

Sensory Glory

[John 17:1-11](#)

Jesus' Prayers for Others

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The Advocate

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Today's Bible Reading

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Additional Bible Readings

[Acts 1:6-14](#)

[Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35](#)

[1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-](#)

[11](#)

**Be with us, O Spirit,
and form
us as witnesses to the
love of God in Christ.
Grace our hands,
eyes, ears, mouths and
even our noses with
your power so that we
experience and share
your love with anyone
who seeks to know it.
Amen.**

This intimate prayer in John 17:1-11 concludes the "Farewell Discourse." This is sometimes called Jesus' "high priestly prayer." Like the high priest who prayed on behalf of Israel, Jesus prays for others on the eve of his death. In John's gospel, Jesus dies when the Passover lamb is slain in the temple. The other gospels place the death a day later.

Jesus offers this prayer immediately before entering the Garden of Gethsemane. Unlike the other gospel accounts where Jesus' prayer in the garden struggles with his impending death, John's gospel describes Jesus as affirming the hour that has come as one of glorification. The prayer's power lies in Jesus' request that God will protect the disciples (the church) and keep them (it) unified. Jesus prays for those called to embody God's love in his absence. If God's love is seen, it will be through their (our) witness.

This emphasis on unity does not mean that all Christians are expected to agree but rather the fervent hope that we will recognize that what unites us is far greater than what divides us.

"Glory" in John has to do with the revealing of God. It is how God becomes known to human beings. It is something that the disciples have already seen and heard in the signs that Jesus performed in his life. They tasted it in Cana (2:11) and smelled it in Bethany when Lazarus was called back to life (11:40).

Jesus wants even more glory for

his disciples. This prayer ends with the hope that they will see the fullness of glory in love (17:24). It is not mere togetherness that Jesus prays for his "invented" family but the fervent hope that we will find intimacy with God.