
WEEK ONE PRAYER EMPHASIS

God's Glory in His People

There are many good and right reasons to pray, but there is one ultimate reason to pray. In John 17:1-5, Jesus helps to understand the great purpose that should drive our prayers – the glory of God.

Jesus begins his prayer for his people by mentioning this important truth. He sought his Father's glory in all that he did, so should his people. Even though Jesus shared his Father's divine glory before the world existed, his ultimate goal was to bring his Father glory while here on earth.

As Jesus accomplished the work his Father had given him to do, the glory of God was made manifest to the world. Unlike Jesus, we don't possess God's divine glory, but much like the moon reflects the light of the sun, we can reflect God's glory to a dark world as he works in and through us.

This week as you pray for God's people at home and abroad, pray:

- God's glory would be our greatest desire in all that we do.
- We will be faithful to accomplish the work he has given us to do.
- We will grow in our conformity to Jesus that his glory might be seen in us.

ADVENT CHRISTIAN
GENERAL CONFERENCE

JOHN 17

J E S U S P R A Y S F O R H I S
P E O P L E

2017 PRAYER EMPHASIS

www.acgc.us/prayer

WEEK TWO PRAYER EMPHASIS

The Protection of God's People

In John 17:6-15 Jesus is interceding that his Father will care for his disciples once he is no longer with them. Since the disciples would be in the world, Jesus prayed for their protection. The hostility against God, which fell on Jesus, would now fall on the tiny band of apostles, and subsequently on many of Jesus' followers. He specifically asks his Father to "keep" them "in your name."

Jesus anticipates the opposition for his people, so he prays that his Father will protect them. As Jesus prays for this protection, we are reminded of the great privileges and promises that are ours in Christ. We come to understand that God protects us because we are his in Jesus Christ. We are the Father's gift to his Son and now the Son returns that precious gift to his Father for safekeeping.

Jesus asks that we be filled with his joy and be sustained and separate from the world.

This week as you pray for God's people at home and abroad, pray:

- God's people will have the joy of Jesus fulfilled in themselves
- God's people will be protected and sustained from the attacks of the evil one
- God's people will better understand the great position and privilege they have being in Jesus Christ

WEEK THREE PRAYER EMPHASIS

The Holiness of God's People

“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.” This is Jesus’ prayer for his people in John 17:17. To be sanctified is to be set apart to be useful in service to God. It has two main parts: separation from and abstention from evil and growth in holiness, purity and righteousness. Our sanctification involves our entire being – affections, attitudes and actions. As followers of Jesus we are to be distinct from the world’s sin, its values and its goals.

This is a lifelong and divine process whereby God molds us according to his holiness. It is the bringing to bear upon our lives the moral absolutes of the living God in such a way that they affect how we live and think.

According to Jesus, the agent of our sanctification is the truth. God’s Word is truth and it is the primary means he uses to make us holy. Remember, we cannot grow in Christlikeness and holiness apart from the Word of God.

This week as you pray for God’s people at home and abroad, pray:

- Pray for the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in your life and in the life of others
- Pray for an increased desire to read and study God’s Word
- Pray for grace and patience with others as they grow in holiness

WEEK FOUR PRAYER EMPHASIS

The Unity of God's People

Jesus asks his Father to produce unity in his people in John 17:20-21. His prayer for his people is that we might be one in pursuit of a common goal and purpose. He prays that all believers would be one as he and his Father are one.

The perfect unity of the Father and the Son is the model for the unity of the Lord’s people. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit have loved and interacted with one another in this perfect unity and fellowship for all eternity, each member loving and serving the other before self and each working together for the same purpose. This is the kind of unity God desires for his people to have among ourselves – in our churches, in homes, our families, our workplaces and communities.

Our ability to have this unity amongst ourselves is grounded and empowered by our identity in Christ. It is because we are united with Jesus in his death and resurrection that we can be united with one another.

This week as you pray for God’s people at home and abroad, pray:

- God’s people will have the kind of unity Jesus prayed for
- God’s people will die to their selves and live for Christ
- God’s people will abide more deeply in Jesus

WEEK FIVE PRAYER EMPHASIS

The Mission of God's People

Making God known is a constant theme in this prayer: (v.3, 6,8,23). Jesus was faithful to proclaim his Father’s character, power and will. In no greater or more eloquent way could this be seen than in Jesus’ death on the cross, his resurrection and ascension.

In verse 26 Jesus states that he had been faithful in making his Father’s name known and even though he was leaving he would continue to make it known. How? Jesus will continue to make his Father known through his disciples and all those who would come to believe in Jesus through the disciples’ words.

This is a prayer of consecration. Jesus is leaving his ministry and the message of the gospel in the hands of his disciples. This is a prayer for them and ultimately for us, that we would take up that calling and make the name of the Father known.

We have a mission to complete. Let us be faithful to that mission, just like Jesus was.

This week as you pray for God’s people at home and abroad, pray:

- God’s people will have Great Commission hearts and goals
- God’s people will have opportunity and boldness to proclaim the gospel
- God will raise up more of his people for this great mission