

# believe

A STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN



## Jesus Prayed for Us: Part 1

*John 17:1-19*

**Main Point:** Jesus prayed for what we need to continue his work in the world.

### Jesus' prayer makes it clear that he is the eternal Son of God (1-5).

- *He glorifies the Father (1).*
- *He has the power to give eternal life (2-3).*
- *He accomplished his mission on earth (4).*
- *He exists eternally with the Father (5).*

A beautiful picture is painted in John 17:1. Jesus gazed into the sky and opened his mouth to speak to his Father, allowing the disciples to hear and to participate in his prayer. There's a good reason that Jesus wanted them to hear his prayer, and the first reason is simple: Jesus made it crystal clear that everything they had heard and had come to believe about him was true! In his opening words to his Father, Jesus made it clear that he was the eternal Son of God. Jesus acknowledged that the time had come for the completion of his work on earth. He asked his Father to glorify him so that the Father himself would be glorified through him. He went on to emphasize how the Father would glorify him and be glorified, which was through giving Jesus the power to give eternal life. Eternal life, Jesus said, is directly connected to faith in the Father and in the Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus went on to say that he had glorified the Father by his faithfulness to the work that the Father had sent him to do. He had accomplished his mission on earth, and now it was time for him to return to the Father. In case there was any doubt that Jesus was the uncreated Son of God, he emphasized the reality of his glory that existed before the world was created. What a powerful confession that only leaves one possibility: Jesus is the eternal Son of God!

1. Why did Jesus gaze into the sky (heavens) as he prayed? How does your posture and even your focus impact your prayer? Do you ever look to the heavens as you pray to the Lord? Why?
2. Reflect on how the Father glorified the Son. What are some ways that he did that in Jesus' life on earth? How did that bring the Father glory? How do you bring glory to God through your life?
3. What is the authority that the Father gave Jesus over all flesh? Does this leave any room for any other way to eternal life – for any human – except through Jesus? How is faith and eternal life connected?
4. What does the eternal existence of Jesus reveal about the identity of Jesus?
5. Is there someone who needs to hear these truths about Jesus this week? Who are they? How can you share what you've studied in God's Word with them in the coming week?

**Jesus' prayer makes it clear that his disciples will continue his work (6-19).**

- *The words of Christ are key to growing faith in Christ (6-8).*
- *Being one in Christ is key to the glory of Christ in us (9-11).*
- *God's Word is key to encouraging and protecting us in this world (12-16).*
- *Growing in Christ through the Word is key to our witness for Christ (17-19).*

Jesus prayed for his disciples. The prayer in verses 6-19 was specifically for the disciples that were gathered around him that day, but the application of the truths in this prayer extend well beyond those first disciples. In his prayer, Jesus laid out some keys to his work, which his disciples were being prepared to continue. One of the first things was connected to the most essential thing that the disciples would do in making disciples, which was leading others to faith in Jesus! Jesus said that his presence manifested the Father's name on this earth and among his disciples. The Father had given Jesus' disciples to him, and Jesus had given them every word that the Father had given him to share. They received and kept the words of Jesus, and they had come to know that the Father had sent his Son! The words of Christ are key to growing faith in Christ. He modeled it. They followed it, and it's still true today. Second, Jesus connected his oneness with the Father to the oneness of his disciples with each other. Just as Christ's oneness with the Father brought glory to the Father through Jesus, so the oneness among his disciples would bring glory to the Father and the Son. Being one in Christ is key to the glory of Christ in us as his disciples, his church. Third, Jesus recognized that his disciples were now like him in that the world was not their home. The world that rejected Jesus would reject them. The ruler of the world that tempted and sought to overcome Jesus would attack them. Jesus prayed that his disciples would be encouraged and protected for their work for him in this world. Finally, Jesus asked the Father to sanctify his disciples! To set them apart for his work and to make them holy, looking more like Jesus in their lives. Jesus connected this sanctifying work to the Word! Growing in Christ through the Word is key to our witness for Christ. What a wonderful prayer for his disciples that reminded them – and us today – that we're here to continue Jesus' work in this world!

1. What is the one thing in Jesus' prayer for his disciples that stands out most to you? Why?
2. How would you measure your oneness with other believers in your church? Do you recognize that we're connected in Christ? What does that mean? How does that affect the way you deal with conflict, feelings, and forgiveness with other believers in the church? Why is unity important?
3. How are you sanctified in the Word? How are you growing in sanctification through the Word? What is something in your life that the Lord is working on and changing to be more like Jesus? How does all of this impact your witness for Jesus?