

Jesus Prayed for Future Believers

John 17:20-26

1. *Jesus prayed for all future believers*

20 “My prayer is not for them alone.
I pray also for those who will believe in me
through their message,

2. *Request 1:*

That believers may be one

- a. The standard: As God and Christ are one
- b. The purpose: That the world may believe God sent Christ
- c. The source: God’s glory

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:

3. *Request 2:*

That believers may be perfected in unity

- a. The source: Jesus within
- b. The reason: To convince the world that God sent Christ and that He loves believers

23 I in them and you in me.
May they be brought to complete unity
to let the world know that you sent me
and have loved them
even as you have loved me.

4. *Request 3:*

That believers may be with Him in glory

- a. The reason: To behold or see His glory
- b. The assurance: God’s love

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.

5. *Request 4:*

That believers may be filled with God’s love

- a. The reason: Because believers truly know God and know that He sent Christ
- b. The faithfulness of Christ
 - 1) He declared God to men
 - 2) His purpose: That men might know God’s love

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.”