

November 9th, 2025

## **John 17 - Jesus, Our High Priest (Sermon Transcript)**

You got pet peeves? I have. I have a few pet peeves. One of my pet peeves is when I give someone something to do and it doesn't. To clarify, it does not happen here at Grace Life. Okay? My pet peeve, all right. But when I was in management in other places, or even parenting, when you give someone something to do and it's clear as day what they are to do and you send them, send them to go do that thing, and then you, after a few minutes or or hours, and you go in to see how things are progressing, how things are going on, and you find them doing something that they were not supposed to be doing, and the thing that they were supposed to be doing is just over here, but they have found something more important to do.

I don't, I don't know know why that's the case. I think, guys, maybe we do this at times when we got people coming over and we have a list of things that we need to get accomplished, and so that's the perfect time to do the most random project around the house that has no priority whatsoever. And so you know what I'm talking about, right?

Where we get distracted doing something that we think is a good thing, forgetting to do. The most important thing. This past week on Monday, uh, there was a, something that came up that I thought was going to be a really, really good thing. And so going to the Lord in prayer and praying, and then that good thing did not turn out to be a good thing.

Didn't turn out to be a bad thing, just didn't turn out to be a thing at all. And so I left, uh, disappointed is not even the right word that I could describe, um, how I was feeling, um, confused. I don't know. I still haven't figured out how, where I'm at, right? And as I'm just sitting on the couch that night and just contemplating the events, I just had this thought that I believe really, truly came from the Holy Spirit.

And that said. Maybe you're focusing on the wrong work. And in this moment of preparing, you know, I've already just sat in John 17 and thinking through the sermon, just convicted that maybe the most important work of our church is to actually pray. Oswald Chamber said, prayer is not a preparation for work.

It is work. Prayer is not a preparation for the battle. It is the battle and how often we turn to prayer, preparing for what's coming ahead. Lord, do this, do that, Lord, do



this. And then we get to this thing and it happens, and it's just preparation and we think in order to get to this work, I have to do this.

Instead of saying prayer is the work that we should be doing, how often do we see Jesus in his. Gotten the gospel accounts having so much to do and so little time just say, you know what? I'm gonna go and pray. I'm gonna go spend time with my father. The most important work that we can do as a church together is pray.

The most important work that we can do together as a church is prayer, but we get easily distracted, don't we? We get easily distracted and focus on some good things. It's not a big deal when you go in to your kids' room and you told 'em, Hey, I need you to clean up. But then they're over there distracted by something else.

That's not maybe a good thing. They decided to read this book or fix this thing or, and it's not a bad thing. It's just not the work to be focused on and how easily we get focused on serving and giving. And missions and our next location and all these different things that we're working towards that we forget that those things could even be done without prayer.

How often do we give without praying for the Lord to bless this? How often do we serve without praying for the Lord to use us? That we're just going through the motions? Maybe focusing on a good work but not the work. And it's why Paul says in one Thessalonians five 17, just pray without ceasing, always in a posture of prayer.

So there's two burdens that I have for my own heart. I have never been more convicted over the last two weeks to just pray that I wanna be a passionate prayer. It is just what the, the Lord has been. Um, just doing in my own life that the, that I'm thankful for. And I wanna just live in this. I want to be someone who just is praying and I have a burden for our church, for you to be passionate prayers.

And I look around the room and I see different, different things. You are navigating different struggles this past week, taking phone calls over concerns and, and meetings of, um, hurts and pains and just thinking through and living in life, right?

What if the Lord stirred within our hearts a deep desire to pray? So today I'm calling us to pray. For the next four weeks, today plus three more, we are gonna look at John 17 and we're gonna talk about prayer. So why not enter into a deep season of prayer? And here's how I'm encouraging you to pray.

