

## John 17:1-12

John 17 is the transcript of an intertrinitarian prayer between the first person of the Trinity and the second person of the Trinity. This is a prayer from the eternal Son to the eternal Father in the final moments leading up to His arrest and crucifixion. This prayer reveals the focus and the heart of the Son as His hour is at hand. This prayer is full of hard and difficult saying as Christ Himself will affirm doctrines that many are opposed to such as election, limited atonement, perseverance of the saints, etc. Jesus will pray for the Father's glory, to return to the glory He had with the Father before the world was, pray for His disciples, and pray for all the elect that the Father has given Him. This prayer from Jesus to the Father is personal as salvation is personal.

- **Verses 1-5** Jesus prays for the Father to be glorified through Him and prays for the glory He had with the Father before the world was.
- **Verses 6-19** The immediate and primary context is the disciples, but much of what He prays for regarding them can also be applied to all that believe.
- **Verses 20-26** Jesus prays for all who will believe which are those whom the Father has given Him (the elect). Anyone who is a Christian or will one day become a Christian was being prayed for in these verses by Jesus.

**Verse 1** Jesus had given the model prayer in His sermon on the mount in **Matthew 6: 9-13**. He instructs prayer to begin with "Our Father" and now Christ lifts His eyes to heaven and says "Father." This is a personal prayer from the God the Son to God the Father.

**The hour has come:** All through the gospel according to John starting in **John 2:4**, Jesus had stated that His hour had not yet come. The hour that was in view was the completion of the work for which He was sent from the Father into the world to accomplish, that which will be soon realized at the cross where He would die for His sheep. Now as Jesus speaks these words, the cross is not a distance event, but rather is directly in front of Him which is why He declares that the hour had come. The timing of His death was ordained from eternity past and now that moment and hour had come.

**Glorify:** It would be at His crucifixion that the humiliation of Christ would be at its peak, but it's also when He would be glorified. Christ's glory comes through His suffering. Christ being glorified on the cross, glorifies the Father. Jesus' desire is that the Father be glorified. The Father was glorified in the death and the obedience of His son. This should be the desire of every Christian as well that God would be glorified in all we do and in our obedience.

- **John 12:27-28** Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again."
- **John 13:31-32** Therefore when he had gone out, Jesus \*said, "Now <sup>[a]</sup>is the Son of Man glorified, and God <sup>[b]</sup>is glorified in Him; <sup>32</sup> <sup>[c]</sup>if God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and will glorify Him immediately.
- **John 15:8** My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so <sup>[a]</sup>prove to be My disciples.
- **Matthew 5:16** Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.
- **Romans 11:36** For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory <sup>[a]</sup>forever. Amen.

**Verse 2** Jesus speaks on the doctrine of election. All that receive eternal life are those who the Father had given to the Son (the elect) which is consistent with **John 6:37-40**. Those whom the Father had given to the Son (the elect) were given before the foundation of the world in His sovereign election not by merit of the person, but by His mercy grace, and the purpose of His will.

- **John 6:37-40** All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. <sup>39</sup> This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup> For this

is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

- **Hebrews 2:10-13** For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the <sup>[k]</sup>author of their salvation through sufferings.<sup>11</sup> For both He who sanctifies and those who are <sup>[l]</sup>sanctified are all from one *Father*; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, <sup>12</sup>saying, “I will proclaim Your name to My brethren, In the midst of the congregation I will sing Your praise.”<sup>13</sup> And again, “I will put My trust in Him.” And again, “Behold, I and the children whom God has given Me.”
- **Ephesians 1:1-9** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, <sup>4</sup>just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before <sup>[d]</sup>Him. In love <sup>5</sup><sup>[e]</sup>He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the <sup>[i]</sup>kind intention of His will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In <sup>[a]</sup>Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace <sup>8</sup>which He <sup>[h]</sup>lavished on <sup>[j]</sup>us. In all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>He <sup>[m]</sup>made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His <sup>[k]</sup>kind intention which He purposed in Him.
- **John 10:24-30** The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, “How long <sup>[b]</sup>will You keep us in suspense? If You are <sup>[c]</sup>the Christ, tell us plainly.” <sup>25</sup>Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father’s name, these testify of Me. <sup>26</sup>But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. <sup>27</sup>My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; <sup>28</sup>and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. <sup>29</sup><sup>[d]</sup>My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father’s hand. <sup>30</sup>I and the Father are <sup>[e]</sup>one.”
- **John 3:16** “For God so loved the world, that He gave His <sup>[a]</sup>only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

