

Series: John
Title: Father, I Will
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John 17: 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.

Consider the power of this petition, "Father, I will." This is the power of the only begotten Son. This is God the Father's only begotten Son. God the Father said of Christ, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Mt 3: 17) Christ has power with God as the only begotten of the Father who well-pleased God the Father in all things that no one else has. He alone can say, "*Father, I will.*"

This is the power of the everlasting covenant of grace fulfilled. Before the world was made, God the Father purposed to manifest his glory in the salvation of his chosen people. It is the glory of God which Moses saw in the cleft of the rock. That glory of God the Father is the glory God the Father sent his Son to manifest. Christ is the Rock where we behold the glory of God.

Exodus 33: 18: And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory. 19: And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

Exodus 34: 6: And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7: Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear *the guilty*

Christ fulfilled every covenant promise he made to the Father. Christ began this high priestly prayer saying,

John 17: 4: I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

Hebrews 3: 5: And Moses verily *was* faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; 6: But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we are, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

This is why we do not find our Lord praying for his will to be done prior to this. As the servant of God, prior to this, our Savior said,

John 6: 38: For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

But in our text our Savior is praying as the successful Mediator. Christ is praying as that faithful servant who has finished the work God gave him to do. He is interceding for his people as the faithful GodMan, Mediator, who purchased his people with his own blood. His power in this petition is as the one and only who fulfilled God's holy, just and good law declaring God just and who justified his people, purging our sins, making us the righteousness of God in him/

Another way this is power, this is power of the unity of his will with the Father's will. Christ prays in the power of the one whose will is one with the Father. Christ Jesus knows this is the Father's eternal will and purpose. His will and is the Father's sovereign, unchanging will, for his people. It is God the Father's will to gather all his elect children together in Christ, that we might praise and glorify God our Father and his Son in all these things.

Also, this the power of this intercession is God the Father's will that his Son have all preeminence in the whole family of God,

Romans 8: 29: For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

It is the Father's will for Christ to deliver the kingdom to God.

1 Corinthians 15: 24: Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

Brethren, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way” (Is 53: 6). “We have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:23). We would have remained separated, if left to ourselves. But by the successful work of Christ for us and in us and by his intercession on our behalf, we shall at last be brought home to our heavenly Father.

Now, let’s look at this prayer a little more closely.

FOR WHOM DOES CHRIST PRAY?

John 17: Father, I will that they also whom thou hast given me...

Again, we hear our Savior use the same words as before in verse 2, verse 6, verse 9 and verses 11-12. Some Christ had called at that time. Some Christ would call through their word. But each one Christ calls are those the Father gave to him

They are called those God “ordained to eternal life” (Acts 13: 48). They are called the “elect” (Mt 24: 24, 31; Rom 8: 33, 1 Pet 1: 2); the “beloved of God” (Rom 1: 7); “the Israel of God,” (Gal 6: 16); and “the redeemed of the Lord” (Ps 107:2, Is 51: 11, 62: 12).

His elect are those he calls and makes the “holy nation”, his “royal priesthood”, his “chosen generation” (1 Pet 2: 9). They are “a number no man could number” (Rev 7: 9), the “travail of Christ’s soul” (Is 53: 11), his “purchased possession” (Eph 1: 14), and his inheritance (Deut 32: 9).

These and these alone are the object of our Savior’s prayer. When our Lord reveals to us our need—our sin—that we need Christ to be the Author and Finisher of our faith—that is when we delight that God the Father chose a people and trusted us to Christ to save.

HEAR EACH PART OF CHRIST’S PETITION

John 17: 24: Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am;

This is the very definition of heaven—to be with Christ where he is. John gives those glorious descriptions of the things he beheld in heaven. But none would be heaven were Christ not there. What every true believers longs for, our eternal inheritance, our reward, the very joy of heaven, is to be with Christ where he is. Our victorious Savior is seated at God’s right hand. His will is for each and every one of his people to be with him where he is.

John 17: 24: That they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me

This glory is the glory the Father gave to his Son in eternity to be the risen glorified GodMan, the Salvation, All and in all his people. While here no believer knows how glorious that sight shall be.

1 Corinthians 2:9: But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

God has shined the light into our hearts making us behold the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus. But for now, we see his glory in the glass of the gospel by faith. But we see darkly, in part, in glimpses. For now, the sight is interrupted. But not then!

1 Corinthians 13: 12: For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

1 John 3: 2: Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

John gives us a description

Revelation 4: 2: And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *one* sat on the throne. 3: And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and *there was* a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

We have seen the kings and queens in England but nothing will compare to the glory of Christ Jesus sitting upon his throne in glory. John said,

Revelation 5: 11: And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; 12: Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. 13: And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, *be* unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

Revelation 7: 17: For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Here we sing, "More about Jesus would I know." There we shall know him even as we are known. We will know the perfection of his love, the fulness of grace and the fullness of mercy that he showed to us all our days on earth. And it will be an endless life with Christ forever.

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing his praise
Than when we first begun

Sinner if you do not have this sure Hope then seek Christ while he may be found. Call ye on him while he is near. Cast all your care upon him. Believe on him and you shall be saved.

THE CERTAINTY OF THIS PETITION

We know it is certain because of the power of Christ to be able to pray, "Father, I will" because Christ finished the work, because Christ's will is one with the Father and all the things we saw at the beginning of the message. But here he gives another reason.

John 17: 24:...for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

Before the world was made, God the Father loved his Son and gave him the glory of being the perfect and righteous Mediator for his people.

John MacDuff wrote, "If anything can enhance the magnitude of this promised bliss, it is the concluding words of the verse, in which He grounds His plea for its bestowment: "*I will...that they behold My glory;*"—why? "*For You loved (not them—but) ME before the foundation of the world!*" It is equivalent to saying, "If You would give Me a continued proof of Your everlasting love and favor to Me, it is by loving and exalting My redeemed people! In loving them and glorifying them, you are loving and glorifying Me—so endearingly are their interests and My own bound up together!"

It is also the same as reminding the Father of his love for his people. God has loved his people in Christ since before the foundation of the world. Christ said of God the Father

John 17: 23:...thou hast loved them, as thou hast loved me...24:...for thou lovest me before the foundation of the world.

God the Father loves Christ our Mediator because he is well-pleased with Christ's one offering for his people.

John 10: 15: As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep...17: Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

Having fulfilled every covenant obligation for his people—having highly glorified God his Father so God the Father has highly exalted him, “[I have] set my king upon my holy hill of Zion” (Ps 2: 6). Christ said, “I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession” (Ps 2: 6-8).

The Father looks to our Advocate at his right hand now and sees what he saw from before the foundation of the world: our propitiation, atonement accomplished, satisfaction in full, his elect redeemed, his covenant ratified in his own blood, his righteousness manifest in perfection. And in the Father’s perfect, everlasting, immutable love for his Son, it is the Father’s good pleasure to give Christ his will. And this is Christ’s will,

John 17: 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.

Knowing this is Christ’s will, knowing this is our assurance, knowing this is why we have a good hope which enters within the veil where Christ sits, Peter said,

2 Peter 3: 13: 11...what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness, 12: Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God,..13...according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. 14: Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. 15: And account *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation;

Believer, one way to be diligent is to read these words of our Lord whenever we are cast down or doubting or tempted. Ask him to fill your heart with his Strength. He shall. And remember, only few more days and this hope will be reality.

Amen!