These will be on the screen. I encourage you to write them down. We're praying that God will be glorified in all that we do, in all that we do, not just as a church, but individual members of the church. That as you go to work, Lord, be glorified in this



thing that I'm doing, that we will persevere in Christ's likeness, growing more and more like Him each and every day, and that we will be united together in Christ.

These aren't my prayer points. They actually come from Jesus in John 17. And the more I just have been in John 17 and praying through John 17 and studying John 17, it's as if Jesus prayed this prayer to tell us exactly what we should be praying for as a church. What if the things that Jesus prayed for the church are the things that the church should be praying for?

And so as we enter this month long study, will you commit with me to pray, say, pastor Matt E I'm not very good at it. That's okay. We'll, we'll talk through that. We got a pretty good model and a pretty good teacher who shows us what it looks like. So here's what I'm asking you to do, not out of obligation.

Not out of I better do this, or Pastor Matt's gonna get onto me. No, only the Lord will know and him getting onto you is far worse than me getting onto you. Okay? Just to clarify that, praying every day through the above prayer points, I'll be praying at three 20 every day. We'll get into that a little later, why I picked that time.

Three 20. If you wanna set an alarm and join me at three 20, wherever you are, we're not gonna get on Zoom or anything, just wherever you are, three 20, interrupt your nap in the middle of a meeting, tell your boss, I need you to be quiet. I need to pray. Um, don't do that. Just put when he said, oh, what's that?

Hey, it's just a reminder that I need to pray here in just a little bit. And then maybe that's a gospel door. All right? But pause it, and then you could pray as you leave, or you could pray right there as you're kind of listening to 'em anyways. All right? But pray through those above prayer points each day.

Secondly is to pray for others. Can I just say, uh, stop being weird. I'm gonna be blunt. Stop being weird. Here's what I mean by this. We think it's weird to pray with other people. It's awkward. Embrace the awkwardness of it. And so what I mean by stop being weird is it's weird for Christians not to pray.

It's weird. So stop being weird. Go up to someone and just say, you know what? The Lord has put on my heart to pray for you. I'm gonna pray for you. And look, it's, it's work. Uh, I know that someone's gonna get prayed for right after this because the Lord has put you on my heart. I was back there singing and I should have just walked over to you and prayed for you.

Then We're all growing in this area, but to pray for one another, it's okay to be weird. This is what Jesus doesn't think. It's weird to pray for one another.



He expects Christians to pray. John Piper has this quote, and we'll have some quotes on the screen today. A prayerless Christian is like a bus driver trying alone to push his bus out of a rut because he doesn't know that Clark Kent is on board. Clark Kent, also known as Superman. For those of you that did not know this, okay, that if, if we only knew the power that dwells within us, why?

Why would we not pray? And so for the next four weeks, let me encourage you to make no excuse to not be in a life group. How can you pray for other people in the church if you are not around other people? So commit to attending a life group the next four weeks. Maybe even pray for the people that you love or have beef with.

I tell you, when you have a problem with someone and you're trying to navigate it, praying for them really changes your perspective. And then finally, will you commit to praying like you've never prayed before?

Doing whatever it takes to turn off distractions and to turn to prayer. Maybe it's getting off social media and getting on your knees. John Piper also said one of the great uses of social media will be to prove at the last day that Prayerlessness was not from a lack of time.

And so with that, we turn to John 17, what is called the most profound prayer in all of scripture. Why? Because we see Jesus praying for us. We're not gonna get to that exactly today, but in John 17, at the very end, our very last sermon in this series, we will see that Jesus prays specifically for grace life church.

And so today we are going to look really at John 17 verse one, which is good 'cause this is a 12 minute introduction. Okay, we're gonna look at John 17 verse one and just set the tone for the next couple of series by looking at Jesus, our high priest. I wanna read all of John 17, and as I read through it,

let's look at the Lord's prayer for our church. 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. Since you have given him all authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him, and this is eternal life that they know you, the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent, I glorified you on earth having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.

And now Father glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. I have manifested your name to the people whom you have, 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.



