

**A CLOSER LOOK AT THE LORD'S PRAYER
(THE PRAYER OF JESUS BEFORE HE WENT TO THE CROSS)
John 17:1–5 (ESV)**

1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, 2 since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. 4 I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. 5 And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

JESUS' PRAYER REGARDING HIMSELF

1. He began His prayer with the word, "Father." He calls Him Father three other times in this prayer (John 17:5, 21, 24) as well as "Holy Father" (v. 11) and "Righteous Father."
2. Jesus knows that the moment of His going to the cross is at hand, "the hour has come."
3. The Savior of the world now prays, "glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you."
He was looking ahead to His death on the cross. If He were to remain in the grave, the world would know that He was just another man. But if God glorified Him by raising Him from the dead, that would be proof He was God's Son and the world's Savior.
4. Jesus offer the greatest and clearest definition of eternal life that you will ever find in the Scriptures.
Eternal life is knowing the Father and the Son.
5. Jesus speaks of the eternal existence He had with the Father.
"And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed."

JESUS PRAYER FOR HIS APOSTLES

A. He first reviewed His ministry for them

1. He has revealed the Father to them (17:6–7).
"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you."
2. He has given the Father's words to them (17:8, 14).
"For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me." (verse 8)
"I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world." (verse 14)
3. He has prayed for them (17:9–10).
"I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them."
4. He has kept them safe, with the exception of Judas (17:12).
"While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled."
5. He has set Himself apart for their sanctification (17:19).
"And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth."
6. He has sent them into the world (17:18).
"As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world."

B. Jesus previews the Father's future ministry for the disciples.

1. He asks that the Father unify them (17:11).
"And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one."
2. He asks that the Father impart joy to them (17:13).
"But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.."
3. He asks that the Father protect them (17:15–16).
"I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world."
4. He asks that the Father sanctify them (17:17).
"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."

C. Jesus prays for the future believers, that is the Church. (John 17:20–26 (ESV))

1. He asks that the Father unify the Church (17:20–21a, 22)
2. He asks that the Church honor the Son (17:21b)
3. He asks that the Church display God's love (17:23)
4. He asks that the Church experience God's love (17:25–26)
5. He asks that the Church enjoy Christ's glory in heaven forever (17:23)

John 17:20 (ESV)

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,

REFLECTION:

Jesus is beside the Father interceding on your behalf.

Hebrews 8:1 (ESV)

"... we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,

Think about these many things that Jesus is praying for you and for our church.