

**The Gospel of John**  
**Week Twenty-Five**  
**John 17:1-26**

**Day One**

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. <sup>2</sup> For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. <sup>3</sup> Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

v. 1 – We have read some of Jesus’ sermons in John’s gospel. At this point, we get to see one of His prayers and it is a long one. **How could this have been preserved with such accuracy?** We cannot discount the Holy Spirit’s ability to remind the author, although that seems unlikely to me, since John would have written this gospel decades after Jesus prayed. **Could it be that John captured the essence of the prayer but not word-for-word?** That is possible, yet this seems too detailed for a general summary. **Could someone have recorded the prayer by using shorthand?** That is possible, although it is hard to imagine that someone came to the Passover meal with paper and a writing instrument! So in the absence of any specific explanation, I have to accept that it was the first option I mentioned: The Holy Spirit inspired the writer by whatever means.

v. 2 – Jesus was given glory and authority to bestow eternal life on those whom the Father gave Him. Once again, we see the covenant partnership, for lack of a better description, between the Father and Son. Jesus gives eternal life, so that proves He is the Lord God, for no man or prophet would have that kind of power or authority. Nor would any normal man be able to give something eternal; only God can do that based on an indestructible life with uninterrupted power and authority. As you have learned by now, John’s gospel is full of implied proofs concerning Jesus’ divinity. They are not directly stated, but rather explained in terms of His capabilities and relationship with the Father.

v. 3 – **What is eternal life according to Jesus?** It is fellowship and relationship with God the Father and His Son. This fellowship entails a knowledge that is indestructible and lasts forever. So anyone who knows God and puts trust in Him will never have that relationship interrupted. It will go on forever!

v. 4 – Notice how Jesus brought glory to the Father. It was not through singing or attending synagogue. It was not through Bible knowledge or good deeds alone. Jesus brought glory to the Father by finishing the work the Father gave Him to do. That indicates Jesus knew His assignment and also knew when it was completed. **Do you know your purpose and are you aware of how far along you are in fulfilling it?** If God wants you to do His will – and I assure you He does – then He *must* reveal to you what that will is. What’s more, He wants you to glorify Him by being successful and completing it.

v. 5 – Here is another indication of Jesus’ divinity: He had glory with Father before the world began. There is only one eternal being and that is God. Man will live forever, but only from the point of birth. The Son existed without a birth, although Jesus was born and gave a human form to the Son’s existence from that point on. Yet He existed before His birth!

## Day Two

<sup>6</sup> "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. they know that everything you have given me comes from you. I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

v. 6 – Jesus did not come to build His own ministry or establish His own kingdom. He came to reveal the Father to those whom the Father gave Him. What a selfless man (and God) Jesus was and is. There is perfect submission between the Father and Son. Jesus indicated that those whom the Father gave Him were His to give: They belonged to the Father. So the Father shared what was His and the Son was faithful to reveal the Father to them all. There is such cooperation among the persons of the Trinity that it defies words to describe it adequately. And the Spirit then was sent to make you and me resemble Jesus.

**Did it ever occur to you that whatever behavior God requires of you and me has been modeled in Jesus?** God does not ask us to be anything He is not already Himself and He is willing to grant us the grace and help to become what He wants us to be.

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him (Philippians 2:13 NLT).

v. 7 – The disciples were beginning to understand that what Jesus gave them was not of His own initiative. He gave them what the Father had given Him. This is why Jesus was always teaching, why He never took the insults hurled at him personally, because He was on a mission and that was to reveal to His own what the Father had sent Him to reveal. It is time to read the verses Paul wrote to the Philippians prior to the one quoted above:

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:6-11).

Jesus emptied Himself and took upon Himself human flesh. Then the Father exalted Him to the highest place because of His faithfulness to the Father's will and mission. **Are you a faithful person like Jesus? Or do you have your own agenda when you work, even minister?** That is possible to do, for Paul wrote that some believers are enemies of the cross!

For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things (Philippians 3:18-19).