**Verse 3** Eternal life is found only in God as God has aseity (life in Himself). As God is the only One with eternal life in and of Himself, He is the only One who can give eternal life. Eternal life is found in knowing The Father and the Son. This speaks to more than intellectual knowledge, but in a personal and salvific way. One can only know God in this salvific way if God knows a person in a salvific way as demonstrated in His foreknowing of the elect (**Romans 8:29**)

**Verse 4** The Father has been glorified by the obedience of Christ in completing the work He was sent by the Father to accomplish. The ultimate completion of the work will be in just a few hours when on the cross Jesus will declare “it is finished.”

**Verse 5** Jesus prays that the Father will glorify Him with the glory that He had with the Father before the world was, which speaks to His deity, aseity, and pre-existence before the incarnation (**John 2:15, John 8:58**). In the incarnation, He left the glory of Heaven and the glory He shared with the Father before the world was to enter His creation and become flesh to fulfil all righteousness and atone for the sins of His people. Now as His work is almost complete, Jesus looks ahead to returning to the Father and the glory He had with the Father before the world was.

- **John 1:1-3** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup><sup>[a]</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

**Verses 6-8** The immediate context has His remaining disciples in view. Although Judas was chosen for the role of a disciple, He was not chosen for salvation. There are many false teachers, prophets, and professing Christians who do many things “in His name” but are not regenerated and saved. The disciples that He is walking with were not only chosen for the role of disciple, but also had been chosen by God for salvation, called out of the world unto Christ, and believe in who Jesus is and the message He proclaims. Jesus again speaks to election and those chosen of God before the foundation of the world (**Ephesians 1:1-6**) and had their names written in the Lamb’s book of life from the foundation of the world (**Rev 13:8, 17:8**). The elect belonging to the Father, are given to the Son (**John 6:37-40**), called out of the world

(John 6:44,10:27) (Romans 8:29), are taught by God (John 6:44-45), believe in Christ, and keep the words (John 14:15) and commandments of God because they love Him.

- **John 6:37-40** All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. <sup>39</sup> This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup> For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.” (this giving happens before the foundation of the world (Eph 1:1-9).
- **John 6:44-45** No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. <sup>45</sup> It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught of God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me.
- **Acts 13:48** When the Gentiles heard this, they *began* rejoicing and glorifying the word of <sup>[a]</sup>the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

**Verses 9-10** Jesus states something that many people would find unfair and unloving. He says that He is not praying for or on behalf of the world (those who are not His as all that are of the world and friends of the world are enemies of God- James 4:4) but is praying for those whom the Father has given. In the immediate context, He is praying for His disciples. They are part of the elect who have been given to Him by the Father for salvation for a special purpose in the roles of ministry. He will pray for their protection, perseverance, and unity as they are soon to be without Him. These disciples along with all the elect, are the ones to whom Christ lived a perfect life for, to fulfill all righteousness and those to whom He would lay down His life for, to atone for their sins. It is for His elect that Jesus prays and intercedes. In the moments leading up to His sacrificial death, He is not praying for the world, but for the elect, His sheep, those who have been given to Him as they are the ones to whom He will die for in just hours. This speaks to limited atonement or also known as particular redemption.

We see one example of Jesus praying for Peter in **Luke 22:31-34**.

- **Luke 22:31-34** “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has <sup>[d]</sup>demanded *permission* to sift you like wheat; <sup>32</sup> but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” <sup>33</sup> But he said to Him, “Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!” <sup>34</sup> And He said, “I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me.”

