

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

John 17

This prayer reveals the spiritual priorities that are in Jesus' heart.

➤ JESUS PRAYS: THAT WE WOULD BE PROTECTED.

"I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name – the name you gave me – so that they may be one as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me." . . . ¹⁵"My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one."
John 17:11-12a, 15 (New International Version)

- "protect" = "proshson," meaning "to guard, to keep, to watch over, to care for, to preserve"

Why would we face trials, opposition and persecution?

1. We have accepted Jesus Christ and His Word.

For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them.
John 17:8a (NIV)

I have given them your word and the world has hated them.
John 17:14a (NIV)

2. So that our faith may be tested and completed.

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-4 (NIV)

- "name" – refers to the nature or character of a person

Key: Our security depends on the nature of God, not on our own character or conduct.

From what does He protect us?

1. Opposition, temptation, persecution
2. The evil one – Satan himself

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6:12 (NIV)

➤ JESUS PRAYS: THAT WE WOULD BE SANCTIFIED.

"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be sanctified." John 17:17-19 (NIV)

How are we sanctified?

1. By receiving Jesus Christ
2. By the Word of God

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

Key: Loving God + Learning of God = godly living

For this reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. ⁸For if you possess the qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:5-8 (NIV)

➤ JESUS PRAYS: THAT WE WOULD BE UNITED

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: ²³I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." John 17:20-23 (NIV)

"Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you sent me. ²⁶I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them." John 17:25-26 (NIV)

Key: The mind grows by taking in the truth, but the heart grows by giving out in love.

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this all men will know "that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35 (NIV)

Jesus prayed for our security, our sanctity, and our unity so that HIS people would expand the family of God. Is His prayer being answered in your life?

For Adam:

⁶I have revealed you to those whom you have given me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name – the name you gave me – so that they may be one as we are one. ¹²While 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. ¹³I 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. ¹⁴I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.” John 17:6-19 (NIV)