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. And I'm praying for them. I'm 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'm glorified in them.

And I'm no longer in the world, but they are in the world and I'm 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. 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's Judas. That the scripture might be fulfilled, but now I'm coming to you and these things I speak in the world that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. 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, 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. Sanctify them in the truth. Your word is truth as you sent me into the world. So I have sent them into the world and for their sake, I consecrate myself that they also may be sanctified. In truth, I do not ask for these, only listen to this, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one.

Just as you Father are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me the glory that you have given me. I have given to them that they may be one, even as we are one I in them, and you and me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am to see my glory. That you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Oh, righteous. Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you and those and these know that you have sent me. I may known to them your name and I will continue to make it known that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them.

This is the word of the Lord. I'm gonna pray in just a moment. As I do every Sunday after this portion of reading of God's word, the prayers are very similar. They start the same way, open my eyes to behold the wonderful truths from your word. But when I am praying or when someone else is praying, whether it's Howie or Ryan or



another pastor, when we are praying publicly, that is your call to pray privately where you are.

It's not just to sit and listen. But it's an invitation to pray with us. And so as I pray, pray with you are that the Lord will open the eyes of your heart to behold the wonderful truths of your word. Father, open our eyes to behold the wonderful truths from your word. As our church enters into this season of prayer,

strengthen us to lift our eyes to heaven,

to let go of any distraction, to lay aside any weight of sin, and to look upward and focus on you. Thank you, Jesus for this prayer that models for us how to be passionate. Prayers. In your name we pray, amen. Amen. Now, I'm not assuming everyone here knows everything about the Christian tradition of prayer.

And so throughout this series, I'm gonna just interject at different times to talk about why we do this in prayer like I just did. I'm not gonna assume that you, that may have been the first time you had ever heard about that, and so I'm not gonna assume, and so I want this to be a teaching time as well to learn, Hey, why do we do this when it comes to prayer?

Like for example, why in the world do we end the prayer with what word? Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Why do we hear people in the middle of a sermon say, amen. Now this is a great word, a fun word that means thank you. And the more you say amen, the more he just keeps me going. Okay? Amen. There we go. It's a word that means basically let it be so.

Mmm. Let it be true. And it's in agreement with what has just been said. So if I say, Jesus loves us, and you say, amen. Amen. You're acknowledging the truth of that statement. It's actually, here's what's really cool. Amen is one of the very few words that remains consistent in most languages. German, it's got it.

It's Amen. Just with a German hint to it. Spanish, you wanna take a guess? Amen. Look at all the languages you've learned this morning. Right? And it just continues on, even in other dialects that aren't connected to the English Latin connection, whether it's a Middle Eastern or Asian, even how they say it sounds like the English.

Amen. Amen. Why? That's quite interesting to me that the God who diversified all the language in the first place kept one word. Very similar marketing agents. Agencies have been trying to figure out how to do that for decades now, and yet there is amen that we have in common because whether you're here praying in



English or you're praying in Spanish, when we hear the word amen, we are in agreement together that the Lord's will will be done.

There is a faith and submission in agreement all in one four letter word. Yes, I believe this. Let what I said be so. Make it true, Lord. Basically what we're saying when we say Amen, God, I meant every word of that prayer and I trust you with it. Now here's what's really interesting. At the end of John 17, Jesus finishes this prayer and he doesn't say amen.

He doesn't say amen. You are like, well, did he hang up? Like, how does that work? 'cause we think Amen is just like, all right, Lord, I don't know how to get off the phone here. So amen. And then the prayer is disconnected. That's, that's why we say it. But he doesn't do that. Two reasons I think. One, because he is in a continual state of prayer and that prayer is just not ending.

Or two, which I really believe this is the case. He doesn't have to say, Lord, I trust you with this prayer. I hope it's to be true. Because what he is praying is exactly true. And so Jesus never ends a prayer in Amen. All the prayers in scripture, he never ends it with Amen. But there are several times throughout scripture.

