

“I’ll Pray for You!”

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April 27-28, 2013

“I have revealed you to those whom you gave 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.” John 17:6-9 (New International Version)

Jesus’ prayer reveals the spiritual priorities that are in His heart for His followers.

Priority #1: That God would be glorified.

“Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.”
John 17:1b (NIV)

“I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.”
John 17:4 (NIV)

“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.”
John 17:24 (NIV)

Principle: The deepest desire of Jesus was to glorify the Father.

Priority #2: That we would have eternal life.

“For you granted him authority over all the people that he might give eternal life to those you have given him.” John 17:2 (NIV)

“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” John 17:3 (NIV)

Principle: Eternal life is a personal relationship with the only true God through Jesus Christ.

Priority #3: 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.” John 17:11-12a (NIV)

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

Priority #4: That we would be sanctified.

“Sanctify 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 17:17-19 (NIV)

Principle: Learning of God, loving God, and living for God leads to godly living.

Priority #5: That we would be unified.

“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)

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