

We have been examining the prayer of Jesus on His last night before the crucifixion. He first prayed for glory for Himself so that He could glorify the Father. Then He prayed for the disciples. He prayed for their protection, for them to have a full measure of His joy, and for their sanctification. Because Jesus is about to depart from this world, He was asking for His work to carry on in His followers. That is only possible if His followers are sanctified. In other words, those who follow Christ can only be fit containers of Jesus' life and power when they are set apart from worldliness and united with God. (1Corinthians 6:19-20)

Jesus' prayer now moves to those who will believe because of the answer to the prayer for the disciples. <sup>20</sup> *"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, What did Jesus just pray that wasn't just for the disciples but also for all of us who believed through their message? John 17:17-19 (NIV) <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.* The request for the sanctification of the disciples was also made a request for us, those who have believed through their message. That is the whole church from the day of Pentecost to the present. We have all believed because of the Apostles' testimony of Jesus' life and message. Jesus requested that we be sanctified by the truth and then clarified that He was speaking of the Word. (Psalm 119:9)

Before we go into the world to share the Gospel, we must be sanctified by the Word of God. (James 1:25) It ("He" – as Jesus is the incarnate Word) must set us apart from the world in the way we think and act. We must be made new creations. The problem with the Gospel message in the world today is that so many that claim to be Christians are not sanctified and yet trying to share a social Gospel that is a watered down, muddled version of a powerless Jesus. On the other extreme, there are those who in their flesh are trying to please God by obeying the command to witness but aren't sanctified. Out of duty, they try to witness, but they aren't a vessel of the Holy Spirit. (Zechariah 4:6)

How can you tell? The sanctified ones are winsome like Jesus. The works based ones are as repulsive as Pharisees. The wishy washy worldly ones are just like the world but with lipstick. (I hope it's okay to borrow that analogy.) Jesus is praying that those who truly believe don't become a hybrid, part believer, part compromiser with a works religion or the world. (2Corinthians 6:16-17) It has to be the life of Christ in us or we end up like the world, and the life of Christ will only be manifest in sanctified vessels. The world doesn't need you to be a really, really, good person. They need Jesus' life to be seen in you. They don't need your best; they need God's best, Jesus!

Jesus goes on to pray, <sup>21</sup> *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 so that the world may believe that you have sent me.* Unity only comes when we are sanctified. If we each surrender ourselves to the life of Christ, there will be the most wonderful love and unity you can imagine! I'm not speaking of uniformity, but of a oneness of the heart. Jesus

**Commented [notes1]:** 19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.  
1 Cor 6:19-20 (NIV)

**Commented [notes2]:** 9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.  
Psalms 119:9 (NIV)

**Commented [notes3]:** 25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does.  
James 1:25 (NIV)

**Commented [notes4]:** 6 So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.  
Zech 4:6 (NIV)

**Commented [notes5]:** 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."  
17 "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."  
2 Cor 6:16-17 (NIV)

clarified that He was speaking of the same kind of unity that He had with the Father. He called it being in the other, you in me and I in you. Sometimes we speak of being able to get in someone's head. We mean we can follow their train of thought and motivations. This is much more than that. This is sharing the same heart and desires. (Psalm 86:11)

**Commented [notes6]:** 11 Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. Psalms 86:11 (NIV)

I want to paint a picture for you of what I understand Jesus to be talking about. Someone in the congregation is led of the Holy Spirit to do something. It takes more than one person to do it, and those who are needed are prompted to participate. They do it with such an anointing that they are amazed and know it was only God. The whole effort bears fruit and no one person really gets the credit because everyone knows from start to finish it was God. Those who weren't led to participate encourage those who are because they know it is of God. And those involved in another project pray for the success and blessing on that other endeavor and are not in the least bit jealous because they see both efforts leading to the same goal. Harmony, unity, cooperation, blessing one another, encouragement, all flow back and forth. (1Corinthians 12:6-7) What a place to be! What a joy to be a part of a fellowship like that!

