

God's Calling Requirements Part 32

At the Garden of Gethsemane - The High Priest Prayer

"1 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. 2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. 3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. 4 I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. 5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. 6 "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. 8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. 9 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. 10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. 11 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. 12 While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. 13 "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. 14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. 15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. 20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. 24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. 25 "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. 26 I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them." (John 17:1-26)

The writer of the Gospel of John narrated more details about what happened in the garden of Gethsemane; he put down in writing the prayer of Jesus. As we go through the prayer of Jesus we can see clearly that we are called to make our mind clear in keeping our commitment to God and to be willing to suffer and get persecuted for His name sake. This stage is a must for each and every disciple of Jesus to pass through before he can make it to heaven. As we mention earlier, following Christ is not a journey walk, but a marching army. Following Christ is not a picnic but battles to pass through. *"He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."* (1John 2:6 KJV)

Jesus the overseer of our souls and our High Priest, His prayer teaching us more deep things and put us forward to get us engage in living honestly for Him and making our service and ministry fruitfully for Him.

Jesus before that prayer He was speaking and teaching His disciples what He was about to pass through from suffering. As well as He explained to them that they will be persecuted and they will be hated by the people because of their commitment toward Christ. Then, *1 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you."* Jesus asked God the Father to glorify Him, and the way that Jesus consented to be glorified is His willingness to pass through the experience of the cross. In the same way, the disciples of Jesus would not escape the experience of suffering, but need to accept that because that is part of God's calling in our lives.

2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Jesus death on the cross brought salvation to the whole mankind. As Jesus had authority over all the people, then we need to be bold in telling the people around us His Word and His will in their lives. We need to persevere in imparting the faith we believe and the Word of God that we live to those around us. For as they believe and walk as Jesus walked they will be saved and have eternal life. *3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*

4 I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. Jesus did finish the work that God the Father gave Him to do and that brought glory to God the Father. We ought to take from the example of Jesus a teaching and a clear way of living. We ought to finish the work and the task that is entrusted to us to do. Incomplete work and ministry it will not be good testimony and will not bring glory to God the Father. Brethren let us be willing to stand firm and persevere to finish the task entrusted to us. Let us be encouraged today with God's Word that whatever the battle is raging, we still need to continue the task knowing that the Lord is with us and He will back us up till we have the victory.

5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. Jesus praying and asking God to glorify Him; this was by enabling Him to pass through the experience of the cross. Jesus will be glorified in our lives when we are willing to take the way of suffering as Jesus did.

6 "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Jesus revealed Himself to His disciples and the result of that revelation; they obeyed Him and abided with the Word of God. *7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you.* Therefore the disciples of Jesus will abide with the will of God, for they know that they need to pass through the hardships and through the narrow way that Jesus had ordained for them. *8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.* The true disciples of Jesus would accept the Word of God and His will in passing through hardships. The false followers of Christ they will roam around in picnic gardens where they can get pleasure and good time and enjoy worldly things and living in leisure. The true disciples of Jesus will not run away from God when they will have trials. The true disciples of Jesus will not run away from trials or escape and bypass suffering even if they have plenty and are blessed with material things. They will not use their material blessings to

bypass trials. The false followers of Christ once they are relieved materially you find them either rebel against the will of God or just walk away from taking any responsibility. The false followers of Christ as long as they are poor and are in need they are humble, but once they got power or material blessings you will find them arrogance.

9 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. Jesus had a clear strategy that we need to adopt. First He committed Himself to pass through Gethsemane experience in preparing Himself to pass through the cross. Second He prepared and trained a bunch of His disciples to follow in the same of His steps. When He said, ***I pray for them. I am not praying for the world***, It means that He knew what He was doing, and He is organized with His strategy reaching the lost souls step by step. The true disciples of Jesus would delight to follow the same. Slow but sure. First to commit himself/herself to Christ, Second to disciple others by teaching them and showing them the right way of living.

10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. Part of the glory that Jesus received is through His work in the life of the disciples that he reached out and trained to follow God. In the same way we need to do the same of that. ***In the same way we ought to reach other people and train them to go through the narrow way that Jesus ordained for us to pass through in following Him.***

11 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. Jesus did not pray for His disciples to be taken out from the world or to avoid suffering or to avoid the work of devil or the persecution that would come against them. But He prayed that God would protect them. ***15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.*** We should have the same understanding that we cannot quit what we need to face and pass through but we can pray for God to protect us and to sustain us in order to be able to achieve that task and to finish His work that He allocated for us. This same mind we need to impart to our children and the disciples who are under our care.

12 While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. Jesus protected the disciples by doing His best to teach them, to admonish them, to correct them, to warn them and rebuking them when they are at fault. Jesus trained them how to live in righteousness and to do what is right and just. In doing all these things, that was the way how He protected them. ***We need to do the same for our children and the rest of our family members and the disciples who are under our care. We need to be beside them along the way till they are well trained and can stand on their feet. We need to teach them to be away from sin and from the pollution of this world, and in this way we are protecting them.***

None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. Only Judas Iscariot perished because he was not willing to pass through the narrow way that Jesus was passing through. Judas Iscariot perished not because he betrayed Jesus, but he utterly rejected the way of suffering that Jesus ordained for him. Many people they are not willing to accept the narrow way, therefore you find them all of a sudden would betray the Lord and do miserable things that would cause grievances to Christ, to His Church and to His true disciples.

