

## ***JESUS' PRAYER FOR YOU***

*(John 17:17)*

What you earnestly pray for reveals what you truly care about. In His final moments before He laid down His life for us, Jesus poured out His heart to the Father in what is considered as Christ's high priestly prayer. What dominated His prayer is His love for His Father and His love for His people. It is this prayer of our Lord which sealed God's promise that nothing will ever separate us from the love of God. As we reflect on Jesus' prayer in John 17:17, we will consider the two concerns of our Lord Jesus in His intercession for His people.

**1. *Jesus prays for your* \_\_\_\_\_.**

Our Lord Jesus prays to the Father to sanctify us by His truth (John 17:17). Jesus' fervent plea before the Father is all about the sanctification of His people. Jesus, as the Chief Shepherd of His church, cares so much about the sanctification of believers. The word *sanctify* means to be separated from sin and to set apart for God. Another term for sanctification is holiness. God is most concerned about our holiness. We are saved and redeemed by God to be His sanctified and holy people, to be utterly separated from sin and be entirely devoted to God and wholly set apart for His purpose and glory.

Sanctification must then be understood as the work of God by which He purifies us from remaining sin, consecrates us for a life of holiness, and conforms us to the likeness of our Lord Jesus. Praise God that Jesus prays for our lifelong holiness. This is our only hope and assurance. You and I will ultimately stand before God righteous and faultless because Jesus prays and entrusts us to our God who is able to keep us from stumbling and who is able to present us blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy (Jude 1:24; Eph. 5:25-26)

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**2. *Jesus prays for your* \_\_\_\_\_.**

God's instrument for our sanctification is God's truth. God's truth is revealed, recorded and found in its fullness in the Word of God. As Jesus has prayed, "*Sanctify them by Your truth, Your Word is truth*" (John 17:17). Jesus teaches us through His prayer that sanctification never takes place apart from the Word of God. If we are to be victorious in our ongoing war with sin and advance in our pursuit of holiness and Christlikeness, we must devote ourselves to the reading, understanding and application of the truths of God's Word (Psalm 119:9-11).

Throughout His life here on earth, Jesus has set for us the example that in order to be pure and holy, God's Word must be at the very center of our life. The Word of God is absolutely necessary to empower us in overcoming sin and living in righteousness, to successfully resist Satan's evil temptations, to patiently endure trials and sufferings and to persevere in our faith until the end (Matt. 4:4,7,10; Psalm 31:5; Luke 24:46; 1 Thess. 5:23-24; Phil. 1:6).

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