**Commented [notes7]:** 6 There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 1 Cor 12:6-7 (NIV)

But there are bound to be those projects that are great ideas, but not God inspired ideas. We can come up with all kinds of good efforts in our own spirit. Few if anyone feels led to participate. Others are kind about your effort but simply encouraging you to see if it is really God. You push and push but nothing seems to happen. In a flock of sanctified believers, you will realize it isn't of God and let it go and learn to discern the things that are of self and that which comes from God. Do you see the unity that comes from the body of believers being set apart as vessels for the living God and sensitive to the leading of His Holy Spirit?

One of the main lessons we have seen in the unity of the Father and Son is that the Son, during His earthly life, did nothing without the Father's direction. (John 5:19) That should be a major factor in our unity as well. That direction comes when we are sanctified by the Word. The congregation must live in fellowship with the Word to be in unity. That is why I keep encouraging you to spend time daily reading your Bible and letting it speak to you.

**Commented [notes8]:** 19 Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. John 5:19 (NIV)

Why do we need unity? Jesus answers, "*So that the world may believe that you have sent me.*" The wonderful unity of believers that are sanctified by the word of God will draw people to Jesus. (John 13:35) It is happening even now in our midst. People taste a bit of the love and fellowship at Wayside and other churches that are letting the Word sanctify them, and they want to be a part of that. I can't tell you how encouraged I have been as people obey the Holy Spirit and step out and do what I know is of God. It's that thrilling feeling of knowing something supernatural is taking place and is going to bless lives in ways that you could never imagine, and you get to be a participant. (Ephesians 3:20)

**Commented [notes9]:** 35 By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:35 (NIV)

*22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one:* I spoke quite a bit on glory last week. There are different kinds of glory. One is that of Jesus' earthly life and the cross. It's an incarnation of the heart of God. That is what John the Beloved was referring to in the beginning of this Gospel when he

**Commented [notes10]:** 20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, Eph 3:20 (NIV)

wrote, "We have seen his (Jesus) glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) It is glory in action.

Then there is heavenly glory as splendor or radiance, the expression of the beauty that is within. That is the kind of glory seen in the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:2) and the vision of Jesus in Revelation (Revelation 1:16). It is a manifestation that is usually in the form of brilliant light.

The glory Jesus shares with us in this world (and remember Jesus is praying about you and me, those who came to believe because of the disciples' word) is the former kind of glory, a glory of actions. He shares with us the grace to die to ourselves and live a life of love. (Ephesians 5:2) He gave us this glory so that we could be one in the way that the Father and Son are one. He shares His heart with us. Do you really want to receive it? It is fullness of joy, but it is also a great burden for the lost and the hurting. (Philippians 2:17) Are you captivated by the love of Christ to the extent that you will ask for Him to share His heart with you?

I am moved by the sacrifices of others. It calls to my heart. When I hear of my brothers and sisters in Christ standing for their faith in the face of certain death, it challenges me to surrender everything to Jesus all over again. There is the oneness, in utter submission! The oneness of the Father and Son! I'll do whatever I can for you. I know you'll do whatever you can for me. We have the same desire, to know Jesus and make Him known, whether you are a part of Wayside Chapel or a church in India or a home fellowship in China or a secret believer in Pakistan. When one suffers, we all suffer. (1Corinthians 12:26) When souls are won, we all rejoice. (Luke 15:6-7)

*<sup>23</sup> I 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. Picture it this way. We are the skin on the hand, Jesus is the muscle under the skin, and the Father is the bone under the muscle. They cooperatively work as one. Believers that are not moving in unity, who refuse to share the Lord's heart, are like a gaping wound in which a portion of the skin doesn't move with the rest. When there is a wound, people focus on the wound and not the rest that is functioning as it should.*

Jesus was declaring that the complete unity of the body would let the world know He is the Sent One. There is much more to this than we read on the surface, for Jesus was fulfilling the words of the prophets that spoke of the nations of the world worshiping with Jews even as a clan in Judah. (Zechariah 9:7) He had mentioned it before in John 10:16 referring to one flock and one shepherd. That was a direct reference to Ezekiel 34:23; 37:24! He taught that time was about to arrive in John 11:52 "gathering of the scattered children of God into one." It's a unity of Jew and Gentile surrendered to God. The Apostle Paul said it was a mystery that was hidden up till that time. (Ephesians 3:6)

