

7 Days of Creative Prayer with Jesus

John 17

Have you ever wondered what eternal life is really like? In his prayer in John's Gospel, Jesus tells us: ***Now this is eternal life: That they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. John 17:3***

Eternal life is Knowing God. Everything else is a by-product of this relationship. When we pray with Jesus we get to know God our Father & as children of the Father we are blessed with all the good things which Jesus prays for us in this prayer.

What follows is a 1 week devotional unpacking the blessings found in Jesus' prayer in John 17 using the 7 day creation template we find in Genesis 1.

My prayer for you is that as you go through **'7 days of creative prayer with Jesus'** your relationship with God your Father will deepen & grow.

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DAY 1 GLORY

Jesus prays, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began John 17:5

Jesus pre-dates creation. In fact Jesus has no beginning. Jesus is the eternal Son. His glory unlike the sun in the sky will never burn up and fade away.

Our sun is over 4 billion years old. It is roughly half way through its life cycle with another 5 billion to go. That's a long time but it is nothing compared to the eternal life which the Son of God offers.

As scientists gather more & more knowledge about this wonderfully glorious cosmos some would say that this makes God disappear. We don't need him anymore. Our knowledge & powers of discovery are enough.

The bible on the other hand tells us that the heavens reveal the glory of God. The more we discover the more we understand just how glorious God is.

Science can only guess at what brought forth this glory. The bible tells us that the glory of God brought forth this glory.

When I pray with Jesus he helps me see His glory. Just a glimpse of His Heavenly Glory. As one of his disciples as my life is transformed bit by bit, this prayer tells me that further glory comes to Jesus through me.

Isn't that amazing? God's glory is revealed in his creation & the pinnacle of his creation is humanity. That's why Jesus came to take on our humanity. To redeem the glory of his creation & redeem the glory of human beings like you and me.

And so Father I pray... Glorify the Son, our Lord Jesus, who has glorified you. And Holy Spirit, will you work your glory into my life today, so that I might live my life for the praise of your glory.

Day 2: REVELATION

Jesus prays, I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world John 17:6

Jesus has come to reveal God the Father. When we look at the Son we see the exact image of the Father. When we look at Jesus we see a Christ-like God.

If you want to know what God looks like, then look at his Son Jesus. If you want to know God as your Abba Father, then get on your knees and pray with Jesus.

Jesus is the Word who was with God in the beginning. Not only that, Jesus the Word was and is God. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

If you want to understand life, get to know God your Father through Jesus the Son. As you get to know your Abba Father you will begin to know yourself, the person he has created you to become.

Not only that as you get to know God & yourself he will lead you to help other people who are being called to know him too.

And so Father I pray... By your Spirit & your Word reveal to me who you truly are & also who I am too. Thank you Abba that I belong to you & you love me. I ask you Father in the silence that you will speak specifically into my life right now by your Spirit.

DAY 3: PROTECTION

Jesus prays, 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. John 17:11

Jesus is identified by many names... Saviour, Good Shepherd, Lord, Messiah... We could go through the whole alphabet from Alpha to Omega, but for me the one which fits best with what Jesus is saying is Immanuel - God with us.

While I was with them I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. John 17:12

Jesus prayer reveals that it is God the Father's deepest desire to be with us. He loves us and wants to protect us from anything that will harm us.

The previous chapters of John's Gospel we find Jesus promising that when he returns to the Father that he will ask the Father to send the Spirit to comfort & guide us in His absence.

And in the Old Testament we find a repeating promise from God that one day he will be with us forever and he will be our God and we will be his people.

And in the last book of the bible John gives us a picture of what that will look like in Rev 21: ***Look God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people & God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe***

every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. He who was seated on the throne said, I am making everything new.

This is what Jesus is looking forward to in His High Priestly Prayer. He is the One who makes us One with the father. He is Immanuel, God with us. Our Protector.

And so Father I pray... Dwell with me by your Holy Spirit. I pray come Holy Spirit right now and minister to my orphan heart. Lord I don't want to push you away like Judas did. Instead I open my heart so that I can know & experience the reality of your name – Abba Father, Immanuel, God with us.

Day 4: JOY

Jesus prays, I am coming to you now Father, 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. John 17:13

Jesus knows that his followers are about to be persecuted. Some things never change. The church of Jesus Christ is a persecuted church. It's not a complex. It's a fact. And it always will be a fact until Christ returns.

That persecution takes different forms. It can be full on physical persecution for us to deny Christ. Or it can be a more subtle temptation to put other things before Christ thereby denying him.

