

The Gospel of John session 19

Review: Last time we went through chapter 16 where Jesus delivers a crucial segment of his farewell discourse to prepare his disciples for his imminent death, resurrection, and ascension. He speaks directly about the promise of the Holy Spirit, the inevitability of persecution, and his final victory over the world. John 16 serves to comfort a grieving group of disciples by promising that Christ's departure brings the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit, a direct connection to God the Father, and a guaranteed ultimate victory over earthly hardships.

Many people refer to the prayer template taught by Jesus to his disciples as “the Lord’s prayer”. That prayer was given by Christ to his followers to serve as a pattern for the things we should pray about and how to come respectfully before the Father. Chapter 17 is a personal prayer of the Lord Jesus just before they go into the garden of Gethsemane. It might surprise you to learn that you and I are included in that prayer.

John 17:1-5 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

- **The hour has come** – The time for his suffering, death, and resurrection has arrived.
- **Glorify the Son** – He asked the Father to support and vindicate him through the trial so that people would see the true greatness of God through the Son’s sacrifice. The Father strengthened him to endure the cross and restored him to his heavenly glory before the world was.
- **Glorify the Father** – The ultimate goal was showing the world the depths of God’s grace, authority, and power through the gift of eternal life. Christ glorified the holiness and the justice of the Father by absorbing it all on the cross. God’s hatred for sin and love for sinners was on display at Calvary.
- **Power over humanity** – The Father gave the Son authority over all people so that he can give eternal life to believers.
- **I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work you gave me to do** – Jesus meant that he came to make the Father seen and he did that through finishing

all the work that the Father gave him to do. “If you have seen me, you have seen the Father.”

- **Definition of eternal life** – Eternal life is knowing the Father and Son (not knowing about them) “know” is the Greek word *ginosko* which means to know through personal experience, first-hand acquaintance.

John 17:6-10 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.

- **A gift from God** – These men originally belonged to God the Father, who then gave them to Jesus. Christ revealed the name and character of the Father to them.
- **Keeping the word** – Jesus affirms that the disciples have obeyed and held tightly to the teachings the Father gave him.
- **Divin source** – The disciples now truly understand that everything Jesus has and says comes directly from the Father.
- **Special focus** – Jesus states clearly that he is praying for these specific disciples and not for the world at that moment.
- **Shared ownership** – He explains a deep unity between himself and the Father, stating that everything the Father has belongs to him, and everything Jesus has belongs to the Father.
- **Glorified in them** – Jesus declares that he is glorified through the changed lives and faith of these disciples.

John 17:11-16 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we *are*. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

- **Unity in the Father’s name:** Jesus prays that the Father will keep (to guard or maintain) the disciples by the power of His name so they can stay united, just as

Jesus and the Father are united. It's worth noting that the keeping is God's responsibility, not theirs.

- **Not of the world** – Jesus notes that his followers have received God's word, which causes the world (the system that opposes God) to reject and hate them just as it did him.
- **Protection, not isolation** – He explicitly asks the Father not to remove them from the physical world, but rather to guard and keep them safe from the evil one while they live and serve within it.

John 17:17-19 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

- **Sanctification by truth** – To “sanctify” means to be set apart and dedicated to God. God's word acts as a purifying agent that transforms believers from the inside out.
- **The continuing mission** – Believers are not removed from society, but to remain embedded in the world to carry on the mission that the Father gave to Jesus.
- **Jesus sanctified himself** – Though he was sinless, he set himself apart totally and offered himself without spot to God to make our purification possible.

John 17:20-23 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

- **Future believers prayed for** – Christ prayed specifically for these men, now he prays for us all. All of us that would come to faith in him through the foundational ministry of the apostles.
- **Spiritual unity** – He asks that believers be completely unified, mirroring the deep, harmonious oneness shared between God the Father and Jesus the Son.
- **Witness to the world** – The ultimate goal of this unity is outward facing; it proves to non-believers that God sent Jesus and loves humanity with the same love He has for the Son.

John 17:24-26 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them

thy name, and will declare *it*: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

- **The vision of glory** – Jesus expresses his ultimate desire that all who believe in him will eventually be with him in glory to behold his divine glory. This glory belongs to him because of the Father's eternal love for him before the creation of the world.
- **Knowing the Father** – Jesus contrasts the world's ignorance of God with his own intimate knowledge of the Father. He affirms that his disciples have recognized him as their Messiah.
- **The indwelling love** – Jesus promises to continue revealing God's nature so that the exact, immense love the Father has for the Son will literally reside in the believers, uniting them with Christ.

Tonight's application: Sanctify them through the truth, thy word is truth. Sanctification means to make holy, set apart, or purify. It comes from a root word meaning to be set apart for a special purpose or dedicated to God. There are three stages of sanctification **positional** (set apart instantly at conversion), **progressive** (a lifelong daily growth in holiness), and **ultimate** (complete perfection after this life).

How are believers sanctified? Jesus said through truth, and God's word is truth. Believers are progressively sanctified by the power of the Holy Spirit and the constantly renewing their minds in God's word. There's a three-step process that produces sanctification in any believers life:

- **Take in the word of God** – Spend time reading God's word every day. **Psalm 119:9** BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed *thereto* according to thy word.
- **Comprehend what you read** – The Bible does you no good if you don't understand it. Look up words and names for their meanings or get devotionals that give summaries of what you read to help you understand it.
- **Apply what you learn** – The goal of reading and studying God's word is to put it into practice every day. Be honest with yourself as you look into it and make the necessary adjustments where you are not in alignment with it. **James 1:22-25** But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Why believers should progress in sanctification:

- **Spiritual maturity** – Helps a person grow closer to Christ and to become more like him.
- **Closer fellowship** – Deepens the personal connection with the Father and Son.
- **Usefulness** – Makes a person better prepared and eligible to be used by the Lord.

The Old Testament picture: Between the brazen altar that received the sin offering and the door of the sanctuary was a piece of furniture called the brazen laver. It was a large water vessel used by the priests for the ritual cleansing. Positioned in the outer courtyard, directly between the altar of burnt offering and the entrance of the tabernacle. Made entirely of brass, crafted from the donated polished bronze hand mirrors of the women who served at the tent entrance. It's the only piece of furniture pertaining to the tabernacle that had no recorded dimensions because it's a type of the inexhaustible word of God. The priests were required to wash their hands and feet under the penalty of death whenever they approached the altar or entered the sanctuary. This represents daily spiritual cleansing, sanctification and self-reflection subsequent to initial atonement at the outer altar. The sanctuary contained the golden candlestick, the table of shewbread, and the golden altar of incense. It was a picture of the spirit-filled life of the guiding light of the Holy Spirit, feeding on Christ the bread of life, and offering praise and gratitude to God. The spirit-filled life can't be entered into without sanctification.