This unity is only possible when we are taken into the unity of God! We are invited into the unity of God through the Gospel. We are invited to take on His character and share His heart. That of course is all possible because of the atoning work by Jesus on the cross, bearing our sins and the punishment we deserve. There is no

**Commented [notes11]:** 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 (NIV)

**Commented [notes12]:** 2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Matt 17:2 (NIV)

**Commented [notes13]:** 16 In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. Rev 1:16 (NIV)

**Commented [notes14]:** 2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Eph 5:2 (NIV)

**Commented [notes15]:** 17 But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. Phil 2:17 (NIV)

**Commented [notes16]:** 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. 1 Cor 12:26 (NIV)

**Commented [notes17]:** 6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' 7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. Luke 15:6-7 (NIV)

**Commented [notes18]:** 7 I will take away its blood from its mouth, and its abominations from between its teeth; it too shall be a remnant for our God; it shall ... [1]

**Commented [notes19]:** 16 I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ... [2]

**Commented [notes20]:** 23 I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. Ezek 34:23 (NIV)

**Commented [notes21]:** 24 "My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd. They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees. ... [3]

**Commented [notes22]:** 52 and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. John 11:52 (NIV)

**Commented [notes23]:** 6 This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ... [4]

other way we could enter the unity of God. We are transformed, changed, and God sees what we will become when the work is completed. (2Corinthians 5:17) This is why He is willing to invite us into that mystical union and love us as He loves the Son. The unity of believers convinces others God loves us like He loved Jesus. The world recognizes the miracle of the unity of the believers as a sign of God's love.

**Commented [notes24]:** 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!  
2 Cor 5:17 (NIV)

Consider the implications of God loving us to the same degree (as the Greek implies) that He loves Jesus! Jesus had complete joy because He knew the love the Father had for Him. (Mark 9:7) He now tells us we should have His joy. He had confidence and great trust. We should have the same. What a change should come over us when we realize that the Father loves us as He loved Jesus! What a difference there should be in our outlook! What compulsion we should have to please Him in everything we do! (John 5:30) Can you accept the fact that God loves you as He loved Jesus? Let that sink in. Meditate on that this week.

**Commented [notes25]:** 7 Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"  
Mark 9:7 (NIV)

**Commented [notes26]:** 30 By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.  
John 5:30 (NIV)

*24 "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. I've struggled with the meaning of this verse. Does it mean that Jesus wants the disciples to be in heaven and see the splendor of His majesty or does it mean He wants them to follow His Holy Spirit in this world and see His glory working through their lives? I could make a case for either and perhaps both perspectives are true. Certainly Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us and will come and take us to be with Him forever. (John 14:2-3) That encourages us to endure through the difficulties of this life. But the context seems to emphasize the second meaning.*

**Commented [notes27]:** 2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.  
3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.  
John 14:2-3 (NIV)

Listen to the words of Jesus in John 12:26 (ESV). *26 If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.* That's the terminology Jesus just used in prayer. We follow Jesus in this life. We can't really serve without being with Him. Many try to serve in their own strength and according to their own whims, but true service is only possible when we follow Him. And when we follow and serve, we see His glory.

*See represents the Greek word theōreō, "to observe with sustained attention," and includes the idea of entering into and experiencing something.* -ESV Study Bible- It sounds so simple, so wonderful, and it is. Yet, the old nature in us fights so hard to have us serve it and live for a lie rather than to follow and serve our beautiful Lord as we observe Him with sustained attention and enter into His very life in us. (Galatians 5:17)

**Commented [notes28]:** 17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.  
Gal 5:17 (NIV)

*25 "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.* This prayer is based on the righteousness of the Father. Jesus can ask these things for us because of the work He was about to do on Calvary. The world doesn't know the Father. If they did, they would bow before Him. To know Him is to love Him and His Son and that is eternal life. (John 17:3)

**Commented [notes29]:** 3 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)

The disciples were the only ones that believed Jesus was the Sent One. They had become convinced that Jesus is God's Word revealed in flesh. They knew His words were the words of life. (John 6:68)

**Commented [notes30]:** 68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.  
John 6:68 (NIV)

*26 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."*

Jesus revealed God to the disciples, and through their Gospels we have come to know God too. But Jesus wasn't finished with them or with us. The revelation continues to unfold. My conviction is that it will continue to unfold throughout eternity. There will always be more wonders to see in our infinite God. The more we see the more we love Him!

