

The Father's Gift | Friendship With God

John 17:1-11

I. A Head Toward Heaven

Jesus looked toward heaven and prayed (this is life in the Kingdom of God)-
Jesus lived in the awareness of an interactive relationship with the Father...a relationship experienced in a tangible physical world. Just as an artist sees the canvas as the context for his painting, Jesus saw the world, the universe as the context for his relationship with the Father. He saw it as the context for experiencing the Kingdom. **The Kingdom is where God is ruling.** Jesus said, the Kingdom does not come with observation. No one will say look, here or there it is because the Kingdom of God is in your midst (It is here) but you can't see it. You can't experience it *unless* you're born into it. Once you are born into it you have the potential for experiencing the world from God's viewpoint; you can become conscious of an interactive relationship with God where his presence becomes the stage on which your life is lived. Jesus knew when he spoke that God heard him because that is how kingdoms work-with words. **Eccl. 8:4**

The universe is the context for the kingdom. It's the house of God- my Father's house has many rooms-Jesus lifted up his head to the sky and prayed-
the Father hears you speaking to him in his house the way you would hear someone speaking to you in yours. This is what eternal life is, knowing God. Friendship with God. If you really know me you will know my Father as well. From now on you do know him and have seen him. Knowing him is having it. **Eternal life is about doing life with the Father in the Kingdom of heaven, which is where you live as a disciple of Jesus.** (Illustration of R.A Torrey) The friendship of God is with those who fear him; he reveals to them his covenant (**Ps. 25:14**). The Lord confides in those who fear him...he reveals to them the depths of his commitment toward them. (I just spoke to you about your friendship with God). Take notes from Jesus and realize the relationship you have with God. Remember the words of Jesus, "the Father himself loves you."

II. A Glory Received

Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your son may glorify you.

Jesus knew the hour had come. He knew all that would happen to him (Jn 18:4). For him, the Father was in control even when man was doing his worst (Jn 18:11-shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me). He knew who was

in control. There is a way to live in the kingdom of the heavens in which you are able to see that this is our Father's world. The events of our experience, in weakness or in strength, in life or in death, can be captured in the phrase, "Father, the hour has come." Man may plan his way but God determines the path he'll take. The experience of the cross and its shame was brought into the life of Jesus by the Father. [The hour had come because the Father had timed it \(as he will and does with you\)](#). As maturing disciples, our ultimate aim in those moments, as Jesus demonstrated in this prayer, is the glory of God. In the Kingdom of heaven, the driving force, the intent behind all activities and responsibilities is our Father's glory (**1 Cor. 10:31**).

Jesus' first request is, Father, glorify your Son. [Two questions popped into my mind: 1\). How was Jesus glorified? 2\). Could we pray a prayer like this?](#) Let's deal with the first question: Jesus was glorified through being lifted up on the cross. If the son of man is lifted up he will draw all people to himself. Jesus was glorified in his resurrection and ascension. Question 2: Can we pray a prayer like this? Yes, because glory is what we are seeking. Jesus confronted the religious leaders for seeking the glory that come from man *instead* of seeking the glory, which comes from God (John 5:4). "Those who be persistence in doing good *seek* glory, honor, and immortality, God will give eternal life" (**Rom. 2:7**). The glory of being raised from the dead for this is the hope in which we were saved. We know the present trials are not to be compared with the glory to be revealed (**Rom. 8:18**). We know the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father's kingdom. That is glory (**Matt. 13:43**). Speaking of the future, scripture says, "... those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness like the stars for ever and ever (**Dan. 12:3**)." How God vindicated Christ by raising him from the dead is the way he'll vindicate us all who have followed him. Christ in us is our hope expectation of being glorified (Christ in us is the hope of glory). Jesus says, "To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne" (**Rev. 3:21**). How many thrones are there in this verse? Lastly, [Jesus prayed, "I have given them the glory that you gave me"](#) (John 17:22).

III. A Name Known

v.6 I have revealed you to those you gave me out of the world- [One of the primary purposes for which Jesus came into the world was to make the Father known](#). He accomplished it by becoming known and giving his disciples the word he received from the Father (He was in the Father and the Father was in him). In response to Thomas, Jesus said, "If you really know me you will

know my Father as well. From now on you do know him and have seen him (John 14:7; 12:45).” The word, know means to learn, to realize through personal experience, first hand encounter. Jesus revealed the Father, whom he embodied, by allowing others to have a personal experience with him, by becoming known (If you really know me you will know my Father as well; Don’t you believe that I am in my Father and the Father is in me (John 14:10). This is how Jesus explains being the visible expression of the invisible God). To see Jesus is to see the Father. To see us is to see Jesus. This is what it means to be Jesus’ body. John 14:20: “On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me and I am in you.” This is how Jesus explains us as being the expression of him to the world. I submit to you that this is one of the primary purposes for which you have been sent into the world, to reveal Jesus, whom you embody. [You are here to reveal Jesus](#). You do it by becoming known and giving to others the words you have received from Jesus just as Jesus gave us the words he received from the Father.

IV. An Outrageous Inheritance

All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them (Jn. 17:10). [What does the Father have? What does Jesus have? What about you?](#) Romans 8:17: Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. Now what do you have? *An outrageous inheritance.*

V. A Safe Journey

I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one (John. 17:11). What does it mean for Jesus to ask the Father to protect them? How could Jesus pray this when he just said in John 16:2 that a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God? Any hope for protection in this statement? According to tradition all of the apostles were put to death except for John. [The protection Jesus is praying for is a preservation of their faith, their faithfulness.](#) As he said in John 16:1, “All this I have told you so that you will not fall away.” Remember his words to Peter, “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your *faith* may not fail...” (Luke 22:31) [TRUST that you will endure the trials of this life not because of your grip on him, but because of his grip on you.](#)