

# What Did Jesus Pray for His Church?

## Introduction:

Unless renewal precedes evangelism, the credibility gap between what the church preaches and what the church is will be too wide to be bridged.

Jesus, knowing the above statement to be true, prayed for His church.

## Jesus' prayer in John 17 had a two-fold purpose:

1. To report to the Father that He'd accomplished the Father's mission.
2. To request that the Father's purpose would continue through us.

## Jesus Prayed that the Church would:

### 1. Sense the Glory of God.

*"I have brought you glory on earth by finishing 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."* - John 17:4,5

- Seven times Jesus talks about glory (vs. 1,4,5,6,7,10,24)

### 2. Follow the Word of God.

(vs. 8,14,15,16,17,19,20)

*"For 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."* - John 17:8

- When they accepted His words they found meaning in life.
- When they understood He came from God they found motivation for life.
- When they believed Jesus was sent from the Father they found their mission for life.

### God's Word...

- Separates us.

*"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."* - John 17:14

- Strengthens us.

*"My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you **protect them from the evil one.**"* - John 17:15

- Sanctifies us.

*"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. <sup>19</sup> For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified."* - John 17:17,19

- Saves us.

*"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will **believe in me through their message...**"* - John 17:20

## 3. Be United in the Love of God.

*"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. <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me—so that they may be **brought to complete unity**. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."* - John 17:20,21,23

- (vs. 11,12,21,22,23)

- *Spirit-filled and equipped Christians, united in love, guided by a purpose that they truly believe in, can do anything!*

## 4. Go Forth in the Mission of God.

(2,3,15,16,18,25,26)

*"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 know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."* - John 17:2,3

*"My prayer is **not that you take them out of the world** but that you protect them from the evil one."* - John 17:15

*"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."* - John 17:17

*"As you sent me into the world, **I have sent them into the world.**"* - John 17:18

## 5. Experience the Joy of God.

*"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.**"* - John 17:13

## Closing Thought:

Jesus did not pray for a static organization to perpetuate His memory, but for a living force to achieve His purpose!

# What Did Jesus Pray for His Church?

## Introduction:

Unless renewal precedes evangelism, the credibility gap between what the church preaches and what the church is will be too wide to be bridged.

Jesus, knowing the above statement to be true, prayed for His church.

## Jesus' prayer in John 17 had a two-fold purpose:

1. To \_\_\_\_\_ to the Father that He'd accomplished the Father's mission.
2. To \_\_\_\_\_ that the Father's purpose would continue through us.

## Jesus Prayed that the Church would:

### 1. Sense the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

*"I have brought you glory on earth by finishing 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."* - John 17:4,5

- Seven times Jesus talks about glory (vs. 1,4,5,6,7,10,24)

### 2. Follow the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. (vs. 8,14,15,16,17,19,20)

*"For 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."* - John 17:8

- When they accepted His words they found \_\_\_\_\_ in life.
- When they understood He came from God they found \_\_\_\_\_ for life.
- When they believed Jesus was sent from the Father they found their \_\_\_\_\_ for life.

## God's Word...

- \_\_\_\_\_ us.  
*"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."* - John 17:14

- \_\_\_\_\_ us.  
*"My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one."* - John 17:15

- \_\_\_\_\_ us.  
*"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. <sup>19</sup> For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified."* - John 17:17,19

- \_\_\_\_\_ us.  
*"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message..."* - John 17:20

### 3. Be United in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

*"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. <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."* - John 17:20,21,23

- (vs. 11,12,21,22,23)
- *Spirit-filled and equipped Christians, united in love, guided by a purpose that they truly believe in, can do anything!*

### 4. Go Forth in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. (2,3,15,16,18,25,26)

*"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 know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."* - John 17:2,3

*"My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one."* - John 17:15

*"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."* - John 17:17

*"As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world."* - John 17:18

### 5. Experience the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

*"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."* - John 17:13

## Closing Thought:

Jesus did not pray for a static organization to perpetuate His memory, but for a living force to achieve His purpose!