

THE RED LETTER LECTURES

LEARNING TO PRAY FROM THE WORDS OF JESUS

The Prayer of Jesus For All Believers

I. **I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in Me through their message. May they all be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You. May they also be one in Us, so the world may believe You sent Me.—Jn. 17:20-21**

A. *I pray . . . for those who believe in Me . . .*

1. If you are a believer, these words are the prayer of Jesus for you.
2. Jesus and the Holy Spirit never stop praying to God the Father for us. See Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:26-27.
3. The word used here for *pray* (*erotao*), is reserved for a prayer or request when the one asking and the one being asked are on an equal level. ¹⁸
4. A different word is used for *pray* (*aiteo*), when we are instructed to ask God.
5. What is the reason for this and what does it say about the relationship between Jesus and our heavenly Father?

B. *May they all be one . . .*

1. This sums up one of the purposes of our Lord's prayer for us. That we would be one with each other. See *Psm. 33:1-2; Eph. 4:3-6*.

C. *as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You.*

1. Jesus gave us the example in His relationship with the Father.

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Prayer Quote: "I would rather teach one man to pray than ten men to preach." — Charles Spurgeon

Heb. 7:25: Therefore he (Jesus) is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

Rom. 8:26-27: In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

¹⁸ Zodhiates, p. 659

Psm. 33:1-2: How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes.

Eph. 4:3-6: Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to one hope when you were called— one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

D. *May they also be one in Us, so the world may believe You sent Me.*

1. This is the other purpose of our Lord's prayer for us. *See Jn. 13:34-35.*

II. I have given them the glory You have given Me. May they be one as We are one. I am in them and You are in Me. May they be made completely one, so the world may know You have sent Me and have loved them as You have loved Me. — Jn. 17:22-23

A. *I have given them the glory . . .*

1. In what sense, even though still in the flesh, do believers have the glory of God? *See Jn. 1:12-13.*

B. *I am in them and You are in Me . . .*

1. Christ dwells within every believer. *See Gal. 2:20; Col. 1:27.*
2. "I and the Father are one." (Mt. 10:30).
3. There are two indwellings: that of the Son in us; and the Father in the Son.
4. There is also a third indwelling. *See 1 Cor. 3:16.*

III. Father, I desire those You have given Me to be with Me where I am. Then they will see My glory, which You have given Me because You loved Me before the world's foundation. — Jn. 17:24

A. *Father, I desire . . . where I am.*

1. Lit., "I will that . . ."
2. Jesus is expressing the tenants of His last will and testament on earth.

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Jn. 13:34-35: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Jn. 1:12-13: Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Gal. 2:20: I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Col. 1:27: To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

1 Cor. 3:16: Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

3. Jesus prays for us to be with Him in heaven.
See Jn. 12:26, 14:1-3.

B. *they will see My glory . . . before the world;s foundation.*

1. The "doxa" of Jesus. Speaks of His eternal splendor. *See 1 Jn. 3:2-3.*
2. Where did the disciples catch a glimpse of His glory while He was on the earth? *See Jn. 1:14.*
3. Speaks of His pre-existence.

IV. **Righteous Father! The world has not known You. However, I have known You, and these have known that You sent Me. I made Your name known to them and will make it known, so the love You have loved Me with may be in them and I may be in them. Jn. 17:25-26**

- A. Notice in these two concluding verses, that Jesus summarizes His entire prayer.

1. That all may know the Righteous, Holy God.
2. Jesus was of divine origin.
3. The Father's name with all of it's meaning was revealed.
4. A unity of love between the Father and the Son and all believers.

V. A paraphrase of John 17:20-26 from *The Message*:

I'm praying not only for them but also for those who will believe in me because of them and their witness about me. The goal is for all of them to become one heart and mind—just as you, Father, are in me and I in you, so they might be one heart and mind with us. Then the world might believe that you, in fact, sent me. The same glory you gave me, I gave them, so

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Jn. 12:26: Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

Jn. 14:1-3: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

1 Jn. 3:2-3: Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Jn. 1:14: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

they'll be as unified and together as we are— I in them and you in me. Then they'll be mature in this oneness, and give the godless world evidence. That you've sent me and loved them in the same way you've loved me.

Father, I want those you gave me to be with me, right where I am, so they can see my glory, the splendor you gave me, having loved me long before there ever was a world.

Righteous Father, the world has never known you, but I have known you, and these disciples know that you sent me on this mission. I have made your very being known to them— who you are and what you do— and continue to make it known, so that your love for me might be in them exactly as I am in them.

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