The antidote Jesus gives us to both types of persecution is **JOY!**

This is more than a little bit surprising that we can have joy in the midst of suffering, but no less wonderful. A man called Nehemiah in the Old Testament knew a thing or two about persecution, and he said to His people, ***the Joy of the Lord is your strength.***

Nehemiah 8:10

When we pray with Jesus we discover that this is true. It's not a frothy, surface level joy, but a deep-rooted fullness of joy which is untouchable by our earthly circumstances.

We see this joy in the lives of Jesus' first disciples. They are hard pressed on every side but nothing can rob them of their joy in the Lord which overflows from every page of the New Testament.

This same joy is available to us. Jesus doesn't promise to take us out of the world and its troubles. But he does promise to protect us from the evil one & fill us with the joy of his salvation until His return.

And so Father I pray, Fill me with the full measure of your joy. May your joy give me the strength I need to face this day. And may your joy overflow from my life into the lives of the people around me.

Day 5: TRUTH

Jesus prays, Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. John 17:17

John tells us that Jesus is the Word. And Jesus tells us that He is the Truth. Jesus is the Word & Truth personified.

When we pray with Jesus the Word he opens our eyes to the Truth. Things we couldn't understand before become clear and the Holy Spirit gives us the power to obey what God's Word is saying to our lives.

The big word for this process is Sanctification. Put more simply it is the process of you & me becoming more like God's Son Jesus Christ. This is summed up in the vision of New Life Baptist Church: We are 'Called to be like Jesus at the heart of North Yorkshire.'

For this process to work we must be people of the Word, Spirit, & Prayer. We don't suddenly become like Jesus by accident. We need to commit like Jesus did as a young lad, to understand the scriptures, in conversation with the Spirit & God's people, so that we might grow in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and man.

Imagine your bible is a car. What sort of mileage are you doing? Are you that one careful owner who rarely takes it out of the garage. Or does it go everywhere with you? Does it transport you through your whole life clocking up the miles in your work, rest, and play?

One of the great blessings of technology – much easier to take your bible everywhere. If you are a Samsung user your Bible App should be overheating. If you are an I-Phone user make sure you are doing regular facetime with the Word.

And so Father I pray, Sanctify me by your word the truth. Renew my hunger for your word and by your Spirit apply it to my life. Help

me to be a person who is full of grace & truth, living the Jesus way day by day.

Day 6: UNITY

Jesus prays for those who will believe,

That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us that the world may believe that you have sent me. John 17:21

When we pray with Jesus he prays for our unity. Our unity with the Father, the Son, and our Christian brothers and sisters.

If we think back to what went wrong in the beginning between Adam & Eve & God, the result of their disobedience was disunity.

They lost their oneness with God & each other. What follows in the bible story is the result of human beings turning away from God and each other. This also explains what continues to happen in our world today on a global scale & also on a personal level.

We continue to turn away from God and each other. This is why God sent Jesus. To show us how to turn back to the Father and each other. We do that turning around at the cross. The place where we are forgiven and set free to live our lives the Jesus Way.

This is also why God sent the Holy Spirit. To empower us to live the Jesus Way. Which means we need to stop resisting the Spirit and to welcome the Spirit with open arms.

We can resist the Spirit in all sorts of ways. But one of the main ways we resist the Spirit is when we withhold forgiveness from one another.

Someone offends us and we hold a grudge for the next 20 years. Thank God he doesn't do that with us. When we confess our sins God forgives us quickly & unconditionally which begs the question why don't we do the same?

Have you ever stopped to think that the unforgiveness you are holding onto is hindering the Gospel of Jesus Christ? It's time to forgive others as you have been forgiven by the Lord.

Take a moment to do that now... Father forgive me my sins as I forgive those who sin against me...

And so Father I pray, make me one with you and the Son and your people. You have given us a message that is only believable when your people live in unity. Bless your global & local church. Make us gospel partners so that the world might believe in Jesus Christ.

Day 7: LOVE

Jesus prays, Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I 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

When we pray with Jesus we enter into the relationship our souls have been crying out for since the day we were born. You see deep down we miss God our Father. We have been created as human

beings in the image of God so that we might become his eternal sons and daughters.

In the Book of Romans we read that the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. This is what Jesus is praying for in John 17: For us to become one with the Father & the Son in the love of God.

God your Father has so much in store for you. He offers you Eternal Life, starting right now. So what are you waiting for? All you have to do is start praying with Jesus. He is praying for you now at the Father's right hand. And he wants you to be part of his coming kingdom.

Will you join him?

And so Father I pray minister to my soul today. I pray Come Holy Spirit & flood my life with the Father's love for me as His beloved son or daughter. May the love you have for Jesus the Son, be in me & your church today.