

"Glorify Your Son."

John 17

1 Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, 2 even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. 3 "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 4 "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

6 "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. 7 "Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; 8 for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.

9 "I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours; 10 and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them.

11 "I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are. 12 "While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.

13 "But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves. 14 "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 15 "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. 16 "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. 18 "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 "For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.

20 "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; 21 that they may all be one; even 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 sent Me.

Their Future Glory

22 "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. 24 "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

25 "O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; 26 and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

/The Father sent His Son into the world with a mission to save the world.\

/And soon He will leave the world and go back to the Father.\

Now the hour has come for Jesus to die, be raised from the dead, and return to His glory at the Right Hand of His Father.

/Jesus is going to leave the world, but His disciples will remain in the world.\

John 17:15-18

15 "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. 16 "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. 18 "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

/And just as the Father sent His Son into the world with a mission to save the world, Jesus will send His disciples into the world with a mission: to be His witnesses.\

And the world will be hostile to them. The world will do all it can to prevent them from carrying out their mission.

/So Jesus now turns to His Father in **intercessory prayer**.\

Throughout the gospel, Jesus has been speaking to His disciples about His Father.

Now, He is going to speak to His Father.

/First, He will ask the Father to glorify **Him**. John 17:1-5\ He does not pray for His own sake, however. The glory which the Father will give Him leads to the Son returning the glory to the Father.

John 17

1 Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, 2 even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. 3 "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 4 "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

/The Father will glorify the Son by leading Him to the cross.\

/The Son will glorify the Father by dying on that cross to complete the work that His Father gave Him to perform.\

/Second, Jesus prays for **His disciples**. John 17:6-19\

/He asks the Father to protect them from the evil world and the evil one. \

John 17:11-19

11 "I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are. 12 "While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.

The Disciples in the World

13 "But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves. 14 "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 15 "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. 16 "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

/He also asks the Father to sanctify them: to set them apart for the task He is going to give them.\

17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. 18 "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 "For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.

/Finally, He prays for all who will believe in Him through the witness of His disciples:
the church, John 17:20-26\

This is where Jesus prays for us. He's praying for the church, His body, all people who will believe in Him for eternal life.

John 17:20-26

/First, He asks for unity: that they may all be one.\

20 "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; 21 that they may all be one; even 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 sent Me.

/Then He asks that they may be with Him so that they see His glory.\

22 "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. 24 "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

/Chapter 17 is the greatest prayer in the Bible.\

It moves from glory to glory.

/ It begins with the glory of the Father and the Son.
It ends with the hope of glory for the church.\

/And it deals with ultimate things: eternal life, joy, holiness, truth, unity, and love.\

All wrapped up in glory. /It is, in a word, MAGNIFICENT.\

This intercessory prayer of Jesus takes on a life of its own, with tremendous movement.

/There are three stages, corresponding to the beneficiaries of His requests.\
The circle widens as He goes along.

I prepared a visual to help you see the three stages of Jesus's prayer in chapter 17.

He begins at the source: the source of all glory and unity and love and life: His relationship with His Father from the beginning.

/pic\

John 1:1

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

At the right time, the Word of God entered human history. God's Son came to this fallen world – a world that did not know Him.

/pic\

John 1:14

14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The world was hostile to the Son. It hated Him, and all those who were His.

/pic\


So Jesus's prayer begins with the Father and the Son. The Son is in the world. And the Son is about to die so that He may bring life to the world. This is how the Father will glorify Him, and this is how the Son will glorify the Father.

/pic\
 John 17:1-5

Next, He prays for His disciples. The cone of life, overcoming, and glory expands to include the men who were with Him that night.

He is going to send them into the world to preach the gospel.

/pic\
 John 17:6-19

Finally, Their preaching will expand the cone still more. The gospel will spread to more and more people. Millions will hear and believe and be given eternal life.

/pic\
 John 17:20-26

2 Cor 5:17-21

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

And this drama continues. We are now entered into the movement. We are now the ambassadors for Christ. Jesus prayed for us. He prayed for our unity. He prayed that we might see His glory. He prayed that His love would be in us.

<><><><><><> Next week<><><><><>

John 17:1 Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, 2 even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. 3 "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

This is a remarkable definition of eternal life. Notice that Jesus says nothing about Eternal life begins the moment we believe in Christ. It is our present possession.

John 5:24

24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

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1 John 5:11-13

11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

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Eternal life is life with God. We possess this life in Christ.

God is not said to have eternal life. God grants eternal life to believers.

That we may know the one True God, and Jesus Christ whom He has sent.

Eternal life is the life we receive when we are born again.

1 Peter 1:3-5

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and

undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

It is the life of the New Man. We are a new creation with a new life.

This eternal life is a life we live in our relationship with God. It cannot exist apart from Him, or apart from Jesus Christ whom He has sent.

In Christ was life, and the life was the Light of men.

That they may know You,

Knowing God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent. This IS eternal life.

TO know Him is to be living this new, eternal life.

Col 1:9-12

9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

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Thus, as we get to know Him better, we reap eternal life, and in that sense we grow in our experience of eternal life.

Or rather, this life grows for us.

The relationship is the knowing, and the knowing is eternal life.

To grow closer to Him is to know Him better.

Let not a mighty man.....but that He understands and knows Me.

That is a far richer , more powerful life.

Eternal life is a life infinitely more wonderful than human existence.

Eternal life does not mean existing forever. A rock can exist a long time.

It's greater than the human life of the unbeliever, qualitatively better than the life we were given when we were born.

Eternal life has a timeless quality. It is otherworldly.

And yet it is extremely practical.

In fact, Jesus describes several of its characteristics in His prayer in chapter 17.

John 17:13

13 "But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves.

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One characteristic of eternal life is complete joy.

John 17:19

19 "For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.

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Another characteristic of eternal life is pure truth.

John 17:20-21

"I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; 21 that they may all be one; even 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 sent Me.

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Perfect unity is a quality of eternal life.

John 17:22-26

22 "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

The love of God is another aspect of eternal life.

Seeing Christ in His glory is the ultimate expression of eternal life.

24 "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

25 "O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; 26 and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

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To know Him fully is the same thing as being glorified with Him.

He desires us to be with Him where He is so that we might see His glory.

Col 3:1-4

3 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

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That is our destiny. That is our future.

So what?

Eternal life is like a secret garden. We possess it, but that is not the same as living in it.

For far too many Christians, eternal life remains a secret. They don't even know that they have it.

Consider the alternative to eternal life.

What life do people live who cannot live this eternal life because they do not know the one true God, since they have no relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ?

An alienated life.

A meaningless existence.

A life of slavery.

A life of fear.

A life of corruption.