Where Jesus will start a conversation with different people and he will say truly, truly, 70 times He does this in the gospels 25 times in the Book of John, that he'll be having a conversation and he'll say, truly, truly, you wanna guess what Jesus is saying there? That word truly is actually the same word.

Amen. In Greek language, it's amen, amen. Amen. Signifying that what I'm about to say is exactly true and of significance, and that you need to be in agreement with what I am saying. That's not our posture, right? We do not say truly, truly God. You better be in agreement with what I'm saying. No. We end our prayers in Amen saying, Lord, what matters most is that I'm in agreement with you, and so I'm trusting you with this prayer.

See the difference? Between Amen at the beginning and at the end of a prayer comes down to a point of view.

Jesus expresses this. Amen. Amen. Frequently like in John three, three, where he is meeting with Nicodemus and he does this twice and says, truly, truly, or Amen. Amen. I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Listen up, Nicodemus, you need to be in agreement with what I'm about to say.

Amen. Amen. Truly, truly, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. But here's also the reality. Jesus doesn't have to say amen. 'cause here's what



Revelation three 14 says. And to the angel of the church and La Deia, write the words of the amen. The faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.

So we say Amen because Jesus is the true. Amen. Amen. This is what scripture tells us. It's not just a simple four letter word that's hanging up the conversation with God. It's an acknowledgement that there is no one like him, that he is true and he is faithful. And that no matter what we say, even if it doesn't, is not answered the way we want it.

We trust him with our whole lives, our whole situation. That he is the amen, the faithful and true witness, that even in our prayers of, Lord, I'm taking this to you, and if it doesn't come true, we know it was not good because Jesus, the true Amen is good and he works all things together for our good and for his glory.

And so whether you're saying Amen at the beginning or amen at the end is really a matter of perspective. The triune God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit knows and sees all things not bound by time, knows and sees all things. And so in our matters of prayer, pleading for the Lord because we don't know what the next hour looks like.

God knows what the next eternity holds 'cause he looks down on earth and into our lives. We are limited with our knowledge, which if you really think about, it's quite just cool. The Lord knows what I'm gonna eat for lunch and I have no idea. I just think that's fascinating. Hmm. Like, what does the Lord have in store for me over the next?

Who knows? He does. He knows. So we are limited in our knowledge, and so often we look down from the posture that God has instead of looking up with our eyes to heaven. And John 17 shows us this incredible reality, this incredible connection to the divine fully God, Jesus, to the divine, fully human Jesus.

That Jesus in this moment, who knows all things and sees all things, shows us that when your feet are planted on earth, your eyes should be looking up to heaven with eyes to heaven. We look and behold Jesus, he is our mediator. Our high priest, the one who has bridged the gap of sin for us. And in this prayer in John 17, Jesus Jesus shows us that prayer is seeking to align our lives with the will of our Father in heaven.

This is all throughout this prayer. While the word will is not mentioned in there, you see that Jesus just longs to do what God has sent him to do, what the Father has sent him to do. Even in verse four, look at what Jesus says. I glorified you on earth having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.



This is Jesus' goal in life. I just wanna glorify you, Lord, no matter what in death I want to glorify you. Father, I want to glorify you.

Jesus talks about doing the father's will quite often in the Book of John. Really, when you look at John 17, if you're doing a deep dive of the Book of John, which is a great place to start in your Christian faith, John 17 is really a summary of all that Jesus has done in the Book of John. It's quite fascinating.

In John 4 31 through 34, it says, meanwhile the disciples were urging him saying, rabbi, eat. But he said to them, I have food to eat that you do not know about. So the disciples said to one another, that's such, has anyone brought him something to eat? What a fun story. 'cause they're like, oh, I wonder if his food is better than ours.

