



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

God's Glory Through Christ: The High Priestly Prayer | John 17:1-5

Day 1: The Hour Has Come

Reading: John 17:1-5

Jesus stood at the precipice of history's greatest moment, looking toward heaven and declaring, "Father, the hour has come." Before stepping into the garden where betrayal awaited, before bearing the weight of humanity's sin, He prayed. This wasn't a cry of desperation but a declaration of purpose. Everything He had done pointed toward this moment—the completion of His Father's work.

When you face your own valleys, your own "hours" of crisis, do you pause to pray? Jesus models for us that the appropriate response to life's most challenging moments isn't panic or self-reliance, but consecration and prayer. His thoughts weren't on escape but on God's glory. Today, consider what "hour" you're facing. Before you step forward, look up. Consecrate your moment to God's purposes, not your preferences.

Day 2: Eternal Life Begins Now

Reading: John 17:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17

"This is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." Eternal life isn't merely a future promise—it's a present reality. The moment you entered relationship with Christ, eternal life began. You became a new creation, given a new heart, new motives, and new power through the Holy Spirit.

Yet we still battle our old nature, our old will, our old patterns. This tension is real. But for the first time, you have genuine freedom—not unlimited autonomy, but freedom from sin's enslaving power. Your nature has changed. You can now choose righteousness because God has awakened your dead heart. Today, you don't have to wait for heaven to experience eternal life. You're living it now, empowered by the Spirit to reflect Christ in a broken world.

Day 3: Chosen for His Glory

Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6; Romans 8:29-30

"He chose us in him before the foundations of the world... for the praise of his glorious grace." This truth confronts our main character syndrome head-on. Salvation isn't ultimately about you—it's about God's glory revealed through grace. Before anything existed, God chose to rescue guilty people who could never rescue themselves.

This isn't God condemning innocent people; there are no innocent people. It's God awakening spiritually dead hearts that would otherwise remain in rebellion. Every good thing in you, every moment of faith, every step toward holiness—it all originates in His prevenient grace. You didn't choose God because you were wise or worthy. He chose you, pursued you, opened your eyes, and awakened your soul. This should humble us completely and fill us with gratitude eternally. Your life isn't about building your kingdom; it's about reflecting His glory.

Day 4: Dead People Don't Choose

Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10; John 6:44

Scripture is clear: we were dead in our trespasses and sins. Not sick, not struggling—dead. Dead people don't respond, don't choose, don't have free will. They need resurrection. "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them." This is the uncomfortable truth that challenges our sense of autonomy.

But here's the beauty: if anyone comes to faith, it's because God intervened. He took scales off eyes, awakened hearts, and breathed life into death. Only after this divine awakening do we truly experience freedom—freedom to choose righteousness, freedom to love God, freedom to reflect His image.

Everything good in you is because of His grace, not your merit. This isn't a doctrine that diminishes human dignity; it's a truth that exalts divine mercy. You are alive today because He chose to make you alive.

Day 5: Glorify God, Not Yourself

Reading: Philippians 2:5-11; John 17:4-5

Jesus prayed, "Father, glorify me so that I may glorify you." Even in His request for restoration to pre-incarnate glory, His purpose was singular: the Father's glory. He veiled His divine majesty, became human, lived perfectly, and died obediently—all to bring glory to God. The cross wasn't primarily about giving you eternal life; that's a glorious byproduct. The cross was about revealing God's glory through redemptive love.

This transforms everything. When your life isn't about you, church preferences don't matter. Career ambitions shift. Relationships realign. You come to worship not to be served but to render glory. You pursue holiness not to earn favor but to reflect His character. You build the Church not for personal fulfillment but for Kingdom advancement. The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. How does understanding that salvation is primarily about God's glory rather than our personal benefit change the way you approach your relationship with Christ?
2. In what ways do you struggle with 'main character syndrome' in your spiritual life, and how can you actively shift your focus back to glorifying God?
3. Jesus stopped to pray before entering the garden where everything would change—what does this teach us about how we should approach our own moments of crisis or tribulation?
4. How does the concept that we are 'spiritually dead' apart from God's intervention challenge common cultural understandings of free will and human autonomy?
5. What does it mean practically that eternal life begins immediately when we accept Christ, not just as a future promise after death?
6. How comfortable are you with the tension between God's sovereign election and human responsibility, and why do you think God allows this tension to exist in Scripture?
7. If our choices are constrained by our sinful nature until God intervenes, how should this shape the way we evangelize and pray for unbelievers?
8. Reflect on your own salvation story—can you identify specific moments where God clearly initiated, pursued, and awakened your heart to the gospel?
9. What would it look like for you to adopt the same mindset as Christ in Philippians 2, making yourself nothing so that God receives all the glory?
10. How does recognizing that all the good in you comes from God's prevenient grace rather than your own merit affect your view of personal righteousness and spiritual pride?



SMALL GROUP GUIDE

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Key Takeaways:

1. **Jesus is our High Priest** - He understands us, knows us, and intercedes for us
2. **Eternal life begins now** - It's not just about duration; it's about knowing God and Jesus
3. **God's election is biblical** - Salvation starts with God's choice, not ours
4. **Salvation is about God's glory** - Not primarily about us, but about glorifying the Father
5. **Our nature constrains our choices** - True free will comes after God regenerates our hearts

Discussion Questions:

Understanding the Text

1. **The Setting:** Jesus prays this prayer just before entering the Garden of Gethsemane. Why is the timing and location significant? What does it teach us about Jesus's priorities in crisis?
2. **Eternal Life Defined:** According to verse 3, eternal life is "knowing God and Jesus Christ." How is this different from our typical understanding of eternal life as something that starts after death?
3. **The Glory Exchange:** Jesus asks the Father to glorify Him so He can glorify the Father (v. 1). What does this mutual glorification reveal about the relationship within the Trinity?

Wrestling with Hard Truths

1. **Election and Free Will:** The sermon addressed the tension between God's sovereignty in choosing us and human free will. What aspects of this teaching challenged you? What questions do you still have?
2. **"Main Character Syndrome":** How does our culture's emphasis on individualism affect the way we understand salvation? Where do you see this showing up in your own faith journey?
3. **Dead in Sin:** The sermon stated that we are "spiritually dead" before God intervenes, not just "spiritually sick." How does this distinction change our understanding of salvation?

Personal Reflection

1. **God's Glory, Not Ours:** The sermon's big idea is that "salvation is not ultimately about you—it's about the glory of God." How does this truth challenge or comfort you? Be honest.
2. **Looking Back:** Can you identify ways God was working in your life before you came to faith? How does recognizing God's "prevenient grace" change how you view your salvation story?
3. **Satisfaction in God's Glory:** Jesus was satisfied that His life brought glory to God. The sermon asks: "Are you satisfied that your life means nothing except to bring glory to God?" How would you honestly answer this question?

Going Deeper

For Further Study:

- Read Romans 8:28-30 and Ephesians 1:3-14
- Compare different translations of John 17:1-5 (ESV, NIV, NASB)
- Research the Westminster Shorter Catechism's first question and answer
- Study Philippians 2:5-12 (the Kenosis hymn)

Theological Tension Discussion (for further questions, head to GotQuestions.Org)

- Calvinist perspective: Emphasizes God's sovereignty in salvation
- Arminian perspective: Emphasizes human response and choice
- The tension: How can both be true? Where do you naturally lean, and why?