I want to be like Jesus and have His Spirit.

v. 8 – So the disciples accepted Jesus' words, understood His mission and therefore received the blessing of eternal life in return. The entire exchange and process occurred through words. Jesus spoke and the words brought the men eternal life. Words are important, especially when they are God's words! **Have you received life through God's words? How can you enter even more deeply into the word of God?**

### Day Three

I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

v. 9 – Jesus prayed for those the Father had given Him. He is still praying for them! He prays for those given to Him but who also belong to the Father. So what the Father has belongs to the Son and vice versa. What a model of mutual unselfish cooperation and sharing. Would that we all remember that we don't have anything that belongs to us. If anything does belong to us, it also belongs to Him:

For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not? (1 Corinthians 4:7).

v. 10 – The Father shares glory with the Son and the Son tends to what the Father has given Him. What perfection! Each one has His role and supports the other. No one owns anything. When I hear pastors talk about "my" church, "my" people, or "my" elders, I wonder if they know what they are saying. They are expressing ownership. Maybe I am splitting hairs or being too careful, but I say that I don't have any staff or people. They all belong to God and I am tending them on His behalf. **Does that make sense or am I being too fussy?**

v. 11 – Keep in mind that Jesus is praying in this passage, talking to the Father. He reminded the Father that He was leaving but the men were staying. So Jesus prayed for their safety once He was gone. **What did He invoke?** The name of the Father! Jesus asked that they be protected by the power in the name! That meant that anything that happened to the disciples after Jesus left was not an accident or else the name was not adequate to protect them and we know it is powerful enough. Jesus was taking care of His own, providing for them even after He was gone. What a good God!

What's more, Jesus asked that the disciples would be one even as He and the Father are one. **Is that possible for you and me to be as united as the Father and the Son?** I don't think Jesus would pray a prayer that had no possible fulfillment, so it must be true. **What should we be able to achieve if we walked in the truth and power of that unity? Why don't we see that power? Could it be because we don't really believe we can have that kind of unity?** It makes me think that Jesus came to restore what God had scattered in Genesis 11:

The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other" (Genesis 11:6-7).

**Should our unity not make the impossible possible for us who believe and walk together?**

v. 12 – Jesus had a perfect track record, for He had kept all that the Father had given Him, except for Judas. **Why is that so significant?** I think it is because the men had been tempted to depart or Satan had tried (and would continue to try) to snatch them, like a wolf trying to raid the flock. Don't take for granted that Jesus protects you. You may never know from what or how often, but He has protected, does protect and will protect you.

#### Day Four

<sup>13</sup> "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. <sup>14</sup> I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. <sup>15</sup> My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

v. 13 – Jesus had joy, not emotionalism type joy, but supernatural joy. There is a natural joy but then there is a joy that God gives, that transcends circumstances or even emotional health. It is a joy that is "His" – that belongs to Jesus. Jesus didn't pray that they would have some joy. He prayed for them to have a full measure of joy. We see that the Father answered Jesus' prayer when the disciples encountered persecution:

His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name (Acts 5:40-41).

**Do you have that kind of joy? What could be blocking it?**

v. 14 – When you have God’s Word through Jesus, you are no longer a friend to this world system.

You adulterous people, don't you know that **friendship** with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God (James 4:4).

**Does this world hate you? If not, where have you compromised? How are you carrying Jesus’ word inadequately?**

v. 15 – **So who is behind this hatred directed toward the believers in this world?** Why it is none other than the prince of this world, Satan, the evil one. He makes war against the saints and would stop at nothing to destroy them and us, if it was not for God’s protective hand.

Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne” (Revelation 12:3-5).

Don’t ever underestimate the level of warfare that we encounter as believers. You cannot chose whether or not you will fight. You are in the war as a soldier of God the day you give your life to the Lord. There is no turning back and, as someone pointed out, there is no armor for your back as you put on the armor of God.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup>And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and

requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints (Ephesians 6:10-18).

### Day Five

<sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. <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.

v. 16 – You are not of this world when you are in Christ. You are a new creation.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Corinthians 5:7).

**Do you notice how many other passages I am quoting from the New Testament?**

That is because Jesus introduced so many themes here that were expanded by other writers to help explain what He meant.

Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you (1 John 3:13).

v. 17 – So for anyone to question God's word is to accuse God of being a liar.

Not at all! Let God be true, and every man a liar. As it is written: "So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge" (Romans 3:4).

The only thing on which we can stand for our salvation and sanctification is God's word. That is why the Word is under attack. That has been Satan's strategy since the Garden when he raised a question in Eve's mind as to what God really meant when He gave them instructions. He has been doing that ever since. Think of how much time Paul spent refuting doctrines that were against the doctrines taught by the apostles.