How do we get in on that? But here's what Jesus really means. He says, my food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work that the will of God was his sustenance. That he would rather starve than to not at any moment do the will of the father,

or what does Jesus say in John 6 38 through 45 come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me, and this is the will of him who sent me that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me. Do you see this in the prayer in John 17, but raise it up on the last day for this is the will of my father, that everyone who looks on the son and believes in him should have eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day.

Jesus is more concerned about aligning himself with the will of the Father than anything else.

And so going back to Monday night and just trying to navigate everything in my own life and knowing that. What I thought was going to be a good thing, didn't turn out to be a thing, but now on this side of it is a good thing because the Lord knows and he is sovereign over all things and he's good. And so I began asking myself this question

that what I thought was a good thing,

did I want that thing more than I wanted? God. I don't believe I'm alone in this.

Did I want this new job more than I want God? Do I want this financial freedom more than I want God? Do I want this relationship more than I want God? This is the struggle of life. And so in our prayers, it's fleshed out that way too. One John five



14, John would write this. This is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the request that we have asked of him. You say, pastor Matt, you know how many times I have asked whatever to the Lord and he has not answered it well, I imagine It's a lot. I've been there. I've been asking the Lord for a lot of things that just the answer does not.

God always answers prayer, by the way. Yes. No or not yet.

He just doesn't answer them the way we always want them to be answered. Right? And so this whatever here in verse 14, this is the confidence that we have towards him, that we ask anything, he will hear us. Is that what the text says? No. That if we ask anything according to what His will, his will, he hears us.

And so what we hear this and say, all right, if I ask for anything, the Lord's gonna give it to me. Well, if that was the case, if I wonder if we'd all be rich, but our lost family members would still be on their way to hell.

And so Jesus, in the context of John 17, I don't know how we're gonna finish the sermon today, but that's okay. Jesus says in the context of John 17. Three different times what John says here. Whatever you ask, I'll give it to you three times in the upper room. He says this to his disciples. Let's look at 'em.

John 14, 12 through 14. We're gonna move quickly. Oh, interesting. How this one starts. All right. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do and greater works than these Will he do? Because I am going to the Father referring to the Holy Spirit. Whatever you ask in my name, this, I will do that.

The father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in my name, I will do it. Say, all right, Lord, I'm asking your name. Pay off my house.

But the qualifier here in this verse is that it must be. Solely for the glory of God alone. Whatever we ask must seek to be for God's glory. God is not glorified by selfish prayers. He's not and will, we'll even try to rephrase it and hope that we can trick God into answering the prayer. He's not fooled either.

He's not glorified in selfish prayers. And I'm not saying you shouldn't ask for things because Jesus tells us to in the Lord's Prayer, which is a model prayer, he says, give us this day, our daily bread. He, he says, go to your father. Ask 'cause he provides, but sometimes he doesn't provide exactly what we need.



But here's what I do know,

that when we would genuine heart, say, God, give me peace. In the midst of this trial, peace that only you can bring

a peace that will only glorify you. Father, I don't believe God's up in heaven saying no, because that is a prayer directly connected to who God is. Peace that stills our hearts, not our circumstances. God, here's what I think answer. Asking this prayer for the glory of the Lord is God answered this prayer in such a way that only you and you alone could get the credit for this.

That's what we're asking, Lord, and that's what Jesus says. Whatever you ask, I'll give to you. If it's for the glory of God alone. Interesting that that's the first prayer point in Jesus's high priestly prayer in John 17. 'cause you can take John 13 through 16 and summarize it in John 17. Just fascinating.

The second time Jesus says, whatever you ask is in John 15, seven and eight. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish and it'll be done for you.

For this, my father is glorified. How is he fa glorified that you bear much fruit and prove to be my disciples.

Whatever we ask must be with the desire to bear much fruit for the Lord.

God gives I fully believe this, and maybe I haven't been confident in this, or I have enough faith to believe this to be true, that God gives what will produce fruits. That's all what John 15 is about. It's the fruit of the spirit. For the fruit of the spirit is love and joy and peace and long suffering.

