

03 January

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Series on prayer – week 2

 Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member why and how you speak to God in prayer?
2. Can you identify three marks of a believer in John 17:6? (**Believers worship Jesus as God, belong to Father God and keep/obey His Word**)
3. What does John 17:7 reveal about Jesus? (**God the Father sent God the Son, Jesus into history as a human being.**)
4. What did the disciples believe about Jesus in John 17:8? (**The words of Jesus, that He came from the Father and was sent by the Father.**)

 Let's go deeper

5. Why did Jesus pray in John 17:11a; "Holy Father, keep them in Your name?" (**Salvation is a work God does in us and through us.**)
6. What is the mark of a believer in John 17:11? (**To live in community with other believers. v.11b; "that they may be one as we are One"**).
7. What is the mark of a believer in John 17:13? (**Joy – Jesus prayed that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.**)
8. According to John 17:13; where is this joy? (**The joy is in us, it's a gift of the Holy Spirit.**)

 Let's apply this

9. Jesus prayed for His disciples:
- To worship Jesus as God.
 - To belong to the family of God the Father.
 - To keep and obey the Word of God.
 - Live in community with other believers (protect/pursue unity).
 - To have the joy of the Holy Spirit in themselves.

As we enter 2021, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you which of the above or other areas to surrender to Him?

SUMMARY:

- Jesus prays for His disciples?

Read: John 17:6 – 17.

v.6; Jesus is giving some evidence of those who are born again believers. They worship Jesus as God; belong to God the Father, and they love the Word of God.

v.7; Believers are those who know Jesus did miracles, taught, healed and saved, because He was on mission by God the Father. God the Father sent God the Son into history as a human being. That's why He came.

v.8; The believer is the one who says, "Jesus is God who came down from heaven, sent to live without sin, to die for my sin, to rise for my salvation. I believe that is who Jesus is and I believe that is why He was sent."

v.9 – 10; When Jesus says, He is not praying for the world, it does not mean He discriminates against certain types of humanity. Jesus loves people of all races, cultures and the great eternal worship song in Revelation 5:9 tells us that Jesus' blood purchases men "from every tribe and language and people and nation". By not praying for the world, Jesus is praying against the "powers of this dark world" and for "all the saints", echoing even His earlier instructions in the Lord's Prayer by doing spiritual battle so that His followers will be "led not into temptation."

v.11 - 12; Jesus speaks of Christians restoring their relationship with God not by their own effort or merit but rather by God the Father "keeping them". In this way, the assurance and perseverance of our salvation are in the faithfulness of God so that we continue walking with God who continues to walk with us. Salvation is a work God does in us, and our obedience is a work God does through us, as the fruit of Christ's perfect life grows in us in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Another mark of believers is that they live in community with other believers. When we become Christians, we are reconciled to God and each other. This means we're unified. Now, we have to work for unity, because sometimes we disagree and we sin against each other and we fight over stuff and we have to work things out. But we're pursuing and striving for unity, wanting to be in loving community.

v.13; The mark of a believer is JOY. Jesus says it this way, that they may have joy in themselves. The joy is in us. It's a gift of the Holy Spirit to those of new heart, mind, soul and the ability to understand and comprehend the person and the work of Jesus. Our joy is not, "I'll be rich!" Our joy is, "even if I'm poor, they can't take my treasure. His name is Jesus" Our joy is not, "I'm healthy!" Our joy is, "Even if I'm sick, it's an opportunity to glorify God; to be more like Jesus; to suffer well." It's not a joy that we'll be betrayed. It's a joy that when we're betrayed, there's One who will keep us: God the Father.