

Deepening our Relationship with God

Day 12

Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am... John 17:24

Key Thought: *Jesus prays that we would be WITH Him where He is*

A few years ago I (Pastor Len) had the opportunity to go on a missions trip to India. While there I was part of a team that taught at a Pastor's Conference and then at a Bible College. There were two things that stood out to me about my brothers and sisters in Christ. The first was their deep love and passion for Jesus Christ. They talked about Him all the time! The second was their joyous anticipation for being with Christ in eternity. Obviously, these two things go together! I was blessed and challenged by the joy and peace I saw in their lives and the courage they showed in the face of persecution and danger.

As I read John 17:24, I am struck by the fact that Jesus has this same kind of desire and passion for us! As He reaches towards the end of His prayer, and having prayed for us in this life we live in the here and now, Jesus looks forward and prays for what lies beyond this life. As He does, He expresses how much He is looking forward to us being with Him.

Jesus says that He 'desires' us to be with Him. This word communicates a deep longing; wish for; to want something. Jesus has a deep desire for you and me to be with Him in eternity. If I pause and really let His words sink in, I am deeply humbled that He feels this way towards me!

Not only does Jesus want me to be with Him, but He sees me as a gift from the Father. He refers to us as the ones "whom you (the Father) have given me." I am not sure I see myself as much of a gift to the living Son of God, but He does! My value is not in who or what I am in and of myself. My value comes from who I am in Christ, and the value He chooses to place on me.

One of the things Jesus is looking forward to is us seeing Him in His glory, the glory the Father has given to Him since eternity past. We have no way of knowing what this moment will be like—the moment we enter Jesus' presence and not only see His face, but see His glory! In Matthew 17:1-8, three of the Disciples get a glimpse of Jesus in His glory at the Transfiguration. This experience stayed with them for the rest of their lives.

Some 60 years later, the Apostle John wrote, “and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” Undoubtedly, one moment he was remembering was that day when he saw Jesus in His glory.

My friend, if you have placed Saving Faith in Jesus, He was praying for you by name in these verses! Take a moment and reflect on the fact Jesus is looking forward to spending eternity with you. Jesus sees you as a precious gift from the Father. When you walk through the doorway of death into His presence, or see Him at His coming, you will not only see His face, but will stand in awe before Him as you see Him in all of His glory!

Questions to Ponder

1. Think back to when you first became a follower of Jesus. Do you still feel the same excitement for Him and your salvation?
2. How can knowing Jesus’ desire for you to be with Him encourage you in your daily life?
During times of challenge or discouragement?
Today?
3. How often do you think about being in the presence of Jesus Christ for eternity?

Possible Prayer Points

1. Ask God to give you a fresh view of eternity, and what it will be like to be with Christ.
2. Then ask God to renew your ‘first love’ passion for Jesus Christ.
3. Are you experiencing a unique challenge right now?
Discouragement? Is God feeling a bit distant?
Ask the Lord to make the truths of this verse real to you at the heart level. You are loved; you are a gift to Christ from the Father; you are wanted by Christ Himself, Who is looking forward to you being with Him in eternity!

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