These are good things that the Lord produces in us

and whatever we ask must be with the desire to bear much fruit.

Father, as I face this, doctor's appointment, produce peace in me.

Father, as I face this hard conversation. Produce gentleness in me. Father, as I face this uncertain path,

produce patience in me.

That's a different perspective on prayer. It's a perspective that is heaven word, not earthly. So you can go into that doctor's appointment, praying for healing, praying



for good news, praying for this, and we don't know. It could be one way or the other, but we know that the Lord can and will produce peace in his people.

Mm-hmm.

So Jesus says, whatever we ask must be with a desire to bear much fruit for the Lord, and then the third time, not like a genie where you get the three wishes. For the third time, whatever we ask must be rooted in the longing for complete joy in the Lord. John 16:23 leading right up to the Lord, this prayer in John 17.

So also, you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice and no one will take your joy from you in that day. You will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly I say to you, whatever you ask of the father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now, you have asked nothing in my name. Ask and you will receive why.

Here's the purpose. When you see that's. So that here's the, the result, ask and you will receive so that your joy may be full. We ask so that our joy may be full.

And I wonder if the Lord doesn't answer some prayers the way we want, is because that he knows that if he did answer them the way we wanted them to be answered, that that thing would take our joy away from him. And why would the Lord wanna do that to us?

Because the things that we pray for often are temporary, circumstantial, happiness, prayers instead of prayers rooted in the joy of the Lord that cannot be taken away from us. Amen.

Is there more joy? And being peaceful or at peace or being prosperous.

If I, Lord, maybe asking the question if, if God answers this prayer, will it increase my joy for him or could it take my joy away? See, really it comes down to where's the focus of our prayers and the focus of our prayers must always be heaven word. Always be heaven. Word Jesus with eyes to heaven. Here's what we know about John 17.

This is an upper room prayer. He is moments away from being arrested and sentenced to death. And where are his eyes? Not on the circumstances, but up to heaven. Yes, as I said, we should take our needs to God. I'm not saying, whoa, your car troubles. God doesn't have time for that. No. Take them to the Lord.

Lord, I don't know what to do here. Ask for wisdom and the Lord will give you wisdom. I'm hurting here, Lord. Just I know that you can do something, but help me to know what to pray for and what to ask for.



But so many of our prayers,

our focused eyes down on our earthly needs. Now, I'm not saying that's wrong, but when Jesus prays, it's always upward for the will of the Father and His glory.

So Father, heal me from this ailment is a good prayer that God longs for us to pray. But he also says, but Lord, give me peace through this ailment.

Father, I need a friend right now.

For whatever reason,

father, help me to be friendly.

Father, provide this raise, which I believe everyone here is praying for, right? Yes. But as I pray that you provide this, help me to be content with everything that I already have. Oh, amen. See, that's a prayer posture. That's always Heaven worked. A few months ago I was fi, I was having a, um, elbow issue. It's 'cause I used to throw a hundred miles an hour and playing baseball is what I like to say.

But that's not the case. It's just being, getting older. Right. And just typing a lot. And so I, you know, I'm no medical doctor, but I can Google really well. And so, um, I just assumed that it before I went to the doctor or asked any of the people here that would know how to answer that before I go to the doctor, right?

I just looked and just, um, I know I have just carpal tunnel issues and so sometimes I guess it gets up here, the nerves. And so that was just, just hurting. So I'd be laying there and just hurt. And so I finally gave in and just acknowledged where I am in life and I got one of those keyboard pads that help your wrist.

And it like, took away the, the pain and now like, I'm going to Orlando right after this. I'm taking it with me to the hotel because while I'm working, I wanna be comfortable. This is the posture that I wanna be in

because it changed how I was doing Physically. Would not a posture of prayer be really good for our soul? Would it not help our anxiety? Would it not help our fear?

