

Hello! This is Dorothy -

I would like us to turn to the **Book of John**, if you have a Bible. Start to read **John 17**, because so much of what I want to say is in this chapter. When our Lord begins His prayer in **John 17**, He uses the word **Father**. He continues His intercession on both the plane of desire and the plane of determination. It is interesting; there are four instances in this prayer when the Lord uses this word **pray**. In three of these instances, the word could be actually translated **desire**. His desires are recorded.

First of all, in **verse 9** of **John 17**- **I am praying for them. I am not praying (requesting) for the world, but for those You have given Me, - that means the born-again believer - for they belong to You.** That was one of His prayers, His desire.

Another one is in **verses 14 to 16**-

14 I have given and delivered to them Your word (message) and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world (do not belong to the world), just as I am not of the world.

15 I do not ask that You take them out of the world, but that You keep and protect them from the evil one.

16 They are not of the world (worldly, belonging to the world),

[just] as I am not of the world. Interesting: one of His great desires is He was praying for you and for me, if we are believers. He knows this world is not our home; He knows the mess down here; He knows the evil one, Satan. And He is saying, “I am not taking them out; I want to leave them there as light and life in Jesus.” Don’t you see? In that mess you are in, that terrible situation around you with all the evil, the Lord has you in the midst. It is not what you can do; it is what He wants to do.

And He also prayed – **verses 20 and 21** -

20 Neither for these alone do I pray [it is not for their sake only that I make this request], but also for all those who will ever come to believe in (trust in , cling to, rely on) Me . . . I love that, because if you are a believer, that means He was praying for us way back then! That is what it is all about, for He was speaking not only of those who were His at the time, but those who would be His, including every one of us who has received Jesus. For He goes on to say - . . . **through their word and teaching.** Now what is that about? Those people who have come to know Jesus have, in turn, shared His Word and shared about Him. Therefore, it is like the next generation; the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren coming along.

21 That they all may be one [just] as You, Father, are in Me - *this is Jesus speaking* - and I in You, that they also may be one in Us, so that the world may believe and be convinced that You have

sent Me.

As the Son of God expressed His three-fold prayer or desire before His Father in Heaven, there was one occasion in **John 17:24** where the Lord Jesus said - **Father, I will** - *this is what you might call His fourth aspect of prayer, as the Saviour determinately prays* - **that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am. . .** As God the Son, Jesus, expresses His desires, but as God, He is expressing His determination in nothing less than a divine decree. Did you catch the difference? As the Son, He expresses His desires; as God, He is expressing His determination that these things should be a divine decree. So, when you read this, don't have a wish-list like, "Oh, it would be nice if I were in on that." You are, as a believer, in on this. This is what should happen through you; this is an actual divine decree. It is remarkable that we can hear the authority of God the Son speaking before God the Father and expressing with divine authority, His divine determination. I love it!

Jesus says, **Father, I will (determine) that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am . . .** One day, His determination for you, if you have come to the Cross of Calvary and acknowledged Jesus as Your Saviour and Lord, is that you may be together with all the redeemed of the Lord in the presence of the Father. Unity in eternity. Just think of it. The desire of Jesus is for

His children still alive in a world of time and turmoil, to know unity here. I think we could pray today - *Lord Jesus, I thank You You opened a way for me to call God, my Father. Now, I ask You to be my Saviour and to make me Your child. Cleanse me from my sin and come and live in my heart, I pray. Thank You. You have determined that one day all believers will be united in Your presence!*

Will You pray with me that we may be one down here on earth and prove His saving power today?

For the glory of our lovely Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.