13 “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. Jesus His prayer was audible to His disciples, and He was declaring the truth in what He prayed for them. ***His prayer showed that hardships awaiting those who would determine to follow Christ. That is the Good News to those who are true to faith, because they will know that when they are persecuted or when they are opposed they are in the right way that Jesus had drawn out to them. Many they are discouraged when they are facing trials in the form of opposition or persecution in serving the Lord, but the truth is that all those hardships are expected and normal and ordained by God to us to pass through and got overcome.***

14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. The true sign for the disciples of Jesus who really had taken the Word of God and applied in their lives is that you find people and the world hate them. ***Those who had taken the Word of God seriously to life, you will find many people would move away from them, hate them and most likely trouble them.***

Jesus explained clearly why we would be hated, ***16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.*** The disciples of Jesus are not worldly. ***Worldly people, who love to have friends, who love journeys and trips, who love to lavish on themselves expensive food and spend on restaurants, parties and luxurious things, you will find many love them. But when you leave behind the worldly things and the pleasure, then you will find many people disturbed because of you and would start to feel bad about you and even might hate you and be in fight with you.***

17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ***The prayer of Jesus for us that the Lord would continue to cleanse us with the truth of His Word and the truth of His will. That is the way the Lord would cleanse us from sin, worldliness and leading us to give up our own will and plan.***

18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. Jesus trained His disciples and sent them into the world to preach the Word of God. He follows the example of God the Father in sending Him into the world, by sending His disciples into the world. ***We need to understand that we are sent by Jesus into the world for a mission and can't quit till we accomplish this mission. We need also to understand that we need to train others and send into the world to preach and teach God's Word.***

19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. Sanctification is to be clean, or in other word, something need to deal with sin in order to be clean.

But what Jesus meant with what he said, ***For them I sanctify myself?*** We know that Jesus is without sin, and what He means here is that He will accept the death on the cross even He is without sin in order to fulfill and to abide with the will of God the Father. ***The example of Jesus and His obedient to God the Father even to die on the cross is a true example for us today to continue to abide with the will of God the Father while we are still living on earth.***

20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, Jesus is here praying for the next generation, those who are going to believe in Him through the message of His disciples. The message should flow from generation to the next generation.

21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. Jesus speaks here about the unity that will take place among the true followers of Christ. Many preachers they use **John 17:21** and speaks about unity. Physical or flesh unity is of no value. But unity with God's Word, God's Will and purpose that what Jesus was hoping for; unity in agreeing to go through the Gethsemane, 'Oil Press,' experience; to walk through the narrow way in passing through the cross. That will prove and will show that we are part and in one accord with God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, **May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.** When the world and the worldly people will see the disciples committing themselves in such a way to follow after the steps of Christ, then that will be the way for them to believe the testimony of Christ. But when the church and the disciples are worldly, then true conversion will be hindered by the bad example of the worldly disciples and the worldly church.

22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— The glory that Jesus gave us that will make us one in Him, is to accept suffering and the will of God, as He accepted the cross and was glorified in His death on the cross.

23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. If we follow and agree on walking through the steps of Christ in suffering then we are moving toward perfection and to be in union with Him. That will be a testimony to the world to know Him through that. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

24 “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. Christ desire to us, His disciples, as we overcome, then we will be with Him forever in one place as a reward to us, **“21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.” (Revelation 3:21 KJV)** As we overcome we will be with the Lord and forever.

My dear and beloved: Jesus prayed, “25 “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. 26 I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.” Christ made Himself known to us through His Word and through the work of the Holy Spirit and what He is revealing continually in our lives. Jesus will continue to make known to us the mysteries of God. That in return will impart God's love to us that will sustain us and make us persevere through the trials that we are passing through. And we as a body of Christ, as His love abound in us, we will continue to work with Christ and God the Father that others will receive and enjoy His love so that their lives would be changed and they will be following Christ with us. That will be our aim as we continue to walk with Jesus and serve Him.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life.

Tell to the Lord Lord I thank you for your Word that imparted joy and gladness in me, knowing the truth of your will in my life. Lord I commit myself to follow your steps into Gethsemane, to be

in the 'Oil Press,' experience; to walk through the narrow way, and go forward, passing through the cross. Lord I am willing to pasthrough hardships and trials. Lord upholds me with your grace and let my life be a good example to others to know you and receive your love and got saved.

Lord I commit my life to serve you. To reach the lost and to evangelize. Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit so I will be able to reach the lost and go forward to make disciples and to teach them Your Word.

Lord I pray for my brothers and sisters that you will bless them, make them grow, provide all their needs, and sustain them as they commit themselves to serve you. Lord protect them and deliver them from the evil one and from the persecution. Give them patience and perseverance to endure the pressure and the strains that they are passing through till they will finish the task of preaching the Gospels to others..

Lord we pray for the church to grow, we pray Lord for more evangelism and for ore Bible studies to be planted. We pray Lord for more doors you will open to us to reach the Lost. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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