Would it not help our health

or our pride, our lust or greed? Would a posture of prayer not help our contentment in the Lord? Would it not help our bitterness towards someone if our posture was to pray for them, our animosity towards someone that we do not like,



where we spend so much time talking about them, but never talking to God about them? Will that posture not help our souls? This eyes to heaven. Posture is what I believe the Lord longs for His people.

And so often we pray heads down, eyes closed, and I think that's fine. We do that. The, the Bible, I don't think it's clear about that.

But what we do see in the Old Testament is often this, Lord, I am in deep need for you. So this was the posture of prayer for God's people, but eyes to heaven, posture is only possible because of Jesus. Because Jesus walked this earth and dealt with everything that we dealt with. But he never got consumed by everything we deal with.

He never had sin. Not once did he not glorify the God. His posture was always heavenly word, heaven word. And because his posture was always heaven word, he calls for us and says, there is a way that this is possible for you, that your posture of prayer can be heaven word. And so that's why John 17 is called the high priestly prayer.

Not once do we see Jesus as high priests mentioned here. John doesn't say Jesus, our high priest lifted his hands to heaven. But we see him modeling what a high priest would do so quickly here as our high priest. He not only provides a way to the Father, but he brings us to the Father. Meaning that Jesus is the only way to God the Father, the only way we can enter His into His presence is because of Jesus.

Hebrews 7 23 through 27. Says the former priest, old Testament priest were many a number because they were prevented by death from continuing in the office. They had to get more people 'cause they kept dying. But Jesus holds his priesthood permanently because he continues forever. Consequently, he's able to save to the uttermost, those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them, for it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent unstained, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens.

He has no need like those other priests to offer sacrifices daily for his first, for his own sins, and then for those of the people since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. And so why is John 17 called the high priestly prayer? Because Jesus is interceding praying for the people exactly what a high priest would do.

He would go in, make sure he did a sacrifice for his own sins, and then walk into the presence of God and pray. It's a very brief summary of all that went, took place. Or



we'd need another two hours in this sermon and he would pray on behalf of the people.

The people couldn't go into the Holy of Holies. Oh boy, no. You know what happened? Dead. Because sinners cannot enter into the presence of a holy God. And then Jesus came, lived the perfect life. And when he died, this is the significance of the veil being torn, that no longer did we need a high priest, 'cause we've got one who lives forever and he's permanently in that place.

And now we can walk into the Holy of Holies with the righteousness of Jesus into the presence of God because of Jesus, our high priest who offered a sacrifice for our sins once and for all. So not only does Jesus provide a way to the Father, Jesus brings us to the Father.

It's Jesus that opened this line of communication with God. He brings our names to the Father, and as we see in John 17, he is praying for us. Romans 8 34 says, who is to condemn Christ? Jesus is the one who died more than that. He was raised who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

So no Christian, you don't have to go through me. It's a get to God. You don't need to go through a priest that's been cleared wherever you are, whatever you're going through, no matter what time of day, you can go directly to the Lord in prayer because of Jesus. Um, and so any one that says, then you gotta go this channel, then that channel, you better call Pastor Matt before you pray about it.

No,

you can go to Jesus. 'cause he's made a way to bring you to the Father. And while Jesus finished, here's what I love about this. When Jesus died on the cross, he says it is finished. Meaning the work that he was sent to do is done. It's paid for. There's no reason we need other sacrifices. There's no reason we need other.

Um, other ways. Jesus is the way He had completed God's work of salvation for us perfectly. This is finished. The way of salvation has been accomplished, but Jesus's work did not stop. And, and right now his work we see throughout scripture is to pray for his people

and he is praying for you.

And we cannot live without prayer, and we cannot live without a savior praying for us.



I, um, I'm gonna give a secret. That's something I like, I like to do. I, if I know someone was in ear. And, and I'm not gonna just make stuff up here. Okay. This is all above board. Alright. Uh, especially with the kids or like my nephews and um, like, they'll be within an earshot and I'll, I'll say something to Julie's like, man, let me, like, Colton did this and it was just so awesome.

