



3/12/26

Well... I hope your home is intact along with trees and plants and animals after our big rain the other night. Someone down the street from us was tp'd and I'm so thankful that my husband graciously picked up all the toilet paper that had blown into our yard BEFORE it rained. Hahaha. He's a good boy. 😊

*Blessings,
Jonna*

John 17:20-26

Today, I finish Jesus' high priestly prayer. I'm going to see in this last part that He prayed for me... and all who would believe through the words of His first disciples. This stirs my soul... Jesus cares for me. He has a plan for me. He gave Himself for me. This is why I pray that 2 Corinthians 5:14 will be absolutely and completely true for me, "For the love of Christ controls me." So... how did Jesus close His prayer to the Father?

Part III: John 17:20-26

In vs. 20-21, Jesus said, "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, just as you, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent Me."

Oh my goodness. There is so much here. So much purpose!!! First, Jesus prayed for ME! I believe in Him through the words spoken and written down by His apostles. I believe that Matthew, John, Peter, Paul, and the others who wrote letters to the churches "spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21). I praise God for giving them the words so that I COULD believe. I praise God that His love is from everlasting to everlasting, and His love has room for me.

God has a purpose for me believing in His word... it is SO THAT I may be one with Him and with all the other believers. The Greek word for this means "one." There's no hidden meaning. God wants us to believe Him because that's how He accomplishes His purpose for us to be ONE.

Ephesians 4:4-6 says, "There is ONE body and ONE Spirit—just as you were called to the ONE hope that belongs to your call— ONE Lord, ONE faith, ONE baptism, ONE God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." This oneness means that God wants me to see other believers as part of ONE body in Christ... in the same way that He and the Father are ONE. Whoa!

How ONE are Jesus and the Father? They are so ONE that they never differ in opinion on ANYTHING. EVERYTHING they do is motivated by the same love. They are different in role, but not different in purpose or attitude. God wants me to have this kind of oneness with Him and others. This is absolutely impossible unless I'm abiding in Him, growing in Him.

But wait! Jesus says there's another purpose to my oneness with others AND the oneness we together have in Him... SO THAT the world may believe that the Father sent Jesus. First, Jesus was not praying for the world in this prayer, but He still kinda did. I think He still wanted the world to believe that He came from God so that some might turn to Him in repentance. Second, what convinces the world that Jesus is truly the Savior? The unity of His people. When the world sees us "living in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together we... with ONE voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 15:5-6), they take notice. So... what is ONE thing Satan is gonna do to keep them blinded from the truth? Stir up dissension among us. O Lord, please help me to pursue unity with other believers. Please take away my pride so that I can "walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which I have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, EAGER to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:1-3).

Jesus continued His desire for oneness among us as He prayed vs. 22-23, "The glory that You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and You in Me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that You sent Me and loved them even as You loved Me." WHOA! Jesus gave me glory!!! He has given me HONOR. Wow! For what purpose??? That we may be one! When a word in scripture is repeated 3 times or more, it means God is making a point. Pay attention. Here, Jesus keeps using the word, "one." There is so much oneness going on here. He wants us to be one with each other as believers. He is one with the Father. He wants us to be one with Him and the Father. He wants us to be PERFECTLY one... completely unified in Christ.

Here again, He brings another purpose for our oneness with Him... that the world may not just believe that the Father sent Jesus, but that they might KNOW that the Father sent Jesus AND that the Father loves believers with the same love He has for His Son, Jesus.

This is a big deal. When the world sees a unity in believers that can't be shaken because of our shared love for Jesus, they will understand His love for us. This is important, especially when believers are persecuted for their faith... when they stay unified even though a brother or sister in Christ is mistreated. John 12:42-43 speaks of people who gave lip service to their belief but refused to actually confess Jesus as Lord. It says, "Many even of the authorities

believed in Jesus, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God." That's not saved. As God changes us to be like Him, we do not get moved by cancel culture. We grow in Him so that we will not fear the rejection of men. And as we stay unified regardless of judgment from the world, more people will turn to Jesus in faith.

Unity that comes in the midst of diverse personalities, being unified by the unconditional, untainted love of God, affects people. The prayer is that they will see that unity and turn to Jesus.

Jesus continued His prayer with vs. 24, "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, may be with Me where I am, to see my glory that You have given Me because You loved Me before the foundation of the world." This is really beautiful. Jesus wants to take me home to be with Him forever. Right now, He is not taking me out of the world, but there will be a day that He will. And when that day comes, I will get to see Him in all His glory... and it will be amazing and it will be forever. Jesus emptied Himself of His glory at His first coming, but that glory has been restored... and I get to experience it forever. He does not hide Himself from me... ever. Praise His name.

Jesus closed His prayer with vs. 25-26, "O righteous Father, even though the world does not know You, I know You, and these know that You have sent Me. I made known to them Your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which You have loved Me may be in them, and I in them." It just blows my mind that He prayed this on the night of His arrest, knowing that in less than 24 hours, He would be crucified. How much love does someone have to have to focus His final breaths on the love He has for those who in hours would abandon Him? How much love does someone have to have to be so patient and merciful with me when I've been so hostile to Him in my life?

Do I KNOW that the Father sent Jesus? Absolutely YES. He HAS made the Father's name known to me. He continues to make the Father's name known to me even from His throne in heaven, through the power of the Holy Spirit. And why does He keep making the Father's name known? So that I could experience the SAME love the Father has for Jesus, and so that I could experience the love of Jesus forever. Who am I, O Lord, that You would be mindful of me??? You dwell in the high and holy place, You inhabit eternity... and You dwell in me... to revive my humble and repentant heart (Isaiah 57:15). Praise Your name.

I pray that my faith in You will grow my oneness with You and with Your people. I pray that I will never just be satisfied with the thought of having a "get out of jail free" card. I want Paul's words in Philippians 3:8 to be my words, "Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ." O Lord Jesus, You emptied Yourself of Your glory and majesty so that I could have life in You. I pray that nothing will hinder my devotion to You. I pray that, inasmuch as it depends on me, I will live peaceably with all men in holy oneness (Romans 12:18). Amen.