

*The Purpose and Power of Prayer*  
*John 17:1-5 & 21-26*

The assumptions behind much praying are many: That what seems best to us is surely God's \_\_\_\_\_; that the purpose and power of prayer is to get good things we want \_\_\_\_\_; that the only hindrance to getting our wishes is a lack of \_\_\_\_\_ that it will happen.

Since prayer is an essential spiritual discipline of the Christian life, the question we need to ask is this: "What is the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of prayer?" Jesus' prayer in John 17 can provide answers.

Notice, Jesus didn't pray for His health and well-being. He did pray that He might be \_\_\_\_\_, but He didn't mean what we think. Jesus was praying for a \_\_\_\_\_—for God to be glorified in His earthy walk of \_\_\_\_\_.

Much of our praying is for God to help us avoid \_\_\_\_\_ and ensure \_\_\_\_\_. The God to whom we pray is One who rescues from suffering, bloodshed, and heartache; never \_\_\_\_\_ it as glory. "We are wary of the God of Scripture: He is...too beholden to the fellowship of \_\_\_\_\_, and too preoccupied with the disguise of \_\_\_\_\_." Jesus didn't pray to get out of trouble.

Another thing He didn't do in prayer: He didn't \_\_\_\_\_ God of needs about which God was \_\_\_\_\_ or try to \_\_\_\_\_ God to work miracles that God seemed not to know would be \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus was simply \_\_\_\_\_ His own will, and that of the disciples who were overhearing His prayer, with the will of the Father.

***The goal of prayer is to better \_\_\_\_\_ the Father as Jesus continues to make Him known so that our love and unity with the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ will grow resulting in growth in our love and unity with \_\_\_\_\_.***

Prayer is the word we use to mean the moment when God and human beings \_\_\_\_\_. Don't spend it on trivial, earthly pursuits, trying to pull God's \_\_\_\_\_ to your \_\_\_\_\_. Get to know the One who holds the universe and eternity in His hands, seeking to be \_\_\_\_\_, to become more \_\_\_\_\_.