

# JOHN 16:16-17:26

July 15, 2012

Today we'll be discussing **John 16:16 through 17:26**.

**16:16-22** Look at **chapter 16 in verses 16 to 22?** What is Jesus talking about here?

- They see Him because He is with them. He will die and be buried and they will not see Him. He will be raised from the dead and they will again see Him.

**16:20** What do we learn in **verse 20?**

- The disciples would weep over the death of Jesus. The world would rejoice over the death of Jesus. The disciples grief, though, would be turned to joy after Jesus is raised and appears to them.

**16:21** What illustration does Jesus use in **verse 21** to make His point?

- A mother suffers pain through childbirth but rejoices and is glad she did it when she holds her child in her arms.

**16:22** Explain why Jesus said what He did at the end of **verse 22**.

- No one would ever be able to take away the joy that would be theirs once they saw Him risen and alive.

**16:23-24** What do we learn about answered prayer in **verses 23 to 24?**

- God answers when we ask in Jesus' name (23). God answers prayer so that we might have joy (24).

Why do we have joy when God answers our prayers?

- Some would say because we get what we want and asked for. The more mature would say because answered prayer confirms that God is real and who He claims to be.

God's answer to our prayer might be "yes" and it might be "no". Is there any other response that God might have to our prayers?

- His answer might be "wait"; it might be "some other way"; and it might be "you've got to be kidding".

Is asking *in Jesus' name* just saying those words in our prayer?

- No. To ask in Jesus' name is to realize that the only reason we can approach such an awesome God is because of what Jesus did for us. It is to realize that we are recipients of grace getting privileges that we do not really deserve. It means to ask for *His* sake, not just ours.

Is asking *in Jesus' name* the only prerequisite for answered prayer? What other "conditions" must be met that we learn about from Scripture?

- Sin inhibits our prayer life. See **Isaiah 59:2** [2 It's your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore.] & **Psalms 66:18**. [18 If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.]
- Being out of fellowship with others hinders our prayer lives. See **1 Peter 3:7** [7 In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her, as you should so your prayers will not be hindered].

- & **Matthew 5:21-24**. [21 “You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’ 22 But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell. 23 “So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, 24 leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God].
- We are to be persistent in our prayer. **See Matthew 7:7-8**. [7 “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.] (These words {ask, seek, knock} are all present tense verbs that mean “keep on” asking, seeking, knocking.)
- It helps to have others agreeing with you in prayer. **See Matthew 18:19-20**. [19 “I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. 20 For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”]
- Selfish motives keep us from answered prayer. **See James 4:3**. [3 And even when you ask, you don’t get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.]
- We must have faith that God will answer our prayer. **See Matthew 21:21-22**. [21 Then Jesus told them, “I tell you the truth, if you have faith and don’t doubt, you can do things like this and much more. You can even say to this mountain, ‘May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and it will happen. 22 You can pray for anything, and if you have faith, you will receive it.”]
- God gives us what we ask for when we ask according to His will. **See 1 John 5:14-15** [14 And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. 15 And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.] & **Psalms 37:4**. [4 Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart’s desires.]

**What do we learn about prayer from Romans 8:26-29?** [26 And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. 27 And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will. 28 And we know that God causes everything to work together\* for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. 29 For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.]

- We don’t know what we should ask for (26). Most prayers tend to be selfish.
- The Spirit intercepts our prayers (*intercedes*) for us and goes to the Father with our prayers edited to reflect God’s will for our lives (26-27).

**Who can give an example of how the Spirit might intercept our prayer and pray according to God’s will?**

- When we are in a trial, we pray for it to be over. If we have a need, we pray for it to be met... immediately if not sooner. The Spirit may know that our trial is good for us. It makes us trust God and not in our own strength. It might humble us. God’s strength is given to us in trials. **See 2 Corinthians 10:7-11**. [7 Look at the obvious facts. Those who say they belong to Christ must recognize that we belong to Christ as much as they do. 8 I may seem to be boasting too much about the authority given to us by the Lord. But our authority builds you up; it doesn’t tear you down. So I will not be ashamed of using my authority. 9 I’m not trying to frighten you by my letters. 10 For some say, “Paul’s letters are demanding and forceful, but in person he is weak, and his speeches are worthless!” 11 Those people should realize that our actions when we arrive in person will be as forceful as what we say in our letters from far away.]

- God uses *everything* in our lives...good and bad...physical, material, relational, situational, financial...to make us like Jesus (28-29).

**16:24 Look at verse 24 again. Does God want His people to be “happy”?**

- God wants us to have His joy. See John 15:11 [11 I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! ] & 17:13. [13 “Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy.]

**Is there a difference between “happiness” and “joy”? Explain.**

- Happiness is an emotional response to favorable circumstances. Life is “good” then we “feel” happy. Joy is a spiritual condition that is a result of

- (1) being rightly related to God {as obedient as we know how to be},
- (2) our lives being about Him and not us {we want God’s will, not our way},
- (3) the goal of our lives being holiness, not happiness, and
- (4) believing that God used bad for good to make us like Jesus (Romans 8:28-29).

**16:32 What do we learn about Jesus in verse 32?**

- Jesus was never alone. His Father was with Him...and His Father was enough.

**16:33 What do we learn when we compare verse 33 with John 10:10?**

- Jesus promised abundant life in a cursed world that is full of problems (*tribulation*) and an enemy who is out to get us (*the thief*: Satan). We can have God’s joy and live an abundant life in an imperfect world full of pain and disappointment.

**17:1 John 17 is called the “High Priestly Prayer of Christ”. Look at verse 1. Why did Jesus want His Father to bless Him?**

- Jesus wanted to glorify His Father. With Jesus, it was always about the Father and not Himself. See John 4:34 [34 Then Jesus explained: “My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work.] & 12:49. [49 I don’t speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it. ] See John 17:4. [4 I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.]

**17:3 Verse 3 tells us that eternal life is knowing God. How do we have a relationship with an invisible God (Colossians 1:15 and 1 Timothy 1:17)?**

- Relationships require five things: (1) You spend time together. (2) You talk to Him and (3) He talks to you. (4) You do things for Him and (5) He does things for you.

**How many verses in this chapter address God’s desire that we love each other and live in unity?**

- Four verses: 11, 21, 22, 23.

**What is at stake if believers fail to love each other and live in unity?**

- The world believing that God sent His Son is dependent upon our love and unity (17:21,23).

**How did Jesus describe the believer’s relationship with the “world” in this prayer?**

- We are not *of* the world (we don’t belong with them) – 17:14,16. Just as the world hated Jesus (because He was “light” and they loved darkness – John 3:19) the world will hate His followers (2 Timothy 3:12). See James 4:4. [4 You adulterers! Don’t you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.]

**Did Jesus pray for you in this prayer? If so, where?**

- **YES!** We have believed through the word of the Apostles (our New Testament) – 17:20? [20 “I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message.]

**The most incredible statement in the Bible about God’s love for us is in this prayer. Can you identify it and explain it?**

- **Verse 23** says that God loves us as He loves Jesus. God loves us imperfect sinners just as He loves His perfect, sinless Son.

**What is it about God that enables Him to love us this way?**

- God’s love is about who He is, not who anyone else is. His love is about Him being loving, not the lovability of those who receive that love. He loves us perfectly...period.

**It’s important to remember that God’s love is not enough to solve our sin problem. Jesus had to live and die for us to be forgiven. His love didn’t cover our sins; that required Christ’s death.**