

THE TRUE LORD'S PRAYER

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Jesus prayed "The Lord's Prayer" just after He finished His farewell discourse with His disciples, and before He was betrayed, arrested and crucified (John 17). It is also known as the "Intercessory Prayer." It is considered to be a heartfelt prayer of Jesus to His Father for Himself, for His disciples, and for the future believers of His Church.

1. Jesus is our Greatest Intercessor. The intercession of Christ belongs to the office of Christ as PRIEST. He acts as mediator between God and mankind. He is pleading to God on our behalf and to save those who come to God through Him (Heb. 7:25).

2. Jesus' Prayer in John 17 has three (3) segments:

2.1 Jesus prays for Himself (v 1-5). The hour has come when Jesus' work on earth would be finished. Jesus takes over sins and dies a redemptive death for us. Jesus asked His Father to glorify Him as He finishes the work that would give eternal life to those who believe in Him.

2.2 Jesus prays for His disciples (v. 6-19). Jesus has been a good Shepherd to His disciples. He guarded and protected them from getting lost.

2.2.1 Jesus prayed for the disciples' protection as they were given to Him for safekeeping.

2.2.2 Jesus prayed for the disciples' unity that they may be one as He and the Father are one.

2.2.3 Jesus prayed that the disciples may have the joy that only He can give.

2.2.4 Jesus prayed that God will keep the disciples from the evil one. Satan was condemned because of the Cross, but he still has a powerful influence on the world.

2.2.5 Jesus prayed for the disciples' sanctification so that they could partake in God's glory.

2.3 Jesus prays for the Church (v. 20-26). He prayed for all who would become believers in the future and would proclaim the same truths in His Name.

3. There are Five Keys to Enter into Interceding.

3.1 Grow in Friendship with God. Develop a relationship with God to know His heart, and pray in alignment with His will.

3.2 Grow in the Knowledge of God. Read the Scriptures to know the will of God. His word is alive. When we pray in agreement with it, things change.

3.3 Grow in the Ability to be Still and Listen. One aspect of prayer is discerning what God wants to do. As we learn to still our hearts before Him and open our ears to what He is saying, we can pray for the things He wants us to do.

3.4 Take our Eyes Off ourselves and Fix them on Jesus. It does not matter what we sound like or how we come across to others when we pray. What matters is that we are engaging the Spirit of God.

3.5 Worship. A great way to intercession is to begin a time of worship. This enables us to connect with what is in God's heart and partner with Him in what He wants to do.

Conclusion: Our Lord's Prayer teaches us valuable lessons about prayer. The primary goal of our prayers should be for the glory of God. We pray for ourselves or for others to fulfill God's mission and ministry. Our prayers should not be focused on the termination of our suffering because God's purposes in it are for His glory. We should gain a proper perspective of the present in the light of eternity.

Reflection: What/Who is your significant inspiration to grow in interceding for other people?

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, increase our desire to cultivate a deep and intimate relationship with You. Help us develop our capacity for prayer and the study of your Word so that we can passionately intercede for others and give You back all the glory for the victory. In Jesus' Name. AMEN!*