God's Calling Requirements Part 33
At the Garden of Gethsemane - The High Priest Prayer

"1 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: 2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. 3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. 4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. 5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. 6 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. 7 Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. 8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. 9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. 10 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. 11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. 12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. 13 And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. 14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. 18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. 20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. 22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. 24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. 25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. 26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them." (John 17:1-26 KJV)

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 most 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. ***"6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked." (1 John 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 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:" (John 17:1 KJV)*** 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 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him." (John 17:2 KJV) 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 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." (John 17:3 KJV)***

"4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." (John 17:4 KJV) 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, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." (John 17:5 KJV) Jesus was 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 manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word." (John 17:6 KJV) 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 have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee." (John 17:7 KJV0*** therefore the disciples of Jesus would abide with the will of God for they knew that they needed to pass through the hardships and through the narrow way that Jesus had ordained for them. ***"8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest***

me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me." (John 17:8 KJV) The true disciples of Jesus will 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 arrogant.

"9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine." (John 17:9 KJV) Jesus had a clear strategy that we need to adopt. First He committed Himself to pass through Gethsemane's 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 pray not 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 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them." (John 17:10 KJV) 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 gate that Jesus ordained for us to pass through in following Him.

"11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are." (John 17:11 KJV) 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 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil." (John 17:15 KJV)*** 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 in the world, I kept them in thy name:" (John 17:12 KJV) 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 were 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." (John 17:12 KJV) Only Judas Iscariot perished because he was not willing to pass through the narrow gate that Jesus was passing through. Judas Iscariot perished not only 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 gate, therefore you find them all of a sudden will betray the Lord and do miserable things that will cause grievances to Christ, to His Church and to His true disciples.

"13 And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves." (John 17:13 KJV) 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. Therefore let us face them with joy.

"14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." (John 17:14 KJV) 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 the world." (John 17:16 KJV)*** 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, who love to please people and get their favor, those such kind of people 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 through thy truth: thy word is truth." (John 17:17 KJV) The prayer of Jesus for us that the Lord will continue to cleanse us with the truth of His Word and the truth of His will. That is the way the Lord will cleanse us from sin, worldliness and leading us to give up our own will and plan.

"18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." (John 17:18 KJV) Jesus trained His disciples and sent them into the world to preach the Word of God. He followed 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 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth." (John 17:19 KJV) Sanctification is to be clean or in other words sin needs to be dealt with in order to be clean.

But what Jesus meant with what he said, ***"for their sakes I sanctify myself"***? We know that Jesus is without sin, and what He meant here is that He would accept the death on the cross that He was set apart for even He was 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 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;" (John 17:20 KJV) Jesus here was 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 they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." (John 17:21 KJV) Jesus spoke 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 unity or be together 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's, the **'Oil Press'** experience; to walk through the narrow gate 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, ***"that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast 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 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:" (John 17:22 KJV) 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 thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one;" (John 17:23 KJV) 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, ***"and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.***

"24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world." (John 17:24 KJV) Christ desired 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 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. 26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them." (John 17:25-26 KJV)*** 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 will 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 death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that you sent in this message and the encouragement I received to continue to do your will. Lord thank you for your prayers for me to continue to serve you in this world. Lord thank you for all the material blessings and the spiritual gifts that I received from you. Lord thank you for all the teaching, the rebukes, the corrections and the admonishments we received in this message.*

Come now to God, confess and renounce your sins. Confess and renounce your worldliness, greed, your love of money, your love for material things and your lust of the flesh. Confess and renounce your doubts, worries and easy discouragements. Confess and renounce your non willingness to serve God, accept challenges, and respond to His calling in your life. Confess and renounce being bad testimony to others. Confess and renounce your non willingness to suffer and get persecuted for Christ. Confess and renounce doing your will and not the will nor the plan of God in your life. Confess and renounce your lack of kneeling down, prayers and reading God's Word. Confess and renounce your yoke with and wasting time on the Media, news and friends. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins _____ .

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 gate, and go forward, passing through the cross. Lord I am willing to pass through hardships and trials. Lord uphold 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 protect me and deliver from the following troubles and persecution _____. Lord I commit my life to serve you, to reach the lost and to evangelize. Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit and with joy so I will be able to continue 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 us as a the church to grow. We pray Lord for more doors you will open to us to reach the Lost. Lord help us as a church to continue to go on and serve you and to do the work of yours faithfully. Lord protect us from the following people who are troubling us _____. Lord fill us with the Holy Spirit and with joy. Lord lead us to people to declare your Word and your will to them. Lord lead us with your Holy Spirit to go and evangelize and make new disciples and train workers to go and plant new Bible studies and

congregations for the church. Lord unite us with your Word and your will. Lord prepare us to be ready to take us with you to Heaven when you come. Lord we pray for more people to be water baptized and more disciples to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord take the message and spread it to reach the rest of the church congregations, workers, members and the lost souls. 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 the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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