Jesus continues to reveal God to us because He wants to see the Father's love for Himself in us. The more we see of God, the more we love Jesus. Here is how that works. We see the beauty of God's attributes and we marvel at their perfections. Only that which is evil would not appreciate those glorious attributes. We realize those attributes were demonstrated for us in the life of Jesus, so that we could relate to God. (John 14:9) We realize someone came from such glory to take on a human body that we might know God. If that doesn't cause you to love Him more, your heart is darkened, blind, and deceived. (Romans 1:21)

Jesus vowed to continue to reveal God to us because He wants to live in us. The more we appreciate the attributes of God, the more we want those same attributes to be in us. We know that is only possible if Jesus lives in us. We become more desperate to yield to His life.

The phrase, "I myself may be in them" will remind these Jewish disciples of the covenant promises of being in their midst. (Exodus 29:45-46; Deuteronomy 7:21; 23:14) This time it is the reality rather than the shadow. He is no longer cloud that leads by day or the Shekinah in the Tabernacle, but Emmanuel, God with us. Jesus is speaking of the new covenant. (Ezekiel 36:25-27)

Jesus has entrusted the disciples to the Father. He'll go from the Temple, across the Kidron, to the Garden. He'll have His final private prayer time preparing His heart for the cross. Then come the arrest, trial and crucifixion.

This is Jesus' prayer that fateful night. It was a prayer about glory, a word we know so little about. It was prayer for His followers to be sanctified, and through that purity of heart to have a supernatural unity with one another and with God. Jesus looked down through the ages to come and realized all that would try to damage the message of the Gospel. He could see the schisms as men created their own emphasis, distractions from the wonder of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. He could see the "we're better than you" attitudes that would arise. He could see people falling for works based religions and worldly compromise. He could see the apathy that would enter a world of wealth and He prayed. *"Sanctify them through the truth, your word is truth."* And He prayed that we might be perfectly one so that the world could recognize the real followers and know that God loves us like He loves His own Son, Jesus. This is still what we need today to be effective in this world, sanctification and unity. Will we cooperate with the Spirit as God moves us to conform our lives to Jesus' prayer?

**Commented [notes31]:** 9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father?' John 14:9 (NIV)

**Commented [notes32]:** 21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Romans 1:21 (NIV)

**Commented [notes33]:** 45 Then I will dwell among the Israelites and be their God. 46 They will know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of Egypt so that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God. Ex 29:45-46 (NIV)

**Commented [notes34]:** 21 Do not be terrified by them, for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a great and awesome God. Deut 7:21 (NIV)

**Commented [notes35]:** 14 For the LORD your God moves about in your camp to protect you and to deliver your enemies to you. Your camp must be holy, so that he will not see among you anything indecent and turn away from you. Deut 23:14 (NIV)

**Commented [notes36]:** 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Ezek 36:25-27 (NIV)

**Page 3: [1] Commented [notes18] Paul Wallace**

7 I will take away its blood from its mouth, and its abominations from between its teeth; it too shall be a remnant for our God; it shall be like a clan in Judah, and Ekron shall be like the Jebusites.

Zech 9:7 (ESV)

**Page 3: [2] Commented [notes19] Paul Wallace**

16 I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

John 10:16 (NIV)

**Page 3: [3] Commented [notes21] Paul Wallace**

24 "My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd. They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees.

Ezek 37:24 (NIV)

**Page 3: [4] Commented [notes23] Paul Wallace**

6 This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Eph 3:6 (ESV)