

# PURE PASSION

AN ATHLETE STUDY

## PRAY LIKE JESUS

Sitting around a crowded room, a man stood to offer thanks for the food we were about to eat. I've heard thousands of prayers, but this one was different. The man praying talked to God in a personal way—the way someone speaks to a friend or family member. His prayer was more than reverent and respectful, it was intimate. Had the two dozen or so people not been there, his prayer would have been the same (outside of a few lines praying for those of us there). It struck me hard that he prayed as if talking to somebody in the room. In the same moment I realized that until this point, I had never witnessed a prayer like that.

Just by this man's example, I realized that I viewed God as being far away and uncaring. By contrast, this man taught me that I do not need fancy words; I just need to open my heart to a caring God who wants to have a personal relationship with me. God is close, God is caring, and God invites us to pour our hearts to him through prayer—just like Jesus.

Last Week, we discussed Christ as the "true vine," and our need to abide in him for any lasting fruit. This Week, our passage contains Jesus' prayer concluding the Upper Room Discourse. John 17 is known as the High Priestly prayer. It's one of Jesus' longest recorded prayers. In it, he prays for himself (1–5), his disciples (6–19), and finally for later believers like you and me (20–26). Today, we are only focused on a relative few verses, but as we get started, we'd recommend reading the whole chapter.

MATTHEW



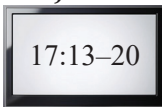
MARK



LUKE



JOHN



JOHN 17:13–20

<sup>13</sup> But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. <sup>14</sup> I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>15</sup> I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

<sup>20</sup> "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

*"I don't always feel it, Yeah, but that's when I need it the most. So, I'ma keep on singing, 'Til my soul catches up with my song."*

The Christian life isn't always easy. The joy offered by the Lord is often found in the midst of struggle rather than its absence. We're here for a purpose, for a mission to see people know the Lord—to expand his kingdom. Scan the QR code for the encouragement of worship in your struggle.



## DISCUSSION

ID some possible consequences for standing up for someone or something.

ICEBREAKER

1. What experience does Jesus want for believers? (13)

2. What has Jesus already provided to believers? (14)

3. ID some things about our relationship w/ the world. (14-18)

4. Who specifically is Jesus praying for in verse 20?

OBSERVATION

5. Why is it important that Jesus prayed that believers not be taken out of the world and what does he want instead?

INTERPRETATION

6. How does it encourage you that if you're a believer in Christ, Jesus prayed for you?

7. What does it look like to live for him and not the world?

APPLICATION

We all need to pray and receive prayer. If you aren't sure how or what to pray for, or need prayer yourself, don't wait. Talk to your coach today.

# PURE PASSION

WEEK 6

AN ATHLETE STUDY

## STUDY NOTES BENEDICTION

High school can feel like it's going to last forever, but before you know it, it's graduation day. Dressed in your cap and gown you walk across the stage, shake a few hands, receive your diploma, and sit back down waiting for the ceremony to end. Often at graduations, one of the very last things in the ceremony is a benediction. A benediction can be a prayer and often was for high school graduations, but that's often no longer allowed. Instead a generic benediction is offered commemorating the time spent in high school and for blessings as graduating students head out into the world.

For three years, Jesus' disciples have walked with him, served with him, and learned from him. As "graduation day" drew near, the Upper Room Discourse was a graduation ceremony of sorts. Jesus wrapped the Upper Room Discourse with a prayer of benediction. The torch would soon pass and Jesus fervently prayed for not only his disciples, but all of those who would come to know the Lord through them—which includes us.

## GODLY PASSION PRAYS DILIGENTLY

In today's passage, Jesus is in the middle of pouring out his heart to God in prayer. Jesus again acknowledged his closing days on earth saying, "**But now I am coming to you**" (speaking to God). Jesus said **these things** while still **in the world, praying** his disciples **may have** his **joy fulfilled** by doing the Father's will in his strength (John 15:5; 16:24).

True **joy** can't be found in circumstances (that's "happiness"), only in Jesus himself revealed through God's **word**. Believing and obeying it automatically causes conflict with **the world**, which **hated them**. **By the same token, the world will hate you if you are not of the world.**

What Jesus prayed next defies our mindset. We often ask God to remove our struggles; pain, conflict, stress, people, etc. Yet, Jesus specifically said that he's **not asking** the Father **to take** his followers **out of the world**. Instead, he asked his Father to keep **them from the evil one**. That implies two things; 1) the world will hate us and, 2) Satan, the ruler of this world (John. 12:31; 14:30; 16:11), will work against us; tempting, accusing, distracting...anything to lead us astray.

Christ-followers **are not of the world, just as** Jesus is **not of the world**. In God there is truth and order, the world under Satan's rule can only offer chaos and uncertainty. Christ prayed that God

**sanctify** his disciples **in the truth** noting, "**Your word is truth.**" "Sanctification" means to be made more like Christ. Sanctification is a ministry of the Holy Spirit, but only as we cooperate through surrender and utilize the tools God has given us to grow... like his word.

## GODLY PASSION PRAYS FOR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE WORLD

With all the stains of sin, the corruption of God's good design, why would Christ be praying that God would keep believers in the world? For that matter, why would God send his one and only Son into the world? Jesus prayed, "**As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.**" For whatever reasons we may begin to list for God sending Christ into the world, so Jesus has also sent believers for the same purposes. To call sinners to repentance? Yes! To see God's Kingdom work accomplished and expanded? Yes!

What Jesus accomplished through the cross and resurrection means that not only can sinners be saved, but they may also **be sanctified in the truth**. Now, here's the really amazing part. Jesus didn't limit his prayers to the disciples. Jesus prayed, "**I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word.**" If you have come into a relationship with God through Jesus, you have believed in him through the word of the disciples. In his final prayer of the Upper Room, Jesus prayed for you!

The world preaches "tolerance," which no longer means living respectfully with those who disagree with you. It now means agree and affirm everyone's life choices or suffer the wrath of the "tolerant." Jesus, on the other hand, modeled "**grace and truth**" (John 1:14, 17). He neither hated sinners (grace), nor shied away from telling sinners to repent (truth). The simple truth is that if you live by his **Word**, you won't fit in. But the converse may also be true, if you're fitting in, we must ask if you're living by the Word or the world?

Be a student of God's Word. As the Holy Spirit brings it to life in your heart and mind, you will face conviction for the sin in your life and you'll have the choice: your way or God's way. Surrendering your way to God's way is the process of sanctification—it's a lifelong process. I'd love to say it gets easier, and some aspects might, but we will never be completely perfect and our opposition never quits. I hope that like me, you take comfort in the fact that Christ prayed for you if you've trusted in him. Because the truth is, we'll need it.