The disciples and all the elect belong to the Father and the Son as they are one (**John 10:30**). The lives of the disciples and those in the true Church are to bring glory to God.

- **Ephesians 3:20-21** Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, <sup>21</sup> to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations <sup>[a]</sup>forever and ever. Amen.

**Verse 11** Jesus knows the absoluteness of His death, resurrection, and ascension which is why He speaks as if His ascension and return to the Father has already occurred. He is praying for His disciples who after His ascension will be left physically without Him as they carry on with their mission and given roles. They will not be alone as the Spirit is sent to guide and lead them. Jesus is praying for their protection, to be kept in the Father’s name, and to have unity amongst themselves as there is unity within the Trinity (**John 10:30**). The same is true for believers today as we are not alone by the indwelling of the Spirit of Christ and how He desires unity within the body of Christ. All believers have unity in the truth which is God’s Word (**John 17:17**).

- **John 17:22-23** The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; <sup>23</sup> I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected <sup>[a]</sup>in unity, so that the world may <sup>[b]</sup>know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.
- **Psalms 133:1** Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brothers to dwell together in unity!

- **Ephesians 4:1-3** Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, <sup>3</sup> being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- **Colossians 3:13-15** bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. <sup>14</sup> Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is <sup>[a]</sup>the perfect bond of unity. <sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ <sup>[b]</sup>rule in your hearts, to which <sup>[c]</sup>indeed you were called in one body; and <sup>[d]</sup>be thankful.

**Verse 12** While Jesus was with His disciples, He was keeping them in the Father's name as the Father had elected them and given them to Jesus. The believer has eternal security because they are being kept and held onto by the Shepherd. This speaks to the perseverance of the saints.

- **John 6:37-40** All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. <sup>39</sup> This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup> For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."
- **John 10:27-30** My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; <sup>28</sup> and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. <sup>29</sup> <sup>[d]</sup>My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> I and the Father are <sup>[e]</sup>one."
- **Romans 11:4** But what is the divine response to him? "I have kept for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal."
- **Jude 1** Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ:
- **Jude 24-25** Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, <sup>25</sup> to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, *be* glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and <sup>[a]</sup>forever. Amen.

Judas wasn't kept and guarded by God because He was not one the elect, but rather the son of perdition who will have eternal damnation to suffer in the lake of fire for all eternity. This was to fulfill scripture (**Psalm 41:9**). The son of perdition is also used in describing the antichrist or the man of lawlessness in **2 Thessalonians 2:3** which is in accordance to there being the spirit of the antichrist already in the world (**1 John 2:18; 4:1-3**). All that the Father gives to the Son in divine election, will not perish, but have eternal life.

- **John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that He gave His <sup>[a]</sup>only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.
- **2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

*Christ is hours away from His death and as He is approaching the Garden of Gethsemane with His disciples He begins to pray to God the Father. The curtains of this prayer are pulled back and we have the transcripts of this inter-trinitarian prayer between the eternal Father and the eternal Son. In this prayer we see the heart of Christ and what is of the most importance to Him as His hour has come and the cross is in view. Jesus' desire is that His Father is glorified in His obedience and finishing the work He was sent by the Father to accomplish. He is also desiring and praying to return to His Father and to the glory He had with Him before the world was. His heart and mind were on His disciples and for all that the Father had given Him (the elect) as the cross is at hand. If you are a Christian, on the night of His betrayal and arrest with the cross just hours away, Christ prayed for you as it would be for His elect that He would soon die for and declare "it is finished!" The life Christ lived is personal, this prayer of Christ is personal, the cross is personal, the resurrection is personal, the ascension is personal, and salvation is personal! How unworthy we are and how unimaginable it is that the eternal Logos, the Creator, the Son of Man, the Son of God, God Himself would pray for and intercede for His people as His hour had come. He continues to intercede for His people as their High Priest for as long as He lives which is forever!*