are chosen and appointed to bear fruit that remains. We may ask for temporal well-being, but Jesus prays for our sanctification, as His provision and protection keep us safe in Him.

**5- SANCTIFY in God's word of truth...** Jesus prays, "*Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.*" Sanctify means to make holy, to be set apart for God's purpose. The Spirit of God works the Word of God so the people of God become like the Son of God. Believers are the representatives of Christ - *in* the world but not *of* the world. Sent *into* the world, with God's eternal truth which overcomes the lies of the world, the flesh and the devil.

**6- MULTIPLY all believers...** He prays, "*I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word, that they may all be one; so the world may know.*" This is the incredible moment Jesus prayed for **YOU**. His disciples' words echo through the centuries, so believers in Christ today have the same faith as those who knew Him personally then, and all who are persecuted and martyred today.

**7- NOTIFY the whole world...** Jesus prays, "*I have made known to them Your name, and I will continue to make it known.*" Jesus equips us with the power of the Holy Spirit and gives us His great commission, so the whole world will know God's grace in Jesus. This happens as His disciples trust and obey His Word. Believers don't need to pray for guidance as much as for obedience, to work to make disciples.

Compare John 17 with Matthew 6. God's model for prayer is personal, specific, and powerful. Truly, the Triune God is manifest in prayer! We pray **TO** the Father, **THROUGH** the Son, **IN** the Holy Spirit. We pray to the sovereign Lord of the universe, our heavenly Father. We pray as though the Son of God makes request - with the authority and access of Christ. We pray in the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 8 explains how we are in union with Christ, who indwells us by the Holy Spirit who prays for us according to the will of God, and how Jesus today intercedes for us at the right hand of God.

As Hebrews 4:14-16 says, "*Since we have a great high priest, Jesus, who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin; let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in every time of need.*" - In Jesus' name, **Amen!**