

Praying What Jesus Prayed for the Church: A devotional look at Christ's prayer in John 17 (Daily Devotions and Bible Study)

John Stange

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John 17 is an interesting chapter of Scripture. In this chapter, Jesus takes time to pray and His prayer was intentionally prayed in such a way that it was overheard and could be recorded for believers of all time to read and reflect on.

Some refer to Christ's prayer in John 17 as His "High Priestly Prayer" in view of the intercession He makes on behalf of believers. This prayer may have been prayed in the Upper Room after Jesus instructed His disciples or may have been prayed en route to the Garden of Gethsemane. In the Bible Exposition Commentary, Warren Wiersbe refers to this prayer as "the greatest prayer ever prayed on earth and the greatest prayer recorded anywhere in Scripture."

Just prior to this prayer, Jesus had encouraged His disciples with the reminder to have peace and take heart because He had overcome this world and its tribulations. Now He was personally preparing for the agony of the cross.

In this prayer, Jesus prays first for Himself, then for His disciples, then for you and me and the entire church in general.

Jesus prayed this prayer in preparation for the suffering He was about to experience. He also prayed this so that we would understand both His mission and the fact that He is the source of our strength and security in this world.

In the coming pages, we will take a look at Christ's prayer section by section, methodically working our way through the content of John 17. Along the way, I will share some personal stories, insights, and complimentary verses of Scripture that I hope will make the passage clear and likewise help you apply these valuable truths to your own life.



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