



# 21 DAYS OF PRAYER

# 15

DAY 15

JANUARY 23, 2023

## Jonathan Collins

### KEY SCRIPTURES

John 17: 1-19

Have you ever been in a place where you are scared or fearful of the journey ahead? Could be a great journey, a wonderful journey. Like with a lot of things in life there may be challenges that are hard or may even feel impossible. For me I have faced a lot of learning challenges. I was told at a young age that I had a lot of learning challenges. I was told I would not be successful educationally, that I would be lucky to finish high school at all. I also struggled with a lot of social challenges. Being told at a young age that you are different and that you are not going to succeed, makes life at times seem impossible.

The prayer in John 17: 1-19 happens after the Last Supper and before Jesus is arrested. Jesus knew what was coming before Him, while the disciples did not yet have a full understanding. Jesus did what was commonly done in Judaism by a leader or a prophet at that time. He had taught and left his last words with the disciples (John 16). This message would usually end with a public prayer. That is what today's passage is.

To me this prayer is fascinating because it is the longest and most intimate recorded prayer

by Jesus. This is a relational prayer between Jesus, the Father, which included his disciples. In relational terms we get a summary of why Jesus came, what work He had done, and what was yet to come. Which included Jesus going to the Father and the disciples being left on earth. This prayer can seem very theological and it is. But I also want you to see this prayer as a Son talking to his Father, with his friends.

But I do ask myself why this prayer is important now, and how do I apply this to my prayer life? This is a prayer that gives us the truth and tools about overcoming challenges. Jesus is the one whom we look too and sets our example. Because of what He did we can approach the Father and talk to Him freely.

With our faith in Jesus Christ, we have the power to overcome any obstacle even death. We can have hope both that Jesus forgives our past, works on us during the present and gives us our eternal future. So, no matter what happens in our walk, or in our daily lives, we have a God that will help us to overcome anything. The point is we need not be afraid to approach God to ask for help. Jesus also asked for both protection and unity for the disciples. I believe this is an example that we should do as

we serve and walk with God. We should ask for protection from the Evil one.

We should not always pray alone. We should not only pray for each other but with each other. Come and get prayer up front after the service. Pray for each other in your small group. That is one of the purposes of a small group, to support one another. Jesus gave us His word to help us along in our journey. It gives us God's perspective as we journey in this sinful world. When we pray and read God's word

consistently, it is like a pair of glasses that give us the eyes and perspective of Jesus. Which gives us joy, while having the ability to draw closer to the Father. No matter what situation we are in. We are God's children, and through Jesus we have the ability to overcome as Jesus did.

As you pray, I want you to understand how important you are as God's child and the unlimited resources you have through the Holy Spirit because of what Jesus did. You have the ability to overcome so many challenges.

## REFLECTIONS

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- ▶ Pray and ask God if there are any challenges you are not aware of? Or one that He wants to help you face?
- ▶ Ask for wisdom on how to overcome this challenge? What does overcoming look like to you?
- ▶ What is your first step in overcoming?

## PRAYER

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Father in heaven, you are the almighty, all powerful God. We are so grateful that you sent your son Jesus so that we could approach you freely like a child coming to a parent, and be in Your presence. There are so many challenges that we need to overcome. We cannot do this without you Lord Jesus. Please give us the wisdom and power that we need to overcome our challenges to draw closer to you and love the world as you would. We ask this through Jesus. Amen!

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