

# Deepening our Relationship with God

## Day 11

*I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. John 17:9*

**Key Thought: Jesus prays for us who are BELIEVERS in Him**

Our youngest daughter Hannah was born with three congenital heart defects and required heart surgery when she was just three months old. As she was prepped for her surgery, people started to arrive at Grace Baptist Church of Lancaster, PA where I served on staff as Pastor of Student Ministries. They came to pray for her, signing a card to offer encouragement as well. Over 100 people came that day, and even today I am deeply grateful for this expression of true Fellowship. One of the greatest gifts we can give to each other is the gift of intercessory prayer!

As we read John 17:9, Jesus tells the Father that He is committed to this same gift—the gift of intercessory prayer—for those of us who have believed in Him as Savior. What a awesome gift that is! When I think about the fact that each day, Jesus prays for me I am humbled, encouraged and filled with His abiding love for me.

The prayer we are looking at together in John 17 gives us insight into the requests Jesus makes on our behalf. He asks the Father to keep us secure in Him. He asks that we will be united in fellowship as the Trinity is united in fellowship. He prays for us to have His joy and love to the full. He prays for the Father to sanctify us, that is transform us by the power of His Word. Finally, Jesus prays that we be with Him for eternity.

In the book of Hebrews, Jesus is pictured as our Great High Priest, who brings us to the Father. Hebrews 7:25 tells us that Jesus lives to make intercession for us, claiming us as His own: *“Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.”* Hebrews 4:15 says that Jesus is able to pray for us effectively because He lived life as a man, though without actual sin. Then in verse 16 we are told to come to Jesus with confidence, for the mercy and grace we need.

As Jesus prays in John 17:8, He identifies us as the ones who, *“received them (the words of Jesus) and have come to know in truth that I came from you;*

*and they have believed that you sent me.”* This is the Gospel, that the Father sent His Son to speak the Words of Truth that set us free; that salvation has been provided through the Cross, and received through Saving Faith in Jesus Christ. If you have indeed trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior, then you can be confident in His promise to pray for you today!

### **Questions to Ponder**

1. If Jesus asked you for your Prayer List so He could pray for you, what would be on that list?
2. Look at the requests of Jesus in John 17. How often do you pray for these things for yourself? How about for others?
3. How will confidence in the prayers of Jesus for you affect you and your approach to the day?

### **Possible Prayer Points**

1. Think about your answer to question #1 above. Now use that list to pray for yourself and others.
2. Now think about the requests of Jesus in John 17. Use these requests as you pray for the other people on your prayer list.

**How do you think you should relate with God as a result of Him trying to relate to you in this way?**