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons (1 Timothy 4:1).

v. 18 – Jesus was commissioned to come to earth and then He commissioned the disciples, sending them into the world. This is a hard command for some, for they would rather spend every night in church rather than go into the world. Yet that was Jesus' focus then and now. That is where the people are who need the Lord, so that is where those who have the Lord must go. **Are you willing to go into the world for Jesus' sake and at His directive?**

v. 19 – Jesus sanctified Himself and set Himself apart for the task that was ahead of Him. When the apostles realized what Jesus had done and told them to do, they went out into the world and gave their lives to proclaim the Kingdom and bear witness to the truth. **Are you sanctified to the purpose for which God called you? What are you prepared to do about it?**

## Day Six

<sup>20</sup> "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <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. <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: <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.

v. 20 – Jesus prayed for you and me! **Isn't that amazing?** He had such faith in what the apostles would do that He prayed for their fruit before they ever had any fruit from their work! That is the extent to which Jesus had confidence in the Father's mission. Jesus saw the coming harvest and it was so clear to Him that He prayed for the welfare of those harvested. **What is your vision for the future? What are you praying for as though it has already taken place even though it is yet in the future?**

v. 21 – Jesus prayed for some amazing results. First He prayed that we would be one just as He and the Father were one. Then He prayed that we would be in the Father and Son just as He was in the Father. So my unity with you doesn't depend on my relationship with you alone. It also depends on my relationship with the Father. Aha! That is how I can maintain our unity. I keep my unity with God and that automatically keeps me in unity with you. I cannot let you be my focus for I will find too many problems or reasons for disunity. If I focus on Him and His word, however, then I forgive you, bear with you, pray for you and work with you. **Does that make sense?** Ours is not a doctrinal unity, but rather a relational unity that stems from our relationship with the Father and the Son in the Spirit.

v. 22 – There, He prayed it again. He prayed that you are I may be one as the Father and Son are One. Jesus bestows on us His glory, which came from the Father, and we give that glory back to the Father through the Son in the power of the Spirit. Yes, now I am seeing the source of this unity more clearly than ever. **Isn't this an amazing situation?**

v. 23 – Jesus is in us and in the Father, so the only way we can ever relate to the Father is through the Son. There can be no other way to God, since only Jesus can provide the means by which we can be in Him, the Father and in unified relationship with one another.

This unity is to be a sign to the world of the power that is available through faith in the Son. It is strong enough to unite people from everywhere into one body. This love and unity will witness to the world of the unity between the Father and Son. Now we understand why this unity has been so difficult to achieve. If this unity has that powerful of a witness and message, then you can be sure it will be violently opposed by our great adversary. We see how hard it is to walk in unity when even Paul and Barnabas, two great heroes of the faith, could not walk out their relationship for long. **If it was difficult for them, how much more for you and me?**

Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord (Acts 15:36-40).

### Day Seven

<sup>24</sup> "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. <sup>25</sup> "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> 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."

v. 24 – **Was Jesus referring to His heavenly dwelling here?** He wanted His followers to see Him in all His majesty, the majesty that came from the Father on high. Jesus loved His followers so much that He wanted them to be with Him wherever He was. That is love! Jesus wasn't praying that He could take a break or have a rest. He pursued His mission to the end and His mission was fellowship with His own as He had fellowship with the Father. That is pretty impressive in my mind. Yet again, everything Jesus did, was and is, is impressive. What unselfishness the Father and Son exhibit.

The Father loved Jesus before the creation of the world. That means that they had fellowship before creation, which means that Jesus was eternal, which means that He is God. As stated earlier, I have never seen these proofs of Jesus' divinity as clearly as I have seen them in this study. Thank you, Lord!

v. 25 – The world does not know the Father, and that includes those Jewish leaders who were about to kill Jesus. They were part of the world's system and they could not accept Jesus or His disciples. Jesus called the Father "righteous," for His ways are only good and pure. Unrighteous men constantly question God's intentions and motives, wondering why God would do this and why He doesn't do that. Jesus, who has beheld the Father in all His glory, can say that He (the Father) is righteous.

v. 26 – The Son had made the Father known to His followers and will continue to do so. He will do this so that the love of the Father that is in Him will also be in His followers and so that the Son will also live in the followers. What a magnificent cooperative effort, where the Father and Son share all things so that each may be revealed and glorified in the disciples. There is no territorialism in the Father and Son. They share with one another freely. They also share with those who believe in them as well.

As you can tell, this entire chapter has impacted me as I have studied and written. I have never seen the interconnection between the Father, the Son and the believers as I have in this study. We are not just observers in this process, we are participants and we share freely in the love and unity of the Father and Son. We have the same love in us and their presence and glory are revealed to us. Thank You, Lord!

There is no way to participate in these blessings without first putting faith in the Son, Jesus Christ. He is the door to all of these blessings and the union with God the Father. Jesus did not say He was one way to the Father; He said He is the only way. Therefore, anyone who wants this union with God but who does not want to obtain it through Jesus, cannot obtain it any other way.

Jesus was clear as to who He was, His relationship to the Father and what He could provide for His followers. For there to be another way to the Father makes Jesus a liar, which cannot be the case. You and I have the good news of this way to God, which is why we must urgently share it. There is no other way to God.