And I like, he's not in this conversation, but I know if I say it loud enough he can hear it. And then if that's ever happened to you where you walk in, you hear someone talking about you, but it's positively how it changes. It's just like, oh man, that's great. And you don't wanna get into the conversation, but you like wanna stay in there and listen's much better than walking around and hearing someone talking about you.

And that's not fun. And then I'm getting involved in that conversation. Right. And so when you overhear something that is good, encouraging, it's good for the soul, is it not? There's this quote

by Robert Murray McShane. Who says, if I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies. Yet, the distance makes no difference. He is praying for me right now. Jesus is taking our names to the Father, fully aware of what we're gonna face in the days that come. And I wonder is while we are down here with eyes to heaven, I saying amen.

Lord, let it be so. Jesus fully aware, says what they really need. Father is peace. What they really need right now is contentment. What they really right need right now is joy.

'cause when we don't know what to pray or how to pray.

Jesus is praying exactly what needs to be prayed. So Pastor Matt, how do, how do I begin praying? Just begin talking to God with his sincere heart, talking to him about how awesome he is now. Wonderful he is. Tell 'em what's on your heart. Tell 'em what you're facing. Tell 'em I don't know what to do here, Lord, I need wisdom.

Tell 'em about the doctor's appointments, about the financial struggles, about the concerns with your kids. Tell 'em about all of it and ask him to do something in and through that, but to through it to help us to grow more and more like him. Amen. Knowing that he's praying exactly what needs to be prayed.

And so with our eyes to heaven,



we, we pray for the Lord to do a good work in us. And to help us be passionate prayers. Here's how we're going to, and I'm gonna pray and then we're gonna sing. And during that time of singing over the next four weeks, we are, you're either singing or you're prank. There are people here that aren't sick.

Pray for them. There are people here that you don't know where they are. Pray for them. I will be in the back. Standing back there. I'm gonna leave here. I'm gonna go stand back there if you need to pray someone to pray for. You can see me ladies. Donna will be available too on the back row if you need to.

Lady to pray for, if you wanna come up here. I mean church, all of church history people have been going up for just to kneel at, this is a stage front, but it's always been called an altar. And though we don't need altars anymore 'cause Jesus once and for all, accomplished all that for us it is a posture of, Lord, I need you.

I need you. Father,

what a joy it is that you hear our prayers,

that you alone are a God who knows all things and sees all things. You know, the individual circumstances that may be known to just the individual or just a few. And you know, the deep, deep points of those circumstances. You know, the fears, the worries, the concerns, the joys.

So God, I pray that our church. Will not just say we are passionate prayers,

but that we will be passionate prayers, praying for your will to be glorified, to align ourselves with you, not asking for you to align ourselves, align yourself with us, but to align our lives with you. That we will focus heavenward not on all the things that we are dealing with here, knowing that even while we were dealing with this, you know our hearts, you see us, you are with us, and you ask us to take our daily needs to you.

But Lord, help us not to be so prayer focused on selfish needs when our biggest need is you,

Lord.

Deepen our hearts for desire to pray,

to know that even that you hear us right now, not because of anything that we did, but because Jesus, you are the good and perfect and only sacrifice that we need once and for all, paid for our sins so that we can have direct access to the Father in



heaven. That we don't have to go through a priest, that we don't have to go through a certain direction like it's through you, Jesus.

The way, the truth, the life, the Amen.

Father, in the midst of life, help us to know, even though we can't hear you. That Jesus, you are praying for us and praying for exactly what we need.

Lord, thank you for your grace and your mercy

that your ears hear the words coming from our mouths. And you know, even the prayers that just stay within our hearts and heads, we trust you that you're faithful and good in all things. May we focus our lives on glorifying you and you alone. In